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Promoting Research Uptake at Mbarara University of Science and Technology: Challenges and Opportunities

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Summary of the Presentation

- Existing Research Uptake Supportive Structures
- MUST Research Uptake practices
- The Contribution of DRUSSA
- Research Uptake Challenges
- MUST' s Research Uptake Challenges
- Opportunities: Initiatives towards mainstreaming research uptake at MUST



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MUST's Research Uptake Supportive structures

- DVC in charge of Research and Graduate Studies
- Public Relations Office
- FOM Research Office (CIRIMO)
- Institutional Research Ethics Review Board (IRC)
- MUST Grants office
- Faculty Research Committees
- Dedicated Research Institutes
 - ITFC
 - IITR



MUST Research Uptake practices I

- **Community Based Teaching and Research Services (COBERS)**
 - Faculty of Medicine places students at Lower Health Facilities
 - School Practice by Faculty of Science
 - Internships and Students' field work for other Faculties



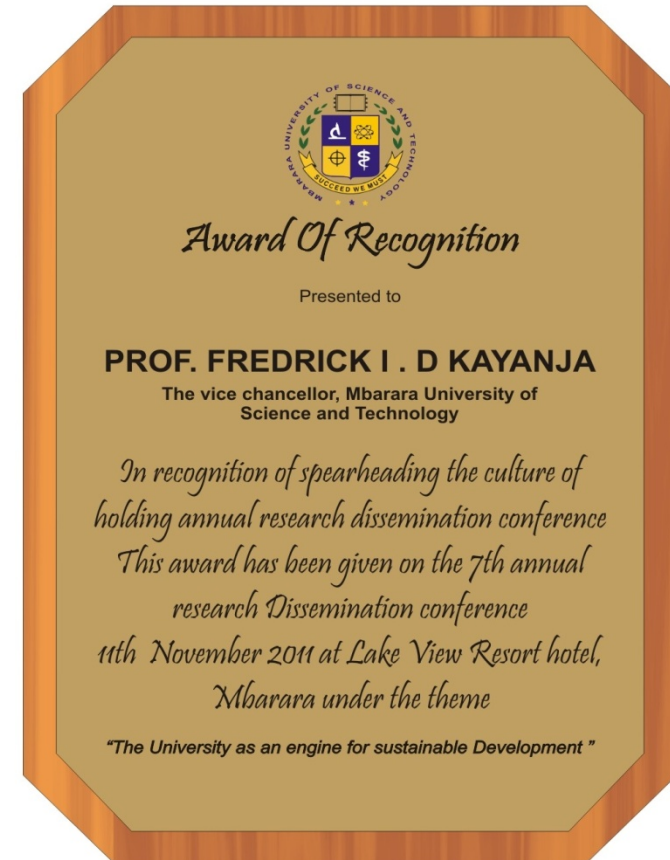
Students planning their field work activity



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MUST Research Uptake Practices II

- **Annual Research Dissemination Conference**
 - On 14th November 2013, the University will hold the 9th Annual research Dissemination Conference
 - Stakehold engagement
 - Platform for presentation and discussion of research by staff and students



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MUST Research Uptake Practices III

- **Healthy Child Uganda**
- Since 2002, the Healthy Child Uganda CORPs Model has been recognised for its contributions towards promotion of child health through training of Village health workers to spear head community health education



Dr. Jenn Brenner, a U of C pediatrician and prof, is on World Vision's list of top five Canadians to watch for her work as project director for Healthy Child Uganda. / Photo by Luke Walden



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MUST Research Uptake practices IV

- Policy Dialogues through stakeholders' breakfast meetings
- Engagement in implementation research projects
 - IT skills for communities (Uganda Police Outreach)
 - SARMS (Students Academic Records Management Systems)
 - Community Peace Programme
 - Collaborative Implementation Research Projects
 - MGH (income generation for HIV/AIDS patients)
 - LUMUST (Peer Education and youth sexuality)
 - Epi-Centre (Malaria)
 - ISS Clinic (HIV/AIDS)



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The Contribution of DRUSSA

- **Engagement with the implementation team**
 - information sharing forums about research uptake
- **DRUSSA Implementation Team**
 - 24 members of staff have been educated about research uptake
- **Short courses**
 - Science Utilisation and Science Communication (November 2012)
 - Research Evaluation and Research Impact Assessment (October 2013)
- **Case Study**
 - Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Test
- **Research Uptake Campaign Article**
 - Intra-household relations and family planning uptake in Uganda
- **Campus Visit (June 2013)**
 - Evaluation of Statements of Good Practice



Research Uptake Challenges

- **Policy Documents have remained drafts for along time**
 - Research and Innovations Policy
 - Intellectual Property Rights Policy
- **Competing priorities on the available funding**
- **Mismatch between demand for Knowledge output vis-à-vis University engagement**
 - Proliferation of universities against technical and education centres



Opportunities: Initiatives towards Mainstreaming Research Uptake at MUST

- Operationalising Research policy proposals
- Consolidated coordination of research uptake initiatives in the University
- Recognise and Reward research projects that incorporate research uptake
- Proposed Research Uptake Fund by IITR
- Grants Office Enhancement – 15% overhead costs policy
- ‘Innovations Cafes’

