

**AFRICAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
AND FOOD SUPPLY (SCO)**

**Student Summer School held at the University of Nairobi (UoN), Nairobi, Kenya on 07-11, August  
2023**

**Theme of the Summer School:**

**Sustainable development and food supply in Africa**

**"University of Dar es Salaam - 2023 Summer School Participants' Experiences and Lessons  
Learned"**

**Esther Maboja**



University of Nairobi summer school programme in Nairobi, Kenya. The focus of the programme was on sustainability and food supply in Africa, and I am very grateful for the enriching experiences I had during this time.

Participating in the programme allowed me to connect with fellow students from different countries and backgrounds. This international camaraderie provided a platform for the exchange of ideas and the deepening of the respective subject matter. Participating in these discussions made me realise how important it is to connect with people from different walks of life. Furthermore, the insights provided by both our tutors and the practitioners were extremely insightful. Their advice underlined the potential that lies within my fellow students and me to contribute to the development and progress of our respective societies.

From the beginning of the programme, the tutors and practitioners guided us through a wide range of sustainability topics. This approach has had a profound impact on my outlook and has shown me the myriad of opportunities I can explore within the current global discourse on climate change and supply chain dynamics. A highlight of the programme was the visit to the Olkaria Geothermal Power Plant. This visit provided invaluable insights into the conversion of conventional to renewable energy sources, which is ultimately in line with the ideals of a green economy. I look forward to applying the knowledge gained from this visit to my country's sustainable initiatives.

The insights gained, the connections made and the knowledge acquired are invaluable and I will take them with me as I contribute to the promotion of sustainability and food supply initiatives in my country.

**Qutailah Anwar Jaffer**

**Bachelor of Business Administration**



Participating in the week-long summer school in Nairobi, Kenya, was an experience that left a deep impression on me. The event served as a meeting place for students from different countries and backgrounds and fostered an environment where diversity thrived.

The engagement that developed in discussions, workshops and joint ventures with this dynamic group significantly deepened my understanding of sustainable development and food supply issues in Africa. The fusion of perspectives not only broadened my horizons, but also enabled me to make meaningful connections with like-minded people who share my zeal for addressing the critical challenges facing our continent.

The central theme of sustainable development and food supply resonated with all participants and led to deep conversations about breakthrough solutions to the hurdles ahead. Through interactive sessions and group projects, we explored together the intricate interplay between agriculture, environmental protection and economic progress. These multi-layered dialogues were insightful and led us to question the delicate balance required to ensure food security while maintaining ecological balance.

By sharing ideas and experiences with fellow students from different parts of Africa and around the world, I gained valuable insights into their different viewpoints and strategies. This immersive learning experience not only enriched my understanding but also strengthened my commitment to a sustainable and prosperous future for the African continent.

**Aneth Isawafo Ngowi**

**Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Natural Resources Economics and Business**



Participating in the 2023 Summer School in Nairobi, Kenya, focusing on sustainable development and food security in Africa, was a truly transformative experience for me. This programme provided a comprehensive educational environment that brought together people from diverse backgrounds who share a deep passion for the most pressing challenges facing our continent. The interaction with fellow students, scholars and experts from different perspectives not only broadened my intellectual horizons, but also significantly deepened my understanding of the complex challenges and potential opportunities facing Africa in its quest for sustainable development and food security.

Throughout the programme, I actively participated in a series of enriching discussions, workshops, seminars and field visits that exposed me to real-world problems and pragmatic solutions in the fields of agriculture, economics and sustainable development. These experiences enabled me to understand the multi-faceted nature of food security, which encompasses aspects such as logistics, supply chains, policy implications, sustainable technologies, climate change adaptation, socio-economic dynamics

and the concept of self-reliance. I also had the invaluable privilege of working directly with local communities and farmers, including at Gorge Farm, from whom I gained invaluable insights into their strategies for coping with changing environmental conditions and increasing agricultural productivity.

This experience has awakened in me a deep sense of purpose and commitment. I now feel more inspired than ever to use the skills and knowledge I have acquired to address not only the critical issues of sustainability and food security in Africa, but also on a global scale. When I return to my home country, I bring with me not only newfound knowledge, but also a heightened sense of responsibility to make a significant contribution to achieving the continent's sustainable development goals.

**Irene Gasper Mhina**

**Bachelor of Commerce in Finance**



In my quest for sustainable development and food security in Africa, my participation in the Nairobi summer School was very enlightening. The programme addressed the complexities of sustainability and fostered a deep understanding of the intricate balance between human endeavour, environmental protection and economic growth.

The first phase of the trip laid the groundwork through comprehensive courses in environmental science, economics and finance. This foundational knowledge highlighted the dire consequences of unchecked resource consumption and emphasised the critical importance of sustainable practises. The programme's focus on innovative solutions was particularly compelling. The exploration of renewable energy technologies, circular economy models and sustainable agricultural practises highlighted strategies to address pressing challenges while fostering creative thinking for the harmonious coexistence of human progress and environmental protection.

The true essence of sustainability became clear through practical applications. Experiences such as the tour of the Olkaria geothermal plant, which makes a significant contribution to clean energy, and the visit to the Gorge plantation in Naivasha demonstrated the tangible impact of sustainable practises on the ground.

Recognising the hurdles in sustainability efforts, such as reconciling economic growth with environmental conservation and driving change in established systems, led to these challenges being identified as opportunities for innovative solutions and collaboration.

In addition to academic development, the programme also fostered personal development by strengthening critical thinking, interdisciplinary collaboration and environmental stewardship. This transformative journey led to a commitment to incorporate sustainability into all aspects of life and consider it in decision making.

With my newly acquired knowledge and passion for sustainability, I look forward to contributing to global efforts to create a more sustainable and prosperous world. The lessons I have learned on this journey make me optimistic for a future where individuals and communities work together to bring about meaningful change.

**Name: Brown Bruno Mwaipela**

Bachelor of Commerce in Human Resource Management



My participation in the Summer School Programme in Nairobi was a truly engaging and insightful experience. The programme's central focus on sustainability provided a comprehensive understanding of its multiple dimensions, particularly its complex linkages with economic, social and environmental factors that influence the dynamics of food supply in Africa.

Discussions throughout the programme revolved around the need to meet the needs of the present generation while safeguarding the interests of future generations. Striking a balance between economic growth, environmental protection and social well-being formed the core theme of our deliberations. What added depth to the programme was the diverse representation of students from different universities in countries such as Germany, Tanzania, Nigeria and Kenya. This multicultural environment facilitated robust discussions on the urgent need for sustainable practises in different sectors that emphasise responsible use of resources and mitigation of negative impacts.

A key focus was the role of the private sector in improving the sustainability of the food supply in Africa. This discussion highlighted the potential of the private sector to drive innovations, investments and collaborations that positively impact agricultural practises, distribution networks and waste reduction strategies. In particular, the programme enlightened me on the significant potential of geothermal energy in Africa, especially in Tanzania, where it ranks seventh in the world — a fact I was previously unaware of.

The curriculum also addressed the interface between climate change and logistics, highlighting how changing weather patterns have a significant impact on supply chains. Adaptive strategies, efficient transport and robust infrastructure were highlighted to mitigate disruptions from extreme weather events. The sustainability of the agricultural value chain was also explored in depth, with a focus on holistic approaches that minimise waste, increase productivity and ensure equitable treatment of stakeholders.

Finally, the programme offered insights into the complicated relationship between climate change and sustainable food production systems. It highlighted the urgency of adopting regenerative agricultural practises, promoting technological innovations and implementing policies to ensure food security and environmental protection under changing climatic conditions.

## **Mareen Mbura**



The Summer School in Kenya, addressed the critical issues of sustainability and food supply in Africa. This programme was an enlightening experience that provided valuable insights and opportunities for learning and networking.

Throughout the programme, we had the privilege of exploring the concept of self-sustainability and its significant implications. The focus on sustainability and its relevance to the dynamics of food supply in Africa highlighted the importance of responsible resource management and the interconnectedness of economic, environmental and social factors.

The highlight of the programme was our visit to Naivasha, where we saw first-hand the intricacies of a geothermal power plant. This excursion gave us a comprehensive understanding of the operation of the power plant, from steam production to its role in generating clean and sustainable energy. Engaging with the processes and visually exploring the different components of the power plant greatly deepened our understanding of this innovative energy source.

In addition, our visit to a local farm in Naivasha provided a remarkable opportunity to see sustainable farming practises in action. It was truly enlightening to observe the cultivation of different crops and learn about their intricate supply chains in different countries. In particular, the lessons learnt underlined the potential of agriculture as an important source of income when practised with commitment and seriousness. Participation in the programme also enabled enriching exchanges with people from all over the world, including Kenyans, Germans and Nigerians. This cross-cultural networking not only broadened our perspectives, but also contributed to the development of a global outlook.

## **MAGGY NDJIBU**

### **Bachelor of Commerce in Human Resource Management**



During my time at the University of Nairobi, I delved into the critical topics of sustainable development and food supply in Africa. Exploring these subjects, I came to appreciate the delicate balance between meeting present demands and safeguarding the needs of generations to come. It became evident that adopting environmentally conscious practices is vital for the future. Through engaging discussions and coursework, I grasped the significance of green methods such as renewable energy, waste reduction, and responsible resource management. Additionally, my experience extended beyond the classroom as I embarked on visits to various sites, including a remarkable geothermal plant that contributes over 40% of Kenya's energy. Witnessing such initiatives in action instilled in me a profound appreciation for innovation and the potential it holds for a sustainable future.

Furthermore, my time at the university afforded me the incredible opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals from diverse backgrounds. Interacting with peers from Nigeria, Kenya, Germany, and beyond broadened my perspective and exposed me to a rich tapestry of ideas and experiences. These interactions enriched my understanding of the global dimensions of sustainable development and allowed me to appreciate the shared challenges and collaborative solutions that transcend geographical boundaries. Beyond the academic realm, my journey also indulged my senses with the delightful culinary offerings the region had to offer. This unique blend of intellectual growth, cultural exchange, and exploration made my time at the University of Nairobi a truly enriching and transformative experience.

## **KISIKA ROBERT NDEGE**

Bachelor of Commerce in Human Resource Management



The Summer School programme in Nairobi revolved around a theme that illuminated the intricate connection between two vital aspects of our world. Representatives from different universities, including Germany, Tanzania, Kenya and Nigeria, worked together on the question of how to strike a balance between meeting the needs of the present generation and securing the future.

The programme revealed to me the remarkable potential of geothermal energy in Africa, especially in Tanzania, which proudly ranks seventh in the use of this resource. This realisation reinforced my belief in the importance of adopting green logistics, green finance and carbon pricing strategies to pave the way for a greener future. I was deeply impressed by the emphasis on the 3Rs approach (reduce, reuse, recycle) and the importance of educating communities on proper waste management.

Looking to the future, the sobering prediction of impending global warming of the earth by 2050 underlined the urgency of curbing the use of greenhouse gases to mitigate climate change. In addition to the wealth of knowledge I gained, I also enjoyed the pleasure of sampling an abundance of fresh and delicious food, which made my experience truly memorable.

My trip to the Summer School in Nairobi demonstrates a remarkable commitment to understanding the intricate interplay between sustainable development, geothermal energy, climate change and responsible resource management. My insights into Tanzania's geothermal potential and the need to adopt environmentally conscious practises demonstrate my commitment to a greener future. My insight into the need for education on waste management and the threat of global warming underlines my comprehensive understanding of environmental issues.