

NM-AIST Through CREATES Hosts the Arusha Conservation Agriculture Forum (ACAF)



The Guest of Honor and Vice Chancellor of the NM-AIST in a group photo with 152 participants During the Arusha Agricultural the Arusha Conservation Agriculture Forum (ACAF) which was organized by CREATES and ECHO East Africa.

On 14th January 2021, NM-AIST through the Center for Research Agricultural advancement, Teaching Excellence and Sustainability (CREATES) in collaboration with ECHO East Africa conducted the Arusha Conservation Agriculture Forum (ACAF) 2021 at NM-AIST.

This Conference was officiated by the Vice Chancellor of the NM-AIST, Prof. Emmanuel J. Luoga. Among others, in his speech, Prof. Luoga said that, The NM-AIST is strongly involved in innovative hands-on scientific approaches for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture. Therefore, with NM-AIST approaches we can promote food security and nutrition sustainably whereby we can save our natural resources complementing the efforts for reducing hunger and poverty.

ACAF conference provided an opportunity for 152 agricultural experts from different regions in Tanzania to share their experiences, best practices and challenges in addressing conservation agriculture issues. Various related topics were presented and discussed for way forward. These topics included; *“Effects of Globalization on Children’s Raising in COVID 19 Environment”*, *“Dolichos a potential crop for dry lands: A report of farmers’ assessment on the preferred traits”*, *“Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture in Tanzania: Experience sharing & Lessons Learned”*, *“Oyster nut (Telfairia pedata): The power crop of the future”*, *“Environmentally friendly management of invasive species – the case of Parthenium hysterophorus”* and *“Mboga mboga za kudumu”*. The conference created an opportunity for establishment of partnerships among different participants. Particularly, the conference increased the visibility of the NM-AIST among stakeholders.

Concurrently, the event involved various exhibitions through which different researchers, farmers and entrepreneurs had an opportunity to showcase their innovations and outputs to the ACAF participants and NM-AIST community. Finally, all participants paid a campus tour to the NM-AIST where, they had a chance to see teaching and learning facilities including: Waste water recycling on campus by *Centre for Water Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy Futures (WISE-Futures)*, tissue culture activities for improvement of Banana varieties in Tanzania a project done by International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in collaboration with the NM-AIST.



Mr. Musa Mwambungi, CREATES representative explaining about Vuruga Bio-Pesticide to ACAF Participants



Ms. Elinuru Pallangyo, "Mama Shujaa wa Chakula" explaining the importance of eating natural foods to ACAF participants.