



# MERU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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## University Examinations 2012/2013

FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA IN  
AGRICULTURE/AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND EXTENSION

### AGR 0120: PRINCIPLES OF CROP PRODUCTION

DATE: DECEMBER 2012

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *ONE* and any other *TWO* questions

#### QUESTION ONE – 30 MARKS

- (a) Explain how the following factors influence crop production.
- (i) Temperature (4Marks)
  - (ii) Soils (4Marks)
  - (iii) Economic factor (4Marks)
- (b) Give four (4) examples of agroecological zones in Kenya. (4Marks)
- (c) What are the main methods of propagating crops? (4Marks)
- (d) Why is it necessary to have good land preparation during crop production? (5Marks)
- (e) Predicting accurately the harvest date of horticultural crops is important. Explain. (5Marks)

#### QUESTION TWO – 20 MARKS

Using examples, explain why knowledge on agroecological zones is important for crop production. (15 Marks)

#### QUESTION THREE – 20 MARKS

Discuss three (3) farming systems that are common in Sub-Saharan Africa. (15Marks)

#### QUESTION FOUR – 20 MARKS

Compare and contrast the practices of land preparation and planting under conventional agriculture and conservation agriculture. (15Marks)

#### QUESTION FIVE – 20 MARKS

- (a) You have been employed as a technical office in an organic farm. How will you carryout the following practices:
- (i) Crop nutrition (5Marks)
  - (ii) Control of pests (5Marks)
- (b) What do you understand by the term training during crop production? (5Marks)