



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

CONAS

# NEWSLETTER

January - March 2026



## CoNAS Holds Inaugural Annual Science Exhibition & Career Fair

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Principal	2	Spotlight on Dr. Anywar Godwin	5	Mak Study Reveals Key Factors Undermining Performance in Biology, Solutions Proposed	10
76th Grad: CoNAS Presents 16 PhDs	2	CoNAS Researchers Awarded UCIF Grant	6	BOKU and Makerere University Strengthen Five-Decade Partnership	11
76th Grad: Best Performing Male Student in the Sciences	3	NutriFishPlus Research Assistants Trained	7	Pictorial: CoNAS Science Exhibition	12
Academic Leadership Appointments	4	CoNAS Holds Inaugural Annual Science Exhibition and Career Fair	8	Pictorial: CoNAS Renovations	13
Successful PhD Defenses	5				

## Message from the Principal

I am pleased to present this edition of the CoNAS Newsletter, highlighting our achievements in teaching, research, innovation, and community engagement.

The period under review reflects our steadfast commitment to advancing scientific knowledge, nurturing talent, and contributing meaningfully to both national and global development priorities.

Across all our departments, academic staff and students continue to undertake impactful research. From ground-breaking work in plant sciences and ethno-pharmacology led by Dr. Godwin Anywar, to award-winning initiatives addressing food safety through innovative, plant-based solutions, CoNAS is actively contributing to solving pressing societal challenges. Projects such as NutriFishPlus further demonstrate our dedication to improving livelihoods through science-driven interventions. The award of 16 PhDs at the 76th Graduation Ceremony further underscores our growing capacity to train high-level researchers and supports Makerere University's vision of becoming a research-led institution.



**Prof. Winston Tumps Ireeta**  
Principal, College of Natural  
Sciences (CoNAS)

The inaugural CoNAS Annual Science Exhibition and Career Fair, which showcased cutting-edge research, further demonstrated our commitment to scientific innovation.

As we reflect on our achievements, we remain committed to delivering a rigorous, inclusive, and supportive academic environment that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. We also remain mindful of the challenges ahead, particularly in improving science education outcomes and ensuring equitable access to quality learning resources. Findings from recent studies on Biology education serve as a call to action for all stakeholders to collaborate in strengthening science teaching and learning in Uganda.

**We also remain mindful of the challenges ahead, particularly in improving science education outcomes and ensuring equitable access to quality learning resources**

I commend our staff, students, partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering dedication and contribution to the success of the College. Together, we continue to build a vibrant academic community committed to excellence, innovation, and societal transformation.

## 76th Grad: CoNAS Presents 16 PhDs

The College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS) presented 269 students for the award of degrees of Makerere University at the 76th graduation ceremony. Of these, 16 graduated with PhDs (4 female and 12 male), 83 with Masters (27 female and 56 male), and 170 with Bachelors' degrees (45 female and 125 male). The PhD graduates included; Afazall Zabibu, a Lecturer at the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS); Akuyenze Paul, Kawuma Carol, Mutiso Duncan Chalo, Nabiyonga Lydia,

**CoNAS presented 269 students for the award of degrees of Makerere University at the 76th graduation ceremony. Of these, 16 graduated with PhDs (4 female and 12 male), 83 with Masters (27 female and 56 male), and 170 with Bachelors' degrees (45 female and 125 male).**

and Osinde Cyprian (Plant Sciences, Microbiology and Biotechnology); Batte Hebert, Katende Ronald, and Namugera Frank (Mathematics), Chaciga Jimmy, Tusiime Swaleh, and Komaketch Ignatius (Physics), Kinyua Mbuci, Sekandi Peter, and Shehu Zaccheus (Chemistry), and Nakiyende Herbert (Zoology, Entomology, and Fisheries Sciences).

During the course of the 76th graduation ceremony, a total of 9,295 students received degrees

and diplomas of Makerere University. Of these, 4,262 (46%) were female and 5,033 (54%) were male. A total of 213 students graduated with PhDs, the highest number in the history of the University. 2,503 graduated with Masters degrees; 6,343 with Bachelor's degrees; 206 with postgraduate diplomas, and 30 with Diplomas. Postgraduates constituted 31.4% of the total number of graduands.



The CoNAS Principal, Prof. Winston Tumps Ireeta, presenting the graduates



Some of the PhD graduands

## 76th Grad: Best Performing Male Student in the Sciences



At just 24 years old, Simon Mungudit from the College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS) etched his name in the academic history of Makerere University, having emerged as the overall best male student in the Sciences, an achievement earned through perseverance, discipline, and an unrelenting pursuit of excellence. Mungudit graduated during 76th graduation ceremony of Makerere University held from 24th to 27th February 2026, having attained a

CGPA of 4.76 in the Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Geoscience and Production.

### Early Life and Journey to Academic Excellence

Born to Mr. Owor Thomas, a Game Ranger with the Uganda Wildlife Authority at Murchison Falls National Park, and Ms. Lilly Obewun Grace of Akuru Bridge Village, Nyaravur Sub-County in Nebbi District, Mungudit's

journey to academic excellence began far from the lecture halls of Makerere. At Karuma Primary School, Mungudit scored 12 aggregates in the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE), setting the pace for his future success. He proceeded to St. Daniel Comboni College, Nebbi, where he attained 14 aggregates in 8 subjects at O' Level. He then joined Namilyango College, one of the best secondary schools in Uganda, where he studied Physics, Chemistry, and

Mathematics (PCM) and scored 19 points, results that secured him government sponsorship to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Geoscience and Production at Makerere University.

**Gratitude to his mentors and sponsors**

Behind these milestones lies a story of humility, gratitude and opportunity. Mungudit credits his parents for supporting his

primary and O' Level education and expresses gratitude to TotalEnergies, which provided a full bursary for his A' Level studies, covering tuition, upkeep, and medical care. He also acknowledges the Government of Uganda for sponsoring his university education, a factor he says motivated him to excel. He pays tribute to his lecturers for their unwavering commitment to nurturing students and pushing them to excel.

## Academic Leadership Appointments

Makerere University Council at its 783rd meeting appointed Dr Oruru Bosco as Head of the Department of Physics at the College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS) effective 3rd February 2026. Dr Oruru succeeded Dr Denis Okello, who led the department from January 2022 to January 2026.

A highly accomplished academic, Dr Oruru holds a PhD and MSc in Physics from the University of the Free State, a BSc in Astrophysics and Space Science from the University of Cape Town, and a BSc in Education (Physics and Mathematics) from Mbarara University of Science

and Technology. He also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration and Management from Uganda Management Institute and a Diploma in Secondary Education from Kyambogo University.

Over the years, Dr Oruru has served the department in several capacities as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Graduate Supervisors Trainer, and Secretary of the Departmental Research and Teaching Programmes Committee. He has also supervised and examined students at PhD, MSc, and BSc levels both at Makerere and across other institutions including Kyambogo University,

Mbarara University of Science and Technology, the South African Institute of Physics, and the University of the Free State.

**Dr Oruru is grateful to the staff at the Department of Physics and the University Administration for the trust placed in him. He reaffirms his commitment to advancing the department's tradition of excellence, building on the strong foundation laid by his predecessors.**



Dr Oruru with the outgoing Dean of the School of Physical Sciences, Dr Michael Owor, and the outgoing Head of the Department of Physics at the handover ceremony

## Successful PhD Defenses

**Mr. Hebert Nakiyende - Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences**



Mr. Hebert Nakiyende successfully defended his PhD thesis on 21st January 2026, marking a significant academic achievement in the field of fisheries science and aquatic resource management. His research, titled *“Exploitation of Brycinus nurse (Rüppell, 1832) and Engraulicypris bredoi (Poll, 1945) in Lake Albert, Uganda: Implications for Management”* focuses on the utilization and sustainability of two key fish species in Lake Albert. The study provides important insights into how these species are harvested and offers

recommendations aimed at improving fisheries management and conservation strategies in the region. He was supervised by Dr. Jackson Efitre from the Department of Zoology, Entomology, and Fisheries Sciences at Makerere University, alongside Dr. Lauren Chapman from the Department of Biology at McGill University.

**Mr Onen Hudson - Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences**



Mr. Onen Hudson successfully defended his PhD on 7th April 2026. His thesis, titled *“Biophysical factors influencing oviposition site selection behavior of female Anopheles gambiae sensu lato in a semi-field”* provides

valuable insights into mosquito behavior with implications for malaria control. Mr. Hudson was supervised by Prof. Anne M. Akol from the Department of Zoology, Entomology, and Fisheries Sciences at Makerere University, Dr. Martha A. Kaddumukasa from the Department of Biological Sciences, Kyambogo University, and Prof. Frédéric Tripet from Keele University, UK.

**Mr. Tumushabe Wilson - Department of Geology and Petroleum Studies**

On 19th March 2026, Mr. Tumushabe Wilson successfully defended his PhD thesis titled *“Impact of Depositional Architecture on Petroleum Reservoir Quality of the Southern Lake Albert Basin, Western Uganda.”* His research, conducted under the supervision of Dr. Betty Nagudi and Dr. Kevin Aanyu from Makerere University, and Prof. William Helland-Hansen from the University of Bergen, Norway, offers new insights into the geological factors affecting petroleum reservoir quality in the Southern Lake Albert Basin.

## Spotlight on Dr. Anywar Godwin



**A prolific researcher driving innovation and impact in plant sciences and ethnopharmacology**

Dr. Anywar Godwin is a distinguished scholar, researcher, and mentor making significant contributions to plant sciences, and ethnopharmacology in Africa and beyond.

He earned his doctorate as a DAAD/CARTA fellow through a split-site programme at the prestigious Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy & Immunology in Leipzig, Germany, the Institute for Virology at the University of

Leipzig, and Makerere University, Kampala.

Currently, Dr. Anywar lectures at Makerere University’s Department of Plant Sciences, Microbiology and Biotechnology and serves as a Research Associate at the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, Germany, contributing to cutting-edge work in ethnopharmacology and zoopharmacognosy.

An active contributor to the scientific community, he sits on the editorial boards of BMC Complementary Medicine and Therapies, PLOS ONE, Discover Molecules,

and Frontiers in Pharmacology - Ethnopharmacology, and reviews for over 30 international journals.

Dr. Anywar holds leadership roles in professional societies, including the African Phytomedicine Scientific Society (APSS) and the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA), where he represents Eastern Africa. He is recognized internationally with fellowships from the Global Young Academy, Uganda National Academy of Sciences, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Africa Science Leadership Programme.

His research portfolio is impressive, with over 110 publications and involvement in impactful projects such as the Worm Booster Project

on improved worm management for improved goat production, sustainable livelihood and food security in vulnerable populations, TRACEPLANT blockchain initiative on Tracing Medical Plants' Origins with Blockchain Solutions German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA), and the Traditional Medicine in Transition programme supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Beyond research, Dr. Anywar is committed to mentorship, science advocacy, and community service. He serves as Vice President of both the Uganda Textbook Academic and Non-Fiction Writers Association (UTANA) and NAPRECA Uganda Chapter, mentors rising scientists through INGSA and AuthorAid,

and contributes to campus life as the assistant people's warden (Head of Laity) St. Francis Chapel, Kabanyolo, Makerere University.

His contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including multiple Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards, the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities Outstanding Research Excellence Award 2026, and international recognition at conferences and fellowships in Germany, Poland, Italy, and India.

Dr. Anywar Godwin exemplifies the intersection of academic excellence, community engagement, and global scientific leadership, shaping the next generation of researchers in Africa and worldwide.

## CoNAS Researchers Awarded UCIF Grant



The team led by Dr Abubakar Sadik Mustafa receiving the award

In a significant stride towards ensuring food safety and agricultural resilience, a team of researchers from the College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS) at Makerere University was awarded the prestigious Uganda Climate Innovation Fund (UCIF) to support the development of a groundbreaking solution to maize contamination.

Maize, a staple food for millions of Ugandans, has long been threatened by *Aspergillus* fungi, which produce aflatoxins, highly toxic compounds that pose serious risks to human

health, livestock, and the nation's agricultural productivity. Recognizing the urgency of this challenge, a research team from the Department of Plant Sciences, Microbiology, and Biotechnology at the College of Natural Sciences (CONAS), Makerere University, is pioneering the development of a plant-based organic fungicide aimed at significantly reducing *Aspergillus* growth and aflatoxin contamination in maize.

The initiative is spearheaded by Dr. Abubakar Sadik Mustafa (Principal Investigator), with major contributions from co-

innovators Dr. Jamilu E. Ssenku, Dr. Patience Tugume, Mr. Frank Kalungi, and Mr. John Okello. The team officially received the UCIF award on 26 February 2026 at an event held at Kampala Serena Hotel. "This recognition underscores the importance of locally-driven scientific innovation in safeguarding our food systems," said Dr. Mustafa upon receiving the award. "Our goal is to deliver an environmentally friendly solution that not only protects maize but also contributes to public health and supports sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers."

The UCIF grant, funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) under the Climate Smart Jobs initiative, is implemented by Palladium in collaboration with Stanbic Bank, Swissconnect, and CABI. The programme seeks to advance solutions that address the dual challenges of climate change and economic development by supporting innovations that foster

sustainable agricultural practices, reduce environmental risks, and create climate-smart employment opportunities.

This breakthrough aligns closely with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those targeting good health and well-being (SDG 3), zero hunger (SDG 2), and climate action (SDG 13). By developing a

natural, plant-based fungicide, the Makerere University team hopes to offer a scalable solution that mitigates food contamination risks while promoting environmentally sustainable farming practices across Uganda.

## NutriFishPlus Research Assistants Trained

The NutriFishPlus Project, led by Dr. Jackson Efitre, successfully conducted a one-day capacity-building training for its research assistants on 13th January 2026. The training focused on the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework and the household survey tool, aiming to strengthen data collection, analysis, and learning processes to support evidence-based project implementation and impact assessment.

Following the training, the project team carried out a baseline survey across five landing sites on Lakes Victoria, Kyoga, and Albert. This survey aimed to gather comprehensive data on household demographics, nutrition and dietary diversity, fish consumption, livelihoods, value addition, gender dynamics, and food security, providing a foundational understanding to inform subsequent project interventions and to track progress over time.

The NutriFishPlus project is implemented by the Department of Zoology, Entomology, and Fisheries Sciences at Makerere University, in partnership with Nutreal Ltd and Kati Farms Ltd, under a public-private partnership.

### About the NutriFishPlus Project

Funded by the IDRC and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

through the Cultivate Africa's Future Fund Phase II (CultiAF2), NutriFishPlus builds on the achievements of the original NutriFish Project (2019-2023). Launched on 28th October 2025, the two-year and eight-month project seeks to scale proven innovations while enhancing nutrition, livelihoods, and gender outcomes in small pelagic fisheries.

### Project Objectives

1. Scale adoption of sustainable fish processing technologies, such as solar tent driers and raised racks, to reach new fishing communities.
2. Enhance market access and supply chain linkages for high-quality fish and fish-based products.
3. Empower women and vulnerable groups while promoting community resilience through diversified income-generating activities.

### Expected Outcomes

NutriFishPlus is designed to deliver multiple socioeconomic and environmental benefits, including:

1. Improved incomes and livelihoods for marginalized fishing communities, particularly women and youth.
2. Enhanced health and nutrition outcomes through diversified, market-embedded fish products.
3. Sustainable and replicable fish processing and marketing models across Uganda and the wider East African region.
4. Increased participation of women and youth in decision-making and benefit-sharing within the small pelagic fish value chain.
5. Improved socioeconomic conditions and ecosystem health through participatory and scalable approaches.



The Project team and research assistants during the training

## CoNAS Holds Inaugural Annual Science Exhibition and Career Fair

The College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS) at Makerere University successfully held its first Annual Science Exhibition from Thursday, 5th March to Saturday, 7th March 2026, at the Science Quadrangle within the college premises. The three-day event, officially opened by the Director of Research, Innovation, and Partnerships (DRIP) at Makerere University, Prof. Robert Wamala, attracted students, researchers, educators, and members of the public eager to explore groundbreaking scientific research and innovative solutions emerging from the institution.

Held under the theme - **Empowering Competent Learners for Innovation and Sustainable Development** - the exhibition provided a platform for showcasing research breakthroughs and innovations developed within the college. The event allowed participants to interact with scientists, experience live demonstrations, and gain insight into how scientific discoveries are translated into solutions for real-world challenges.

### Showcasing Research and Innovation at the exhibition

A key highlight of the exhibition was the presentation of cutting-edge research and innovations from the college's

eight departments: Department of Chemistry, Department of Geology and Petroleum Studies, Department of Mathematics, Department of Physics, Department of Biochemistry and Systems Biology, Department of Plant Sciences, Microbiology and Biotechnology, Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences, and the Department of Exercise and Sports Science.

Through interactive displays and presentations, researchers and students shared projects that demonstrate the practical application of science in addressing societal needs. Many of these innovations highlighted the role of scientific knowledge in supporting industry, improving public health, strengthening environmental conservation, and contributing to economic development.

Visitors engaged directly with researchers and innovators, learning about the scientific processes behind the projects and the potential impact of the work being carried out at the university. The exhibition also emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in the natural sciences, showing how combined expertise can generate new approaches to complex challenges.

### Projects Showcased

In the fisheries and aquatic sciences field, the exhibition featured products and initiatives from the NutriFish and INNOECOFOOD projects, alongside research in algae cultivation aimed at advancing aquaculture and improving water purification. Aquaponics systems, ornamental fish projects, and initiatives focused on value addition within the fisheries sector were also presented.

Within the biological and life sciences, notable projects included research in medical entomology, applications of FTIR spectrometry, and innovations in plant tissue culture and mushroom cultivation technologies. The Makerere University Herbarium was also featured, along with studies demonstrating the use of plant extracts to inhibit the growth of aflatoxin-producing fungi.

The agricultural biotechnology and environmental sustainability section highlighted the development of biofertilizers and biopesticides, as well as innovations in biogas production, organic tea cultivation, and the formulation of shampoos and hair-growth products derived from natural sources.



The Director DRIP, Prof. Robert Wamala (in yellow tie) inspecting stalls during the CoNAS Science Exhibition and Career Fair





Students from Mbogo High School at the Physics exhibition stall

In the field of physical sciences and technological innovation, researchers presented solar water purification technologies, the development of an energy geoscience model, and interdisciplinary applications linking mathematics, data science, finance, and biology.

Traditional knowledge and community-centered innovations were also represented through projects in traditional medicine and cultural astronomy. Practical sustainability solutions were showcased as well, including the development of affordable

solar cookers designed for use in educational institutions.

**Inspiring Future Scientists through Career Guidance**

Another key component of the exhibition was career guidance for secondary school students studying sciences. Nine secondary schools took part in the activity, including Holy Cross Lake View S.S.S (Jinja), Namilyango College, Namakwa S.S, Mbogo High School, Kawanda S.S, Nabisunsa Girls Secondary School, Mariam High School, Bukasa High School, and Samson Memorial High School.

Through guided tours, mentorship sessions, and interactive discussions, the students engaged with scientists and university lecturers who provided insights into academic pathways and career prospects in the sciences. The sessions were designed to inspire young learners and help them understand the relevance of science in everyday life and national development. Science teachers at the event noted that such initiatives are essential in motivating students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). "By witnessing real-world applications of research and innovation, the students are able to see how scientific ideas can evolve into practical solutions that benefit society."

**Remarks by the Director of Research, Innovation and Partnerships at Makerere**

In his remarks, Prof. Robert Wamala emphasized the critical role of scientific research and innovation in driving sustainable development and national transformation. He commended the College of Natural Sciences for creating a platform that not only showcases scientific achievements but also inspires the next generation of scientists.

"The inaugural science exhibition reflects Makerere University's continued commitment to promoting research, innovation, and academic excellence. By creating opportunities for collaboration between students, researchers, educators, and the wider community, the event strengthens the university's role as a hub for scientific discovery and knowledge dissemination. I commend the leadership of CoNAS, the Organizing Committee, the researchers and students who have prepared the exhibits, and all partners who have supported the initiative. Your dedication to promoting scientific engagement and community outreach is highly appreciated."



Prof. Wamala at the Plant Sciences Stall

### Remarks by the Principal of CoNAS

Addressing the participants, the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration, also Principal of CoNAS at Makerere University, Prof. Winston Tumps Ireta, underscored the significance of the event in fostering scientific innovation and equipping students with the guidance needed to make well informed career decisions. "The idea to launch the Annual Science Exhibition was conceived in response to the growing demand from schools nationwide

**"The inaugural science exhibition reflects Makerere University's continued commitment to promoting research, innovation, and academic excellence. By creating opportunities for collaboration between students, researchers, educators, and the wider community, the event strengthens the university's role as a hub for scientific discovery and knowledge dissemination."**

for structured career guidance opportunities for their students. Through this exhibition, we aim not only to ignite curiosity and creativity in young minds but also to provide them with practical

insights and exposure that will empower them to make informed and confident choices about their future careers in science and related fields."

## Mak Study Reveals Key Factors Undermining Performance in Biology, Solutions Proposed



A nationwide study led by Prof. Fredrick Jones Muyodi at Makerere University has highlighted critical factors contributing to poor performance in Biology in Uganda's national examinations, particularly in the Northern and Eastern regions. The study points to gaps in practical learning, digital access, and teaching methods, calling for urgent reforms in science education.

Launched in 2023 and funded by the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (MakRIF), the study responds to a decade-long decline in Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE)

Biology results. Historical data shows extremely low achievement, with only one student scoring an "A" out of 13,061 candidates in 2018 and just 38% achieving at least a pass.

The research team engaged over 5,000 participants, including teachers, students, parents, and curriculum experts, across 100 districts. Key challenges identified include:

- Limited practical learning:** Many schools lack functional laboratories, preventing students from connecting theory with practice.
- Poor digital access:** Inadequate internet connectivity and online resources hinder modern science education.
- Ineffective teaching methods:** Overreliance on lectures limits conceptual understanding.
- Gender disparities:** Female students often have lower confidence and participation in practical activities.
- Community attitudes:** Societal perceptions of Biology reduce student motivation.

The study findings were presented at a workshop on 19th March

2026, attended by senior officials from Makerere University and the Ministry of Education and Sports. Commissioner for Secondary Education, Mrs. Juliet Atuhairwe Muzoora, emphasized the need to expand such initiatives to all science disciplines and warned against monetization of educational programmes and the circulation of inappropriate and substandard pamphlets, that undermine the quality of education.

### Recommendations for improvement include:

- Expanding hands-on learning through fieldwork and projects.
- Investing in digital infrastructure and modern laboratory equipment.
- Strengthening teacher professional development with inquiry-based methods.
- Aligning curriculum and assessments to ensure coherence.
- Promoting student engagement and gender equity through mentorship, clubs, and targeted interventions.

In his remarks, Prof. Winston Tumps Ireta, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Finance & Administration), stressed realigning A' Level subject

combinations and leveraging local resources for experiential learning, while Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga highlighted the importance of clarifying instructional approaches under the Competence-Based Curriculum. The Chairperson of the MakRIF, Prof. Fred Masagazi Masaazi, underscored the significance and far-reaching impact of the initiative, indicating that the MakRIF remains committed to supporting ideas and initiatives that have a tangible and measurable effect on student learning outcomes.

The study team is seeking funding to pilot interventions in the most affected regions and establish a monitoring framework to

track progress, aiming to build a generation of Biology students ready for higher education and scientific careers.

**Mrs. Juliet Atuhairwe Muzoora, emphasized the need to expand such initiatives to all science disciplines and warned against monetization of educational programmes and the circulation of inappropriate and substandard pamphlets, that undermine the quality of education**



*The Commissioner for Secondary Education at the Ministry of Education and Sports, Mrs. Juliet Atuhairwe Muzoora commended the research team for the initiative and called for its expansion to include other science disciplines.*



*The project team and stakeholders at the workshop*

## **BOKU and Makerere University Strengthen Five-Decade Partnership**



*The BOKU University team led by the Rector, Prof. Eva Schulev-Steindl with the team from the Department of Zoology, Entomology & Fisheries Sciences after the meeting*

On 11th February 2026, the Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences at Makerere University hosted a high-level delegation from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) to explore new collaboration strategies in a partnership spanning over 50 years. Led by BOKU Rector Prof. Eva Schulev-Steindl and Vice Rector Assoc. Prof. Doris Damyanovic, the delegation discussed expanding joint research, staff and student exchanges, and capacity-building initiatives.

The partnership, rooted in the 1975 International Post-Graduate Course in Limnology (IPGL), has trained over 120 aquatic science professionals and nurtured strong expertise in limnology, fisheries, and freshwater ecosystem management. Landmark programmes such as STRECAFISH (2015-2018) and COTRA (2017-2023) have enhanced regional capacity, supporting MSc and PhD students, staff exchanges, and collaborative research projects.

**Current collaborations under Erasmus+, FreshNet, SWAQ-Uganda, and BIOGOLD continue to advance sustainable water and resource management, climate adaptation, and biosorption research. Both institutions plan to expand joint initiatives into climate change research, fisheries research and innovation, short courses at the Makerere University Biological Field Station in Kibaale, and academic exchanges.**

## Pictorial: CoNAS Science Exhibition



*Dr Godfrey Kawooya Kubiriza chaired the Organizing Committee.*



*Left: Prof. Arthur Tugume, Dean of the School of Biosciences and other CoNAS staff touring the exhibition stalls. Right: Students of Namityango College at the Mathematics exhibition stall*



*Left-Right: Nabisunsa Girls at the Geology exhibition stall, the plant sciences exhibition stall, and Mbogo High School students at the Chemistry Stall*

## Pictorial: CoNAS Renovations



*The renovated interior of JICA, the headquarters of CoNAS*



*The renovated exterior and interior of the Department of Physics*



*Some of the renovated labs at the Department of Biochemistry and Systems Biology*

### EDITORIAL TEAM

1. Prof. Winston Tumps Ireeta, Principal
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3. Mr. Kisitu David, IT Officer
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