GABRIEL NEGATU’S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
FOR THE AFRICA NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES RESEARCH CONSORTIUM MEETING
NAIROBI, KENYA - JANUARY 24, 2013

Columbia University, Institute of Human Nutrition Representatives

Columbia University Global Center in Nairobi Representatives

Universities and Research Institutes from Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda Representatives

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the African Development Bank, I welcome you to this workshop in Nairobi, Kenya.

- The Bank is pleased to co-organize this important consultation workshop with the African Nutrition Science Consortium under the leadership of the Columbia University Institute of Human Nutrition.

- The impact of investing in health and nutrition cannot be underestimated – people in good health, with income and relevant knowledge, foster economic growth and prosperity. Countries such as South Korea, China and Singapore have invested heavily in appropriate skills training including inclusive nutrition programs that cover all population groups in order to achieve high productivity.

- The Bank’s support to this consultation workshop and preparation of the Ph.D. program in Nutrition for the East African Region demonstrates its commitment to Health and Nutrition matters as outlined in its draft Human Capital Development Strategy.

- Investing in health and nutrition is one of the most effective ways of eradicating poverty in Africa. For example, there is evidence that improving health and nutritional status of young children can lead to high returns in terms of improved learning and higher productivity later in life.

- The Bank will continue to work with partners such as you on nutrition matters. However, the absence of appropriately trained nutritional experts will undermine these efforts. Building capacities in laboratory-based nutritional sciences is also vital from a public health perspective to foster research in food and nutrition aspects. This will contribute to strengthening the interface between economic growth and agricultural development. This is in line with Bank’s Long Term Strategy.

We are convinced that this consultative meeting will enable you to further discuss these matters and agree on concrete steps to establish the Nutrition Ph.D. program. The regional approach to this initiative is consistent with the Bank’s efforts to promote regional integration in East Africa.

I would like to thank you again for your interest in partnering with the Bank and I do assure you of our commitment to support this initiative. With these remarks, I wish you fruitful deliberations and look forward to the outcomes of the consultation.
Thank you.