

## MUAST IN BOTSWANA

### MUAST Visits BUAN: Strengthening Cross-Border Academic Ties



On 7 February 2025, Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUAST) visited the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN). This visit served as a follow-up to BUAN's trip to Zimbabwe in 2024 and their subsequent discussions with MUAST.



The Vice Chancellor of BUAN, Professor Ketlhatlhogile Mosepele, stated that the visit by MUAST highlighted the promising prospects of collaboration between the two institutions. He emphasized that collaboration is not merely a strategy but an initiative for transformation and progress. The BUAN team encouraged innovation in executing mandates and actively leveraging funding from private players.

The MUAST delegation which was led by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Justice Nyamangara, comprised Dr Nation Chikumba (Dean - Faculty of Plant and Animal Sciences), Dr Fortunate Makore (Director - Marketing, Agri-work Related Learning and Outreach Programmes), Mr Tendayi Rupiya (Acting Deputy Registrar, Academic) and Ms Ruvimbo Clare Chibanda (Manager - Public, International Relations and Resource Mobilisation). The MUAST delegation was inspired by BUAN's strides in outreach and entrepreneurship programmes, finding valuable lessons to take home.





Both institutions explored areas of potential collaboration, notably student and staff exchange programmes. Additionally, they discussed close cooperation with other universities sharing similar agricultural mandates.

Prof Nyamangara highlighted that successful collaborations required active involvement from deans, directors, chairpersons, and lecturers, not just leaving it to the Vice

Chancellors. Both parties also stressed the importance of collaborating with industry and private sector, emphasising value addition of agricultural products to benefit farmers and foster community profit-sharing with companies partnered with universities.

### **MUAST at the Education Africa Fair**

MUAST had the privilege of exhibiting at the Education Africa Fair held at Regent Hill International School in Gaborone, Botswana. The fair provided MUAST an excellent platform to engage with prospective students and highlight its academic offerings. The event attracted various schools, companies, and universities showcasing their programmes.

Ms. Chibanda spoke about the university and its degree programmes, breaking it down for primary school children. Her presentation received positive feedback, with audience members visiting the stand afterwards.



Overall, these events highlighted the importance of cross-border academic collaborations and the value of sharing knowledge and resources to drive innovation and progress in the field of agriculture and beyond.