

PRESS STATEMENT ON OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF DIPLOMA IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE (DSARD)

It is with great pleasure that we announce the launching of a diploma course in sustainable agriculture and rural development by Rt. Rev Peter Kairo, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru at Baraka Agricultural College, Molo.

The Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (DSARD) course has been developed by Baraka Agricultural College in response to demands from students and rural communities for practical education and training in the concept and practice of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

In Eastern Africa over 75% of our people live in rural areas and a high percentage of them are living in absolute poverty. Government responses to the challenge of lifting rural people out of the poverty trap and onto the first rung of the development ladder require creativity and increased intellectual investment. Baraka Agricultural College, which is owned by the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru, has worked since 1974, at empowering rural communities through the promotion sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD). Baraka believes passionately that SARD is the most appropriate development response to the realities of Eastern Africa and that it is a strategy that can achieve the sustainable development of the Region.

The curriculum of this unique course has been developed in a consultation with rural communities, students, Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, Education and Science and Technology, NGOs, Universities and Churches. The course is aimed at experienced development workers, farmers, and persons interested in the development of rural communities. Participants must have a minimum of certificate in agriculture/community development or a related area. The course is also suitable for persons with primary degrees who are interested in promoting rural development.

The duration of the course is sixteen months and commences in August each year. There is a strong emphasis on the participant acquiring practical skills and the delivery of the curriculum reflects this emphasis. Baraka can accommodate up to 50 participants each year on the DSARD course. The course will be available through distance learning from 2009.

For more information please contact:

The Principal
Baraka Agricultural College
P O Box 52, MOLO – 20106
Tel: 051-721091; 0725777421
Email: baraka@sustainableag.org
Website: www.sustainableag.org