



University of Choice

**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(MMUST)**

**UNIVERSITY MAIN EXAMINATIONS
2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS
FOR THE DEGREE
OF
MSC IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
SYSTEMS**

COURSE CODE: AEX 805

**COURSE TITLE: MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL
ORGANIZATION**

DATE: 17/4/2024

TIME: 9-11 AM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Question ONE (1) is compulsory
Answer other TWO questions
Do not write anything on the question paper

MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and any other Two Questions

In an agricultural cooperative named GreenHarvest, the organizational environment plays a pivotal role in shaping its management practices. The cooperative operates in a rural community where farmers face challenges such as limited access to resources and fluctuating market prices. Within this environment, key elements such as leadership style, organizational culture, and external partnerships significantly influence decision-making processes.

The cooperative's flat organizational structure encourages participatory decision-making, empowering farmers to contribute ideas and insights. However, conflicting interests among members sometimes hinder consensus-building. Additionally, the cooperative's close collaboration with local government agencies and NGOs provides access to funding and technical support, but bureaucratic hurdles can slow down project implementation.

To address these challenges and capitalize on opportunities, GreenHarvest can implement strategies such as regular stakeholder consultations to foster transparency and trust. Moreover, investing in capacity-building programs and adopting innovative technologies can enhance operational efficiency and competitiveness. By cultivating a supportive organizational environment, GreenHarvest can optimize its management practices and achieve sustainable agricultural development goals.

Question 1

- a) Explain the term “organization” and its importance to the world of agriculture
(10 marks)
- b) Analyze the term “organization structure” and explain the types of organizational structures that agricultural organizations can adopt

(10 marks)

- c) Explain the process of decision-making in agricultural organizations

(10 marks)

Question 2

- a. The key elements of organizational environment and their influence on management practices in agricultural organizations (10 marks).
- b. Analyze the fundamental principles of organizational management and their relevance in the context of agricultural extension services, institutions, and projects. (10 marks).

Question 3

- a. Examine the strengths and limitations of various organizational designs in meeting the objectives of agricultural organizations and enhancing overall efficiency. (10 marks)
- b. Determine the key elements of organizational environment and their influence on management practices in agricultural organizations. (10 marks)

Question 4

- a. You have been appointed as the Program Officer at Milk Production Improvement Project by an NGO. Describe the stages of the project that will be relevant in the project. (10 marks)
- b. Discuss the relevance of planning as a function of management within agricultural organizations (10 marks)

Question 5

- a) Explain the essential elements of extension administration in agricultural organizations (10 marks)
- a) Discuss some of the challenges faced by agricultural organizations in Kenya today (10 marks)