

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM OTOO ELLIS, VICE-
CHANCELLOR OF KNUST ON MONDAY, 16TH JULY, 2012 AT 9.00AM AT
THE ICIL AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE AUSTRALIA AWARDS
IN AFRICA POST-HARVEST MANAGEMENT OF MAIZE, RICE AND
LEGUMES**

Chairman

Distinguished Invited Guests

Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Australia Awards in Africa – Post Harvest training programme being held here at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). This training, the first of its kind in the country, is designed to address the Post-harvest management of maize, rice and legume and we are, indeed, very proud and honoured to be hosting this programme.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we are all fully aware that, post-harvest loss is one of the major problems facing the agricultural sector in Africa. Post-harvest grain losses in Sub-

Saharan Africa are estimated at around US\$4billion a year, according to a World Bank and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) report. The lost food, according to reports, could meet the minimum annual food requirements of at least 48 million people in the region. It is this, among many other reasons that training programmes of this nature seek to address and are, therefore, very important.

As part of the collaboration between our Department of Agricultural Engineering and the University of Sydney, Australia, this short course is designed to discuss the issues confronting the post-harvest industry and see how best to address these issues. I am very happy to say that, this collaborative programme has brought together three resource persons from the University of Sydney, Australia, and ten participants from other African countries. It is my humble prayer that the knowledge gained from this course will be

used to help our sister African countries and the world to curb food insecurity.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, various programmes have been put in place to make your stay here a happy one. I know that the presentations, group works, stakeholder engagements and the field trips will help bring out the best that this programme is designed for.

I want to once again welcome you all to KNUST, especially Professors Robyn McConchie, Emma Walters, Peter Ampt and our participants from Burundi, Cameroon, The Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Togo and Uganda. Feel free and use all the facilities we have around, have a good conference and enjoy your stay.

Many thanks for coming.