

Universities' role in development: experiences from the Finnish-Kenyan cooperation in natural resource management education



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Outline

1. Background of the cooperation

- Finnish support to Kenyan forestry sector
- UEF-UOE cooperation

2. Higher education in Kenya

- Trends
- Challenges in natural resource management education

3. UOE's role in Kenya's development

1. Background of the cooperation

- Finnish development assistance to Kenya in the area of forestry dating back to the late 60s
- Formal framework for bilateral assistance agreed in 80s when Kenya became a “Programme Country”
 - Forest Industrial Training Centre (FITC) (1979-89),
 - Bura Fuelwood Plantation Project (1986-93),
 - Nakuru and Nyandarua Intensified Forestry Extension Project (1990-95)
 - Kenya Forestry Master Plan Project (1991-95)
 - Kenya- Finland Forestry Programme (1996-1998)
- Miti Mingui Maisha Bora: support of forest policy sector (incl. building the Kenya Forest Service)
- Since 2008, university-level cooperation in forestry (UEF)

RESULT AREAS AND ACTIVITIES

Result 1: Forestry curriculum reflects the needs of local and global societies

Activity 1.1: Survey of educational needs and emerging issues in forestry.

Activity 1.2: Seminars for staff on emerging local, national and international issues in forestry.

Activity 1.3: Undertake curriculum review and update by stakeholders and scientific community

Result 2: ICT methods are integrated and effectively used in forestry education

Activity 2.1: Development of ICT teaching facilities and educational platform

Activity 2.2: Design and implementation of integrative pilot forestry and ICT courses

Activity 2.3: Development of new distant learning curriculum

Result 3: Teachers use updated pedagogical methods and teaching materials

Activity 3.1: Training of trainers in new pedagogical and ICT-based learning methodologies.

Activity 3.2: Development and dissemination of new and relevant e-learning materials

Result 4: Active local and international partnerships exist

Activity 4.1: Establishment of a database of staff in the partner HEIs

Activity 4.2: Facilitate interchange of staff and students between partners, IPFE institutions and other policy forums

Result 5: Relevance and Importance of forestry by the local communities is recognized

Activity 5.1: Collection, development & distribution of forestry materials from local knowledge

Activity 5.2: Create awareness of forestry through policy forums with stakeholders

Activity 5.3: Development of a web image for the Department of Forestry & Wood Science

Activity 5.4: Enhancement of quality assurance system and process

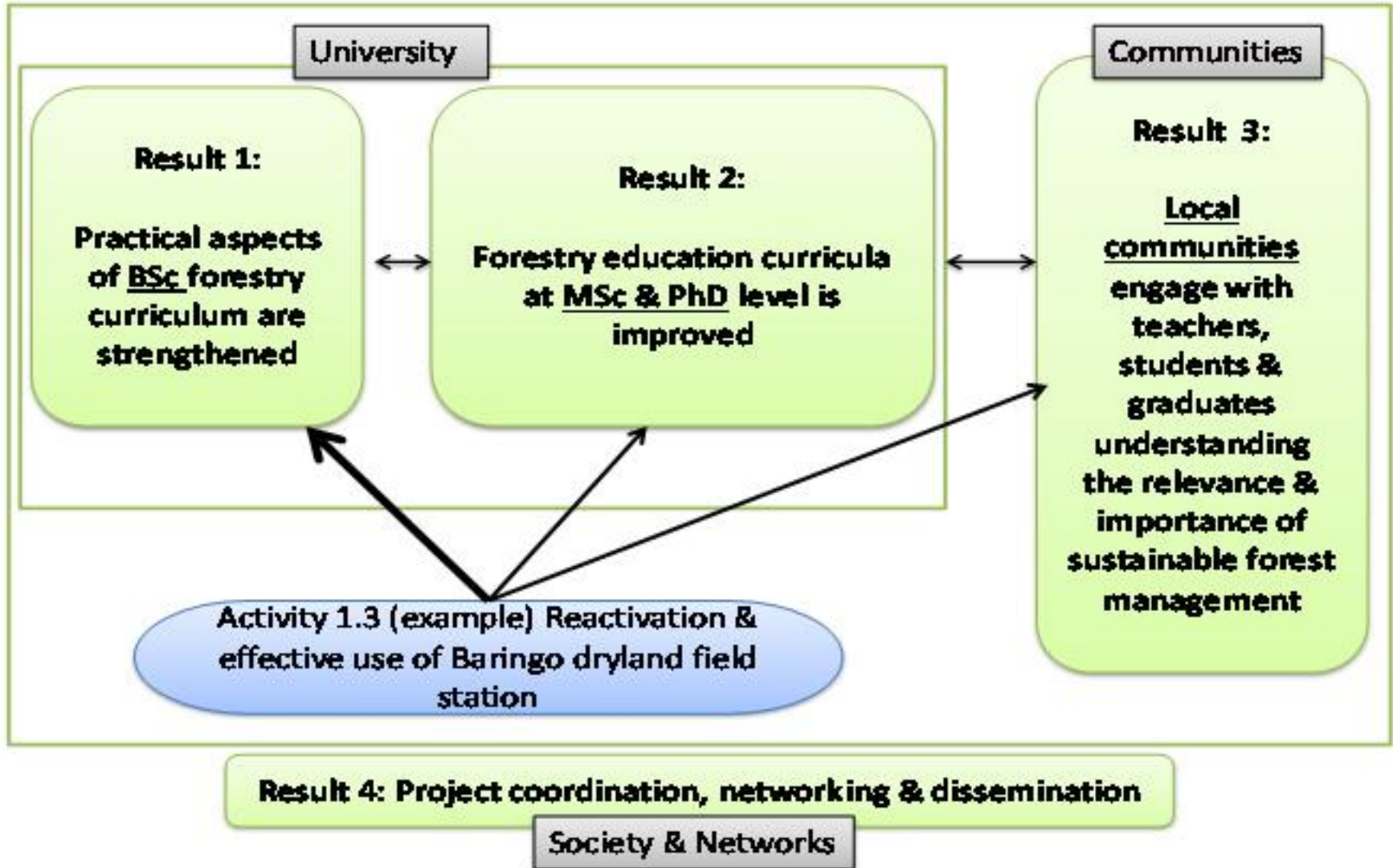
Result 6: Coordination

Activity 6.1: Coordination of the activities of the project, reporting, budgeting

Activity 6.2: First board meeting

Activity 6.3: Second board meeting

Activity 6.4: End seminar of the project & board meeting



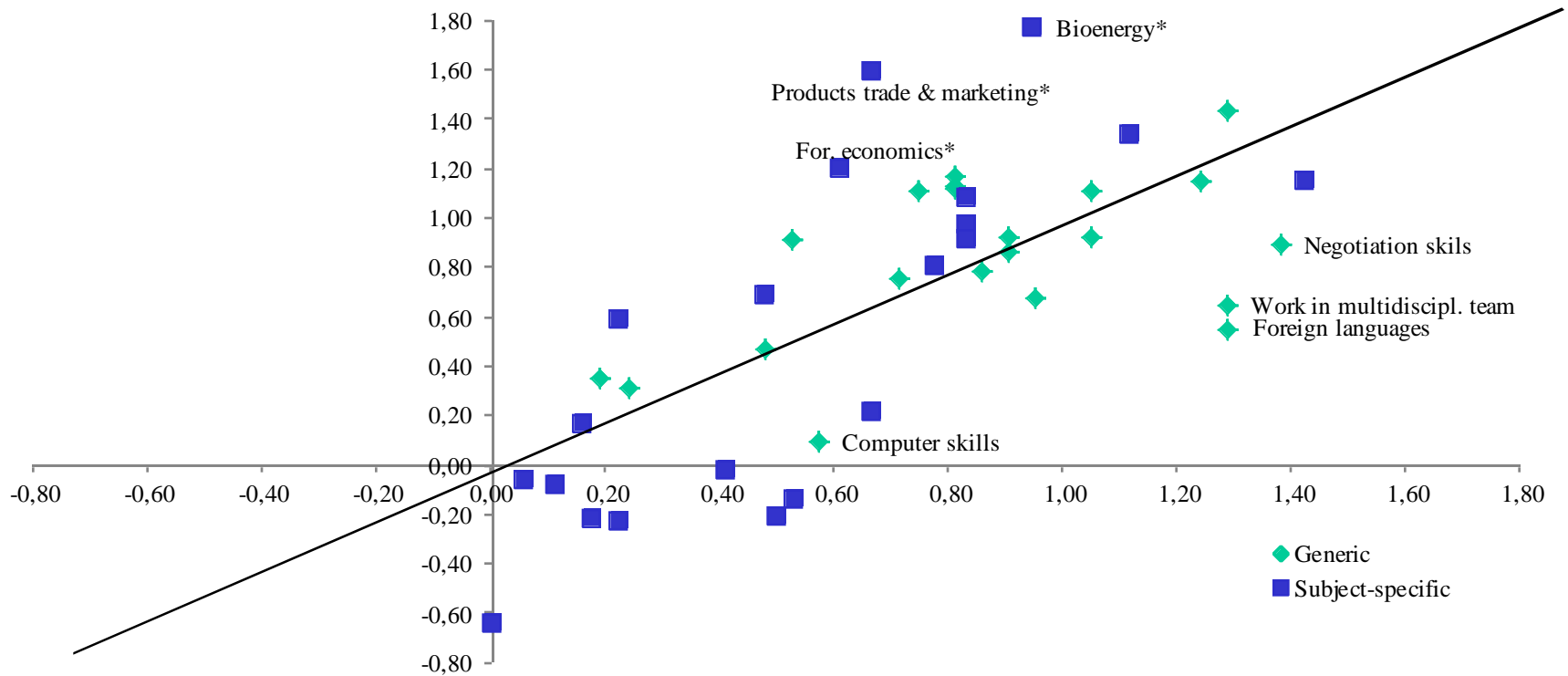
2. Higher education in Kenya

- Rapid increase in university student population in accordance to national objective of expanding from 4.6% to 20% within 2008-2030 (GoK 2007)
- 16 former constituent colleges of universities –incl. Univ. of Eldoret – constituted as a full-fledge universities (2013)
- Scarce resources of these public universities
 - excessive number of students per class as well as teaching loads,
 - salary-related disputes by university teachers, and
 - shortage of in-campus accommodation for students

Challenges in NRM education

- Need for reform of forestry curricula, in response to:
 - Changing enrolment numbers
 - Changing societal demands
 - Natural resources fast degrading
 - New Constitution
 - need to attain and conserve at least a 10% forest cover
 - equal rights by women & men to own land, decentralization
 - Mismatches with employers' needs
 - Student-centred learning
 - Quality Assurance
 - Online & Distance Learning; integration of ICT

Curriculum assessment: gap analysis



3. UOE's role in Kenya's development

- Location: Eldoret, Western Kenya (5th largest city)
- Orientation: Pure, applied and natural sciences
- Student population: ~10,000

- Vision: “to be a premier university that is globally visible in knowledge generation and technological innovations”

- 6 objectives, among which
 - “To advance science, agriculture and technology for sustainable development”

3. UOE's role in Kenya's development

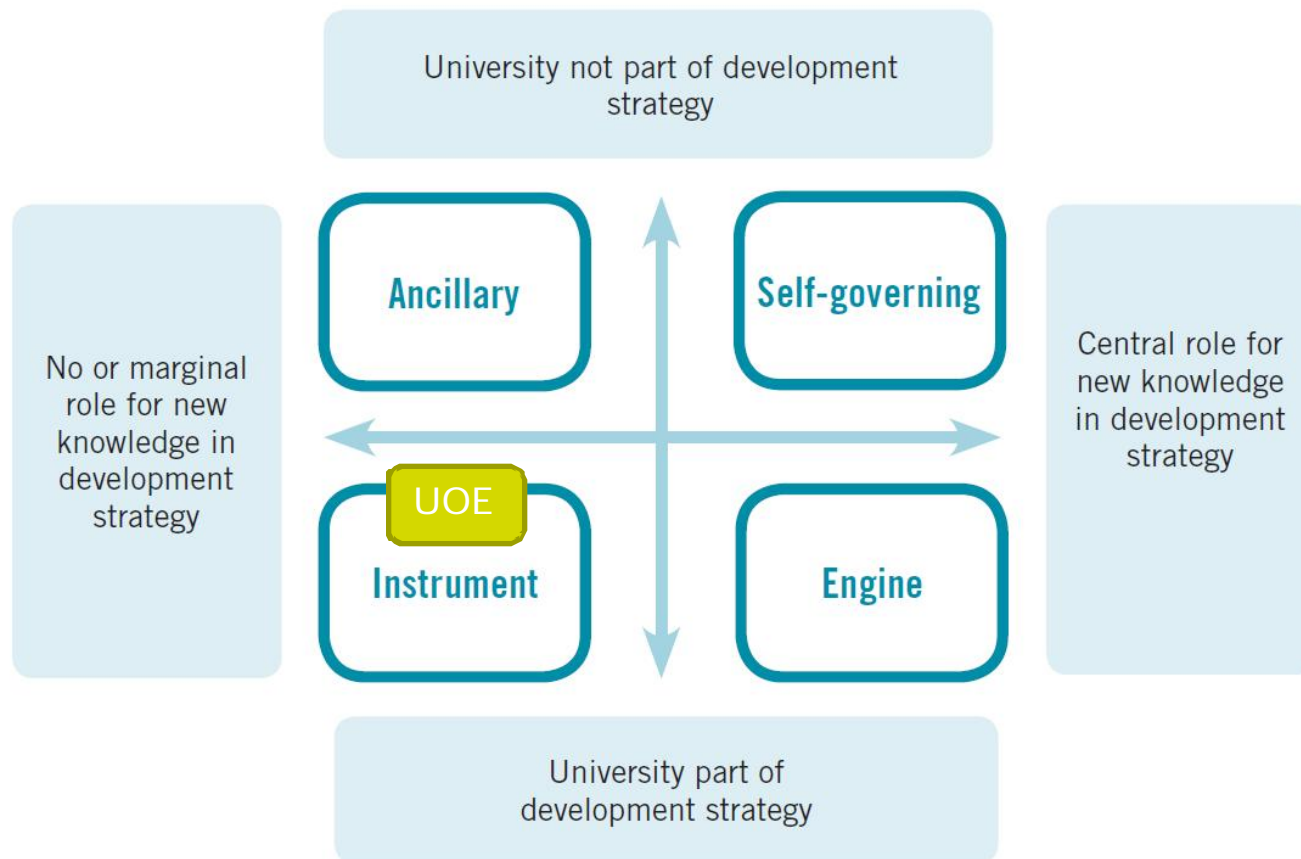


Figure: The four notions of the role of knowledge and universities in development (Cloete et al. 2011)

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aa3hWJpjXNI>



Thank you for your attention!

Asante sana!