

## The NM-AIST Team an Over All Winner of the 2019 African Grand Challenge (AGC)

On January 26, 2019, one of the two teams which represented the NM-AIST, in the 2019 AGC was declared the overall Winner, 5,000 USD by the chairperson of the Organizing Committee of the 2019 AGC Dr. Liliane Pasape, this team was comprised of Ms. Christina N. Charles, Ms. Felister Magesa, Ms. Frida Nyamete Mr. Joseph Runyogote. The panel of judges scrutinized the ideas of all top four teams out of 8 teams of the competition and was satisfied of the **active omega-3 ingredients**, ready-to-use natural food product rich in preformed omega-3 DHA and other essential nutrients that promote brain health and cognitive function of young children, women and all other members of the family spectrum.



2nd Prize, 3,000 USD went to a team from Strathmore University, Kenya; with a drone technology which uses machine learning algorithms to recognize the type of bird and thereafter apply a repellent mechanism in terms of a repulsive sound and sometime, a specific-frequency sound, which repels birds from the farms.



3rd Prize, 2,000 USD was handed in to the International University of Equator, Burundi, with their system branded as an “ARC System”, an enterprise resource planning software constituted with multiple software modules that performs a number of functions such as monitoring crops selection, pests and diseases identification, treatment, gaps detection, notifying farmers on the growth cycle of their plants through smartphones as well as basic feature phones (USSD) messages,

and finally having a good selective harvest, this fits within the strategic goals of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM).



The 4<sup>th</sup> Prize, 1,000 USD went to the State University of Zanzibar's team who designed a solution branded as AgriNutrix, the innovation takes agriculture not only as farming but also as business, technology, science, engineering, energy, information and health care. This works as a package of solutions by putting people, their knowledge and information at the center of agricultural efforts by spreading it through basic feature phones (USSD) and

smart phones at the same time block chain through a group of databases by using machine learning and drones technology.

During his speech, the Guest of Honour, The District Commissioner for Arumeru District in Arusha, Hon. Jerry Muro, who represented the Arusha Regional Commissioner, Hon. Mrisho Gambo, congratulated all teams which presented their universities in the 2019 AGC. He also congratulated the NM-AIST for its tireless efforts in solving real time challenges facing Africa particularly Food Security and how best to improve the health of mother and their families. He argues other Higher learning Institutions to bank on this good example as the African continent moves towards self-dependence through knowledge economy for industrialization.



He highlighted that, the government wishes to see researches by professors and doctors pulled from the shelves to the local communities who, for a long time has been doing business as usual in agriculture and other means of production something which leads to poor harvest and consequently stagnant economies.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic, Research and Innovation of the NM-AIST, Prof. Anthony Mshandete, who was representing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Emmanuel Luoga, thanked the guest of honour for creating time out of his tight schedule to come and officiate the Award Ceremony.



He added that, the institution and other stakeholders are impressed by the currently increasing awareness of the importance of using Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation in solving African challenges especially the Fifth Leadership of the United Republic of Tanzania under our beloved President, His Excellency Dr. John, Pombe Joseph Magufuli and other heads of African states which promises a smooth platform for scientific research to play its role in solving African problems.

He also acknowledged the enormous support from the institutional partners particularly Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD), the founding partner and main sponsor of African Grand Challenge since 2016, Washington State University and Penny state university from USA, and he mentioned the individuals including International Advisor of the AGC, Prof. John Henderson from Boston University, and Local Senior Advisor, Prof. Burton Mwamila who is the current Vice Chancellor of ST. Joseph University of Tanzania and the founding Vice Chancellor of the NM-AIST. There after he thanked all mentors and judges for their exemplary job.

Finally Prof. Mshandete welcomed all guests to the NM-AIST and asked them to send the institutional regards when back home.

The winners of the 2019AGC Omega 3 DH Formula group are automatically entitled to attend ta WSU Entrepreneurship Skills and Knowledge Accelerator (WESKA) in the USA in June 2019.

We heartily congratulate the winning teams and all participants; for sure they had a rewarding moment at the NM-AIST. The Chief Guest argued all participants to not let their talent die while they are still alive!

