

## **collaborative research led by Prof Nderitu**

**Professor J.H. Nderitu and other scientists spearhead collaborative research on insect pests.**



Following the successful bid to Darwin Initiative: Round 23 Scoping Funding for a grant on scale insects titled, "Biodiversity and Agriculture: Addressing Scale Insects Threats in Kenya" Project Ref No: DARSC175; Prof. John Nderitu was invited to a full grant writing meeting at the National Museums of Kenya, Invertebrate Section Training Lab, Kenya. The meeting was held from Monday 7th to 9th May 2017. The scale insects are one of the least studied groups in East Africa despite its crosscutting status as a pest in all plant groups, (crops, ornamentals, tress, and weeds). This meeting developed a full grant to study the biology, taxonomy and develop capacity for East African scale systematic and increase the collections at the national repository. The team has members of the following institutions, NMK, KALRO, UoN, KEFRI, and CABI-Africa. The meeting aimed to develop a work programme to tackle scale insects in Kenya:-

1. The current status and distribution of scale insects. 2. Curation of scale collections in research institutions.
3. Profile the natural enemies of scale insects
4. Develop research plan for scale insects, understanding the problem and create solutions.
5. Develop innovative, sustainable and environmentally friendly farmer solutions.
6. Develop work plan, timelines, and budget and duty allocation.
7. Discuss modus operadi and coordination strate

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