



**MERU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

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University Examinations 2011/2012

SECOND YEAR, SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DIPLOMA IN  
AGRICULTURE

**AGR 0223: PERENNIAL CROPS**

**DATE: DECEMBER 2011**

**TIME: 1½ HOURS**

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

**QUESTION ONE – (30 MARKS)**

- (a) What is a banjhi? (1 Mark)
- (b) State any four objectives of pruning tea. (4 Marks)
- (c) How can a farmer control Armillaria root rot disease in coffee? (2 Marks)
- (d) Briefly explain how a tea farmer can gap-up in tea farm. (4 Marks)
- (e) Draw a well labeled diagram of a ripe coffee berry. (5 Marks)
- (f) Give a reason why coffee planting holes should be prepared three months before planting date. (1 Mark)
- (g) (i) Give any three varieties of mangoes grown in Kenya. (3 Marks)  
(ii) Give two signs of maturity of mangoes. (2 Marks)
- (h) (i) Name any two planting materials used in establishing bananas. (2 Marks)  
(ii) What is Parthenocarpy? (1 Mark)  
(iii) Give two methods of controlling nematodes in bananas. (2 Marks)
- (i) Give three export banana varieties. (3 Marks)

**QUESTION THREE – (15 MARKS)**

Explain how one can establish and manage a tea nursery up to transplanting stage. (15 Marks)

**QUESTION THREE – (15 MARKS)**

Explain all the post harvest handling practices undertaken in bananas. (15 Marks)

**QUESTION FOUR – (15 MARKS)**

- (a) Explain the harvesting procedure of mangoes. (5 Marks)
- (b) Explain all the factors which affect the quality coffee produced. (10 Marks)

**QUESTION FIVE – (15 MARKS)**

- (a)
  - i. How does lime application help tea bushes? (4 Marks)
  - ii. Name any two chemicals which can be used in a tea farmer to lower the soil pH. (2 Marks)
  - iii. State three factors considered when selecting mother bushes to produce stem cuttings. (3 Marks)
- (b) Briefly explain how you can establish a single stem pruning system and state two advantages and disadvantages. (6 Marks)