UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2009

TITLE OF PAPER: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
COURSE CODE: ECON 411
TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer Four (4) Questions, Two from Section A and Two from Section B.
2. All Questions Carry Equal Marks of 25 each in total.
3. The Relevant Annuity tables are provided

DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR HAS GRANTED PERMISSION.

SECTION A

Question 1

a) What are the obstacles hindering Agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa? [12 marks]

b) What measures are suggested for African economies to overcome their agricultural problems? [13 marks]

Question 2

a) Discuss the major sources of risk in agriculture and provide an explanation of the traditional methods of dealing with risk in agriculture. [15 marks]

b) "Peasant are said to be risk averse and thus reluctant to adopt new technology and innovation" Discuss. [10 marks]

Question 3

a) Discuss the main indicators of farm size. [10 marks]

b) What are the primary objectives of government's adjustment of prices for farmers? [15 marks]

Question 4

a) Outline the dualism that is evident in Swaziland's agriculture. What distinguishes the two approaches to agricultural production?
[10 marks]

b) Discuss the major problems facing agricultural development in Swaziland.
[15 marks]

SECTION B

Question 5

a) What is meant by land tenure? Briefly explain the land tenure arrangements that exist in Swaziland. [9 marks]

b) Discuss the effects of the Land tenure System on agricultural developrrent in Swaziland. [14 marks]

Question 6

a) Agriculture on Swazi Nation Land (SNL) is becoming more and more vulnerable to crop failures. What do you think are the possible causes c f crop failures on SNL. [15 marks]

b) Suggest possible solutions that can be applied to address the problem. [10 marks]

Question7

a) What are the basic features of household decision making models?

[7marks]

b) Discuss the basic elements of the Chaynov household model. Show how the allocation of time between work and leisure is derived. [18 marks]

Question 8

a) Give the rationale for government's intervention in the agricultural sectcr in developing economies? [10 marks]

b) Discuss the possible policy options that governments in developing countries can pursue to uplift the agricultural sector. [15 marks]