



THE CO-OPERATIVE UNIVERSITY OF KENYA

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR - CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (CDRI) - ONLINE ORIENTATION MESSAGE

HELLO and WELCOME TO THE COOPERATIVE UNIVERSITY OF KENYA. We are operating in very abnormal times visited upon us by a pandemic like no other in a century. You are no strangers to the effect of COVID-19 on the education system in this country and beyond. It should not surprise you participating in a virtual orientation as a way to welcome you to the university.

My name is Isaac Nyamongo. I am a Professor of Anthropology and the current Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Cooperative Development, Research and Innovation, simply DVC-CDRI. I head this Division which deals with research in general. In addition, we have two other divisions — i.e. Academic Affairs and Finance, Planning and Administration.

Admission into a University gives you a whole new world of freedom and away from your parents! Therefore, you soon realize that self-control and time management is a huge part of your life. No bells to ring, no one to wake you up. You're simply on your own. So, as you join your University of choice just know that destiny is in your hands. You control it.

You are going to hear from my colleagues, who will tell you about their own Divisions. So I will confine myself to matters relating to Cooperative Development, Research and Innovation. One of the key functions of CDRI is to ensure that cooperative extension education is taken to the cooperative movement. So as a Division we work very closely with the State Department of Cooperatives, the Cooperative Alliance of Kenya, Kenya Union of Savings & Credit Cooperatives (KUSCCO), National Cooperative Housing Union (NACHU) and the regulatory bodies such as The Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) to ensure that cooperatives and the more than 13 million members are adequately supported.

The second function of CDRI is to facilitate the generation of relevant knowledge. This is achieved through the conduct of research relevant to the cooperative movement and cooperative education. Currently, faculty at the university are engaged in different research activities across the country. The research activities include studies on poultry and clean energy using the cooperative model. Mapping risk factors in relation to cooperative development. The university is also about to launch a major research program to support agricultural transformation centres across the country. The research



activities of faculty are published internationally and in two journals, *African Journal of Co-operative Development and Technology* and the *Journal of Social Science, Business and Technology*.

Lastly, we have in place robust plans to develop and equip the innovation unit. This will include the creation of an innovation hub where students and faculty with viable ideas could incubate them. You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with this unit.

The Division has one critical unit that links cooperative activities to communities. The Institute of Cooperative Development deals with issues related to Cooperative education and extension. This will be your primary point of contact with the Division.

The highlight of the Division is the Annual CUK Conference which is held every March. This conference brings together researchers, students, and the cooperative movement under one roof to listen to what research is telling us, to share experiences and to learn from one another. It is a forum where, as a university, we showcase our research output.

If you wish to contact the Division you may reach out to the Registrar of the Division at CDRI or the Director, Institute of Cooperative Development.

So as you join the esteemed Cooperative University of Kenya, and when you get a chance to visit the main Campus, make a point to visit the Cooperative Development, Research and Innovation Division and we will show you all the exciting things we do.

Finally, as you join the University have lots of responsible fun!

THANK YOU AND WELCOME TO A 13-MILLION STRONG COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

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