

**MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

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**University Examinations 2014/2015**

THIRD YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CROP PROTECTION

**SBT 2354: AGRONOMY II**

**DATE: APRIL 2015 TIME: 2 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** *Answer question* ***one*** *and any other* ***two*** *questions*

**QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)**

1. Explain six principles of agronomy (6 marks)
2. Explain how water as an external factor influences the growth of crops (4 marks)
3. Describe the objectives of tillage in crop production (4 marks)
4. Explain the merits and demerits of the following (6 marks)
5. Minimum tillage
6. Zero tillage
7. Conservation tillage
8. Explain the various causes of seed dormancy (5 marks)
9. Describe the characteristics of crop rotation system approach (5 marks)

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

1. Explain the process of seed certification (12 marks)
2. Explain the stages of seed multiplication (8 marks)

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

1. Explain the various steps for maintaining genetic seed purity (7 marks)
2. Explain the criteria for determining harvesting a crop after physiological maturity. Give an example of particular crop (13 marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

1. Explain the various characteristics of weeds that make them to complete with crops (10 marks)
2. Explain the disadvantages that are associated with weeds in crop production (10 marks)