

Tanzania First Cooperative Research Conference

Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) is collaborating with the Tanzania Co-operative Development Commission (TCDC) to strengthen cooperatives in Tanzania in matters related to training, research and advisory services. In March, MoCU and TCDC organized for the first cooperative research conference in Tanzania. The conference brought together cooperative researchers, members, leaders and staff as well as policy makers and other stakeholders from the (crop Boards, the cooperative service providers and Non-governmental organizations).



Guest of Honor (Prof. Siza Tumbo, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Agriculture) seated third from the left, seated on left from the Guest of Honor is the Registrar of Cooperative (Dr. Benson Ndiege), seated on right from the Guest Honor is Ag. Vice Chancellor (Prof. John Safari). Other are Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies (Mr.Mr. Charles Malunde, Mr. Collins Nyakunga), Director of Institute of Continuing Co-operative Education seated at right.

The conference also aimed at bridging the gap which existed between the cooperative researchers and beneficiaries (cooperative members, leaders and staff as well as policy makers). Most of the researches conducted on cooperatives were not shared to cooperatives and policy makers, thus retarding the cooperative development in Tanzania.

Therefore, the conference provided an avenue to share and discuss on the research findings and recommendations on cooperatives-to-cooperatives members, leaders and staff as well as policy makers. A total of 459 participants and twenty-four topics were presented in the conference. The topics included the researches and experience sharing covering issues of co-operatives' membership; cooperative governance, cooperative operations, cooperative investment, crops production value chain and marketing in cooperatives. The conference enabled the participants to understand current status of cooperatives; key challenges facing the cooperative development; further areas for research and strategies for addressing the challenges pointed out during the conference.



The conference participants following the presentations

Moreover, the conference highlighted on key areas on cooperatives that needed attention. The areas included research findings and recommendations to be translated to the national language (Swahili) and promptly shared to targeted beneficiaries; the research conference should be held every year and include more stakeholders; there should be few key areas for research each year that directly address the pertinent challenges in the cooperatives; there should be a cooperative strategic program for cooperative development; cooperatives and crop Boards should collaborate in value chain and marketing of crops through cooperatives; cooperatives need to exploit the available investment opportunities and there is a need to establish co-operative research fund.



The former Deputy Minister for Co-operative and Marketing (Hon. Hezekiah Chibulunje sharing his experience on co-operative development during the research conference, seated on right is the former Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Co-operative and Marketing (Dr. Ladslaus Komba)



The Director of Institute of Continuing Co-operative Education, MoCU (Dr. Gervas Machimu), left being interviewed on the contribution of MoCU on cooperative development in the country during the conference



Registrar of Co-operative Societies (Dr. Benson Ndiege) addressing on cooperative development in the country during the conference



Container Terminal SACCOS Ltd. Manager contributing on the matter raised during the conference