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**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIROMENTAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION**

14th April 2022

**The Minister
Science, Technology and Innovation
Office of the President, Republic of Uganda**

Dear Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza,

**RE: REQUEST FOR A COURTESY VISIT BY THE LEAP-AGRI OPTIBOV RESEARCH
PROJECT TEAM & INVITATION TO HYBRID SEMINAR**

Greetings from CAES, Makerere University. During the final week of April 2022, our research project entitled "*Genetic Characterization of Cattle Populations for Optimized Performance in African Ecosystems (OPTIBOV)*" will be hosting for a series of activities, an international team composed of: Prof. Juha Kantanen, Natural Resources Institute (LUKE), Finland; Prof. Richard Crooijmans, Wageningen University, the Netherlands; Dr. Catarina Ginja, University of Porto, Portugal; Professor Nasser Ghanem, Cairo University, Egypt; and Dr. Linky Makgahlela and Dr. Avhashoni Zwane of Agricultural Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa.

The Project under the LEAP-AGRI Program is studying the unique characteristics of indigenous cattle like Nganda, Ntuku, Nkedi, Ankole and Karamajong for their sustainable utilisation. This is due to reducing interests in indigenous cattle breeds among farmers, making them threatened by extinction thus a great loss of their unique characteristics.

The Purpose of this letter is to: a) kindly request you to attend the Hybrid Seminar on **25th April 2022** at **2PM** in the School of Agricultural Sciences Conference Room. The zoom credentials are: Meeting ID: 342 064 0067; Passcode: 12345). b) secondly, to host a **courtesy call of the team leaders on the 29th April 2022** between 8-9AM. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Donald Rugira Kugonza (PhD)

**Associate Professor
& Principal Investigator (Uganda), Optibov Project**

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Mission: To advance agricultural development through training, knowledge generation and service delivery in Uganda and the region.