



# MUA

MARONDERA UNIVERSITY  
OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

## Hosting Fees for Field, Laboratory Experiments and Demonstrations Plots Policy

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Policy administrator	Bursar
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUASt) is committed to applying the values of equity, participation, transparency, service, tolerance and mutual respect, dedication, scholarship, responsibility and academic freedom in all its activities. This includes, by definition, all the research conducted at the University. MUASt recognizes that individuals from other universities, institutions, and businesses may wish to visit the University for extended periods of time for reasons including, but not limited to, conducting research in a MUASt facility, collaborating with University researchers on specific projects, and observing University faculty research. All of these researchers will come to MUASt with financial support and insurance covering the period of time that they request. This document serves as a broad policy framework for hosting fees for visiting researchers and field trials and or demonstration plots for external institutes. The policy must be interpreted in the context of the other relevant policy and procedural documents, referred to in section 6.

## 2. APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

This policy relates to all research fees and charges payable to MUASt by visiting researchers for the use of its facilities and the provision of related services irrespective of the source of their funding or the field in which they conduct their research or the site where the research is conducted for the use of facilities, equipment or materials, and other miscellaneous fees. It is important that the University maintains a record of visiting researchers and review documentation or agreements in order to protect the University's interests, including intellectual property.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 '**Bench Fee**' refers to a fee that cover the cost of consumable materials and facilities used in the delivery of specific programmes of study.

3.2 '**Demonstration plot**' is a field that is used for teaching, sharing ideas and showcasing a proven agricultural practice

3.3 '**On-station research**' refers to any research activity conducted in MUASt fields for the principal purpose of generating information, knowledge or proof of concept

3.4 '**Research**' is any systematic enquiry aimed at producing new and generalisable knowledge, new meaning or a deeper understanding of meaning.

3.5 **‘Visiting researcher’** means any scholar from any institution who visits a MUASt to teach, lecture, or perform research on a topic for which the visitor is valued. It is expected that visiting researchers will be self-supporting, funded by their own institution or by a grant held by the hosting department.

#### 4. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy aims to provide guidance to visiting researchers on the circumstances whereby MUASt will apply hosting fees for field, laboratory experiments and demonstration plots and how such fees will be determined.

#### 5. RESEARCH FACILITY FEES

##### 5.1 Bench fee

A bench fee will be applied to each visiting researcher to cover overheads incurred by a department as a result of activities carried out by the researcher during their stay and to help improve the facilities that MUASt can offer. The bench fee will cover the expense for office space (which may be shared) which includes internet and library access and or the use of the laboratory or workshop to carry out experiments and analyses. Where one intends to use the laboratory or workshop, an additional fee will be added which covers the costs of equipment use, consumables and technical assistance.

##### 5.2 Research trials and Demonstration plots fee

The use of the University farm land and equipment, is under ongoing advancement and continual development to meet the changing needs of agricultural experiments and demonstration plots. MUASt offers:

- i) Dedicated sites optimised for particular researcher needs and available for full range of agronomic, breeding and crop protection investigations with an option of a portable irrigation facility,
- ii) Advice on trial design and analysis, with all trials backed up by laboratory and diagnostic services and expertise, and
- iii) The strictest confidentiality for all on-station activities.

The use of University fields for field experiments or demonstration plots will attract a fee per hectare per growing season. This fee will cover the costs of land preparation, management (weeding), security and/irrigation.

## 6. IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCEDURES

6.1 The responsibility for the implementation of this policy shall lie with the Vice-Chancellor who may delegate that responsibility to another person.

6.2 The University Senate shall have wide authority and discretion, within the confines of:

- i) The University Act and any regulations, ordinances or other provisions made by Council,
- ii) The Research and Innovation policy,
- iii) This policy,
- iv) Any procedures established by the Finance committee, and
- v) Any directions given by or on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor to adopt administrative processes, guidance, forms and interpretations necessary to effectively implement this policy and any procedures enacted.

## 7. POLICY REVIEW

The Policy will be reassessed, and potentially adjusted, every three years, or when prompted by significant shifts in circumstances such as University budgeting.

**Annexure: Schedule of hosting fees for Field, Laboratory Experiments and Demonstrations Plots**

- |      |  |                |
|------|--|----------------|
| i.   | Bench fee (per annum paid pro rata)  | US\$48,000.00. |
| ii.  | Field use (land preparation, management and security)<br>per hectare per growing season: | US\$ 2,400.00. |
| iii. | Field use plus irrigation service per hectare per<br>growing season:                     | US\$ 6,000.00. |