



MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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University Examinations 2023/2024

FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE

AAC 1101: ANNUAL CROPS

DATE: DECEMBER 2023

TIME: 1.5 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Define the term harvesting as used in annual crop production (1 mark)
- b) Explain how field topography affect annual crop production (2 marks)
- c) Outline three merits of crop rotation (3 marks)
- d) State two reasons why soil testing is recommended before planting annual crop (2 marks)
- e) Explain how manual methods reduce the cost of producing annual crops (6 marks)
- f) Give three importance of staking annual crops (3 marks)
- g) Describe three harvesting procedures in tomatoes (3 marks)
- h) Outline two disadvantages of burning as a method of land preparation (2 marks)
- i) Outline two disadvantages of burning as a method of land preparation (2 marks)
- j) Highlight three tools used in soil sampling (3 marks)
- k) State two qualities of water used when irrigating annual crops (2 marks)

QUESTION TWO (15 MARKS)

- a) Discuss the factors affecting annual crop production (10 marks)
- b) Discuss five problems associated with annual crop production (5 marks)

QUESTION THREE (15 MARKS)

- a) Discuss methods of harvesting annual crops (10 marks)
- b) Outline five factors determining nursery location of annual crops (5 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (15 MARKS)

Discuss Irish potato production under the following subheadings

- (i) Common varieties (2 marks)
- (ii) Optimal ecological requirements (5 marks)
- (iii) Management practices (4 marks)
- (iv) Harvesting and post harvesting handling (4 marks)