

# Makerere introduces cottage industry degrees

The initiative is being implemented as a pilot project for the African Institute for Strategic Animal Resources Services and Development.

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**KAMPALA.** In an effort to promote agricultural entrepreneurship, Makerere University has introduced courses tailored towards creation of competitive agricultural enterprises to attract more investments into the sector.

The courses are targeting people who are already engaged in cottage production of agricultural products at different stages of the value chain.

This is to be done by blending their traditional knowledge of production with formal education so that they can realise profitability of agricultural enterprises by increasing their output and improving efficiency.

## Enrollment

According to Dr David Kabasa, the principal of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security, the college has enrolled 100 students with different levels of education.

Dr Kabasa said at the end of their courses, the students would be awarded certificates, diplomas and degrees that the National Council for Higher Education has approved.

The initiative is being implemented as a pilot project for the African Institute for Strategic Animal



(L-R) Dr Michael Kansiime, the head of AFRISA, Dr Specioza Wandira Kazibwe, a board member of AFRISA, and Dr Kabasa during the launch of the cottage industry degree programmes on Monday. PHOTO BY STEPHEN OTAGE

Resources Services and Development (AFRISA).

The courses include: laboratory science education and industrial technology, fish, dairy and feeds production, bee keeping and products development, companion and recreation animal management,

leather and poultry production.

He said the university's goal was to conduct research relevant to the community.

Dr Kabasa added: "We want to start teaching by doing. This is where the jobs are. We want to

show farmers how to make animal feed. The butcher man should learn how to keep his beef healthy in the butcher."

Cottage industries are small businesses that employ mainly family labour to produce fast moving hand-made products.