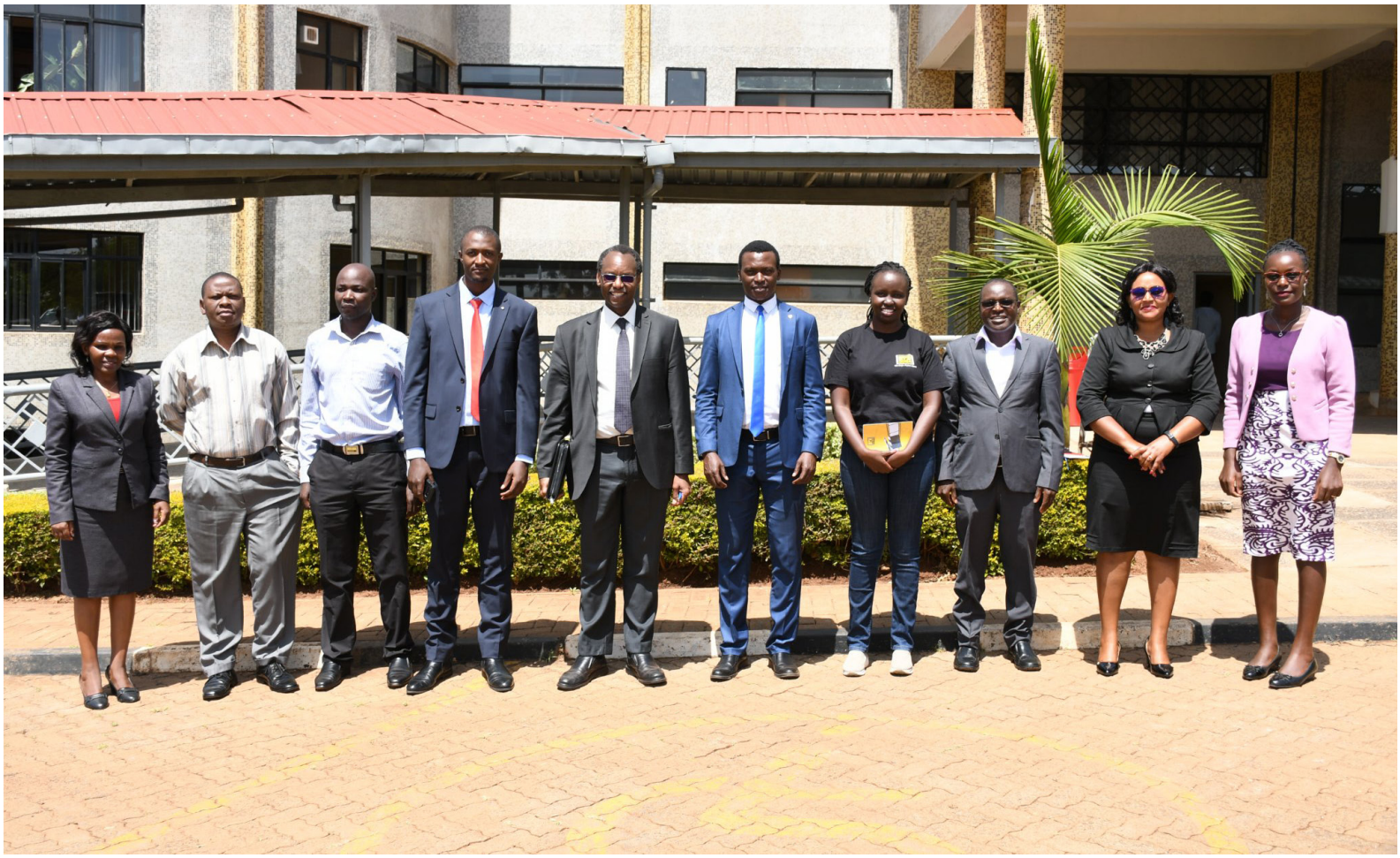
DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

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DeKUT Partners with the County Government of Laikipia to Design and Develop an Automated Industrial Maize Dryer to be used in Food Value Addition



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and the County Government of Laikipia have partnered to lay emphasis on designing and manufacturing machines to be used in food value addition processing using the maize dryer. The Automated Industrial Maize Dryer has been developed to address the challenges encountered during traditional sun-drying and the associated aflatoxin contamination.

Maize is the principal staple food of Kenya, and it is grown in 90 percent of all Kenyan farms. However, the wider utilization of maize towards addressing food and nutrition security in Kenya has been hindered by concerns regarding the presence of aflatoxins. Some of the critical factors associated with fungal growth and increased risk of aflatoxin production in maize include inadequate traditional sun-drying and storage conditions. Furthermore, spreading maize on bare ground to sundry brings them in direct contact with soil fungal inoculums. The maize dryer has been designed to efficiently and effectively dry maize to safe moisture content levels. To transfer knowledge to a local manufacturer, Laikipia County identified the Mwireri Engineering Workshop located in Nanyuki, Laikipia Count, as a strategic partner to work closely with Dedan Kimathi University of Technology engineers through DeKUT Enterprises Company to deliver the product. The aim was to impart knowledge to employees working with Mwireri Engineering Workshop. To achieve the objective, Mwireri Engineering Workshop and DeKUT Enterprises Company formed a joint venture to design, produce, supply, deliver, install, test, and commission the three maize driers at Sipili, Kinamba, and Mutanga in Laikipia West.

The Maize dryer, which was officially launched today by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Prof. George Magoha, supports a maximum 6 tons per hour grain drying capacity, 13% moisture content, with a revolutionary solar pre-drier section that significantly cuts down on fuel consumption thus reducing the equipment operating costs.

The project is among several other initiatives that the University has partnered with the County Government of Laikipia. Some of these partnerships include;

- In 2019, the University trained at least 100 managers from Laikipia County on project management and budgeting.

- In 2020, the University partnered with Laikipia County to train innovators in the mass production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to help combat the spread of COVID-19 through mass production of ventilators and hand sanitizers.

- In 2021, the University partnered with the County Government of Laikipia to produce local vehicles, the BJ-50 TukTuk, which currently has been approved by the Kenya Bureau of Standards and Registered by the National Transport and Safety Authority.

Others present during the launch include; Governor Laikipia County, Ndiritu Muriithi, Vice Chancellor, DeKUT, Prof.Ndirangu Kioni, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Esther Magiri among others.



Conferment of degrees and award of diplomas and certificates during the 12th Graduation Ceremony at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Freedom Hall

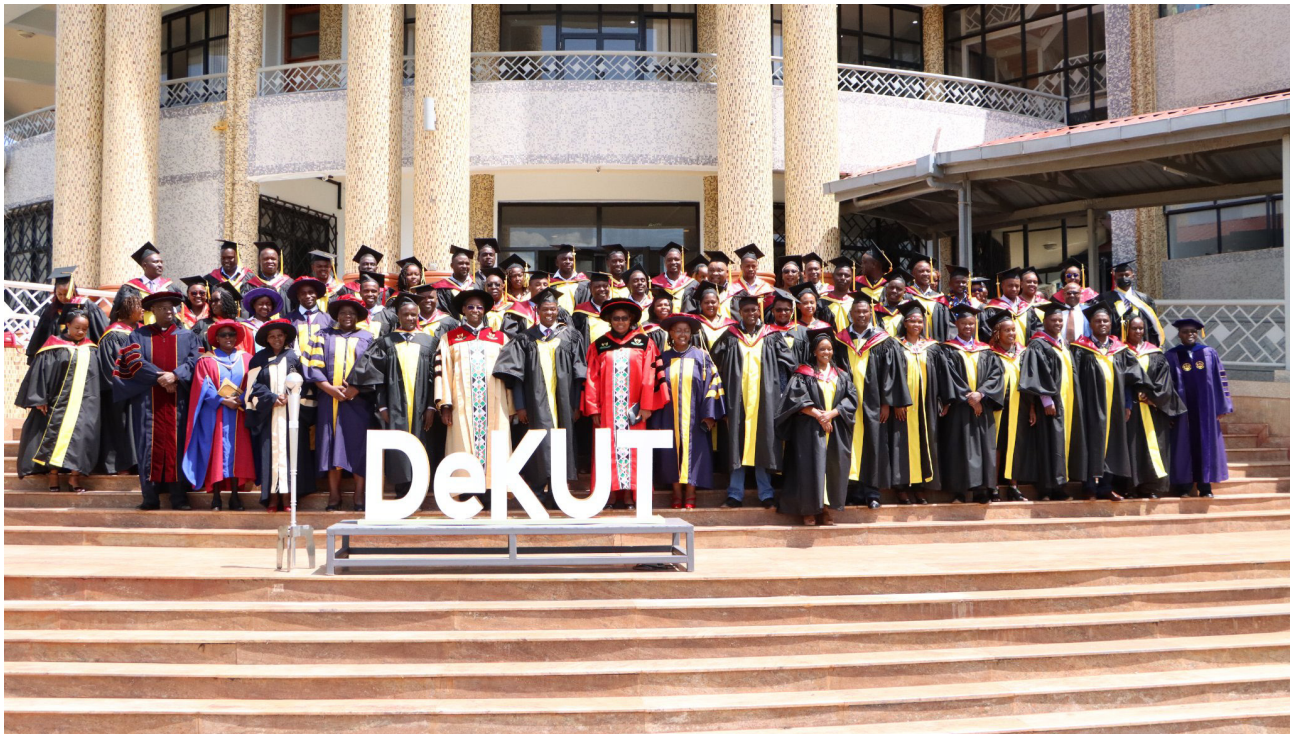
Dedan Kimathi University of Technology has blossomed into the Premier University of Technology in the country and in the region, attracting students from across the continent. Since its inception, the University has grown its infrastructure, and the student population has grown tremendously. In 2019, the University was ranked as the most preferred University in the country, with a 98 percent uptake of its declared capacity being occupied and in 2020, this rose to 98.8%. Among many reasons for this, like quality education, the serene learning environment and the focus on holistic development of our students, the timely completion of studies by our students stands out the most as the major reason.On Thursday 26th and Friday 27th May 2022 we held the 12th Graduation Ceremony at the Freedom Hall, Main Campus - Nyeri. The two-day graduation ceremony was physical but was also aired live on our DeKUT Web TV Channel (dekutchannel.dkut.ac.ke) and the University's official YouTube Channel (Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. This year, a total of 903 students graduated adding to the 807 who graduated in December last year.

We are proud to be releasing more graduates to join the rest of the DeKUT alumni in contributing to the development of our nation and beyond.

Congratulations, Graduating Class of 2022!







The journey to adoption of the Tanyai forest



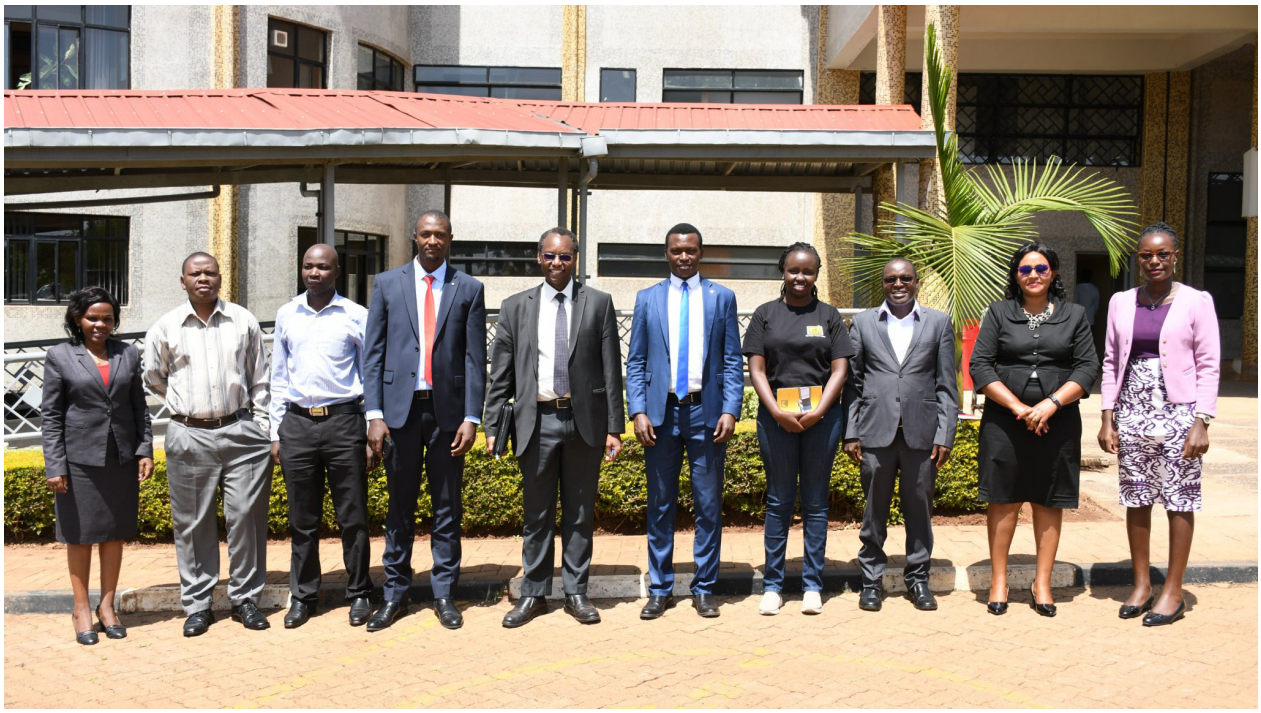
In an endeavor to comply with the Government directive, DeKUT partnered with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to adopt Tanyai Forest block for restoration and rehabilitation. This is a multifaceted project in which the University engages local people in tree planting, forest management, community-based tourism enterprises, and beekeeping for community economic benefit.

The journey for the adoption of Tanyai forest block started on 28th February 2020 when a consultative meeting was held between the management and Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to design a partnership framework towards the adoption of Tanyai Forest block for restoration and rehabilitation. The team was led by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ndirangu Kioni and the Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau. The meeting discussed the importance of creating synergies between the two institutions towards conservation and protection of the forest. KFS considered DeKUT, which sits between Mt. Kenya and Aberdares, as a strategic partner due to the Institution's proximity to Tanyai forest. The CCF identified the DeKUT's technology advancement as an area that the two institutions would complimentarily benefit towards securing forests through the use of drones to support rangers manning the vast forest resources and also deployment of sensors for surveillance as well as for academic research. Through the partnership, models of engaging communities in sustainable forest management were developed such as the promotion of Community-Based tourism projects by the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality management as well as the value addition of income-generating activities, e.g., beekeeping, tour guiding, and empowering the locals in tree nursery development. The University has also put up a forest nursery with technical support from the Service that encourages students to plant trees through an "adopt a Tree initiative, where every student is encouraged to plant at least one tree every rainy season and take care of it during his degree study in DeKUT. On 19th of May 2022, a team led by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Esther Magiri, planted 1000 seedlings to restore the forest.





DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub holds an Animation Bootcamp to train animators countrywide



Dedan Kimathi Film, Animation and Gaming Hub has continuously partnered with the Kenya Film Commission to create a platform where young people and those interested in creative art can employ technology in filmmaking and participate in the production of broadly marketable digital media products. The hub conducted an inaugural ceremony for the Animation Bootcamp on May 25, 2022, which will train animators around the country in animation. This is only one of the hub's many accomplishments. Others include training 50 participants ranging in age from 16 to 70 years old in Film Production, 2D Animation, and 3D Animation in collaboration with the County Government of Nyeri, and providing a number of internship positions to our youth who are now able to put their knowledge and skills to good use.

To grow the requisite human resource capacity for the industry, the hub also offers training opportunities for short courses in the film industry. The courses are designed in a manner that helps individuals acquire and develop valuable and relevant skills. Two short courses were launched in September 2020: Certificate in Animation Production and Script Writing. The hub is open to students, staff, and members of the public who are animators or filmmakers.





DeKUT Open/ Career Day



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) is committed to timely complethas remained committed to providing an academically stimulating, culturally diverse, and quality learning environment that fosters research, innovation, and technology development towards producing relevant technical and managerial human resources and leaders to contribute to the attainment of national development goals. The programmes offered by the University are approved by the Senate and the various designated bodies like the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) with M.Sc. Telecommunication Engineering, M.Sc. Biomedical Engineering, M.Sc. in Machine Tools Design and Manufacturing, M.Sc. in Civil Engineering, B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering, B.Sc. in Geology, Bachelor of Technology in Building Construction, and M.Sc. in Forensics and Security being the latest to meet the CUE threshold.

On May 20, 2022, we organized an open/career day to assist form fur leavers and their parents in identifying appropriate certificate, diploma, or degree courses. They were also given an opportunity to tour the facilities, speak with potential future lecturers, and hear about the University from existing students. If you were unable to attend the physical open day, we will hold a virtual open day on June 7, 2022.



