Entry Requirement
The course is offered to candidates having a minimum qualification of KCSE ‘O’ Level or its equivalent.

Course Fees
The course is offered at a fee of KShs. 25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand only), which caters for tuition, stationary and essential protective clothing. Participants will be expected to arrange for their own food and accommodation. Payment should be made through cheque, telegraphic transfer or direct cash deposit to Kenya Commercial Bank, Account Number 017-234630686, Moi Avenue Branch, Nairobi.

Contacts
For more information, please contact:
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Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
Department of Horticulture

Short Course in Greenhouse Farming and Enterprise Management

VENUE
JKUAT Main Campus
Juja, KENYA
DATES
15th to 19th April, 2013

Indeterminate tomato crop trained for prolonged growth

Sweet Capsicum with fabricated support trellis
The Department of Horticulture of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology is pleased to announce a short course in **Greenhouse Farming and Enterprise Management**, to be held at the JKUAT main campus in Juja, from **15th to 19th April, 2013**. The course is designed to meet the needs of medium and small-scale horticultural growers producing fruits, vegetables and flowers in a greenhouse environment. The curriculum is tailored to suit local conditions and is practical based, laying emphasis on management, production, and marketing practices. The course is offered on a full time basis over the period of one (1) week. A certificate will be awarded on successful completion of the course.

**Background**

The ever increasing population poses a great challenge to production of adequate food and materials with available land and other natural resources. The situation is exacerbated by occasional adverse weather phenomena such as drought and extreme conditions which damage crops, resulting in low agricultural yields and produce quality. Protected production within greenhouses offers a means of increasing productivity by addressing these challenges. Though originally employed in temperate regions in order to extend the growing season, greenhouses have recently been introduced in tropical regions to improve water use efficiency, reduce the incidence of pests and enhance production of a range of horticultural crops.

In Kenya, simplified greenhouses have been designed and marketed in various parts of the country. However, producing crops in greenhouses requires specialized management which many growers lack. In addition most growers lack the business skills required to ensure the sustainability of their projects. For successful operations, greenhouse growers need to have competencies in crop production practices, marketing and financial management. This course therefore seeks to impart the required knowledge and develop the competencies required to ensure a sustainable greenhouse production business model.

**Course Objectives**

On completion of the course, the trainees should be able to:

1. Select the appropriate crop(s) for greenhouse production in their locality.
2. Select a suitable greenhouse for horticultural production of their preferred crop.
3. Identify support services (including sources of finance, construction companies etc.) for greenhouse farming
4. Successfully grow crops in a commercial greenhouse setting.
5. Maintain appropriate records and use them in production management planning/decision making
6. Undertake farming as commercial enterprise having the necessary competencies in budgeting, crop scheduling, marketing and sales.

**Course structure**

The course is practical in orientation, designed around a series of interactive instruction sessions integrated with scenario based exercises.

The course is structured around key areas of greenhouse production and management, with key areas of study including:

- Introduction to Greenhouses
- The Greenhouse environment
- Growth media
- Pest management
- Water management
- Plant nutrition
- Specialized greenhouse operations
- Harvesting and postharvest handling
- Farm records
- Production of common crops
- Marketing of horticultural products
- Production schedules
- Labour management

**Target Trainees**

The course targets individuals from the following categories;

- Extension staff
- Farm workers
- Farmers/Growers
- Researchers
- Individual youth and youth groups interested in farming as a business