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Egerton University started as an Agricultural School in 1939. Lord Maurice Egerton donated 400 hectares of his land to the government of Kenya to set up a school to train large scale farmers in the Kenya Highlands. The first students were three British servicemen. In 1955 the school became a college through the Egerton College Ordinance. Since then it has grown as a Premier Agricultural College training for Kenya, East, Central and Southern African region.

In 1986 Egerton was elevated to a Constituent College of University of Nairobi and in 1987 became a fully fledged University by the Egerton Act of Parliament. Since its inauguration the University has continued to expand and currently has over 70 undergraduate degree, 10 undergraduate diploma, 60 masters degree and 20 doctorate degree programmes spanning a comprehensive range of Higher Education disciplines. Currently the University has a student population of 7,155, a staff of 2,506 and an alumni of 33,000. The University has 8 campuses spread around the country.

The Dairy Training Programme has been part of Egerton since 1963 when it was sponsored by Uniceff, FAO and the Government of Kenya. The Guildford and Humbledon villages in Britain made a contribution in funds to buy the Pilot Plant Equipment. The dairy Training Programme was started to train Dairy Technologists for all English speaking countries of Africa. Egerton was identified as the best location for the Programme because Kenya had the most developed dairy production industry in Africa at the time. Kenya still holds this position except South Africa.

The Dairy department has, since its inception, been represented in all dairy developments activities in Kenya including the Kenya Dairy Board, the Kenya Bureau of Standards and the Dairy development generally, as part of the Ministry of Agriculture. Being a leading dairy

industry in the region, activities in Kenya have been extensively emulated in other countries of the region.

Most of the leading Dairy Technology and Extension officers in Kenya and in the region are alumni of this department. Currently the department is playing a leading role in drafting legislation to guide Dairy Development in Comesa and the East African Economic Block consisting of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ruanda and Burundi.

The inclusion of the Dairy department as part of the Safe Food Safe Dairy Project will facilitate the dissemination of the findings by the project into Dairy activities in which it is involved regionwidde. Through its role in the Kenya Dairy Board, the Kenya Bureau of Standards and the East African Community Technical Committee on milk and milk products, the Dairy department of Egerton University will pass on the benefits which acrew from the Safe Food Safe Dairy Project to many beneficiaries in the region. The Egerton Dairy Department is represented in the Safe Food Safe Dairy Project by Prof. P.L. Shalo who is a long serving member of staff of the **department.**