

Conrad Addikah

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EDUCATION

PhD Agronomy

Ongoing

University of Pretoria, Pretoria, **South Africa**

Research: Exploring the Present and Future Potential of Cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) Cultivation in South Africa

Principal supervisor: Dr Robert Mangani | Co-supervisors: Prof Hassen Abubeker, Prof Michael van der Laan, Dr Assefa Amelework

MSc Plant Breeding

November 2018

Joint Program: The University of Ibadan & The Pan-African University – Institute of Life and Earth Sciences, Ibadan, **Nigeria**

Thesis: Genetic variation for plant architecture, response to cassava mosaic disease and beta-carotene content among cassava genotypes in two breeding populations

Principal Supervisor: Dr Bunmi Olasanmi | Co-supervisor: Prof. Victor Adetimirin

BSc (Hons) Agriculture and Biotechnology

December 2015

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kakamega, **Kenya**

Thesis: Efficiency of Purdue Improved Crop Storage bags (PICS) bags in controlling Bean weevils (*Bruchinae*) and other common post-harvest pests for Borlotti beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*)

First Class Honours

Supervisor: Dr Alice Ndiema

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Climate-smart agriculture principles
- Sustainable agriculture and resilient cropping systems
- Biofortified crops
- Soil health and conservation measures
- Precision agriculture
- Root and tuber crop cropping systems

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Plant Science Manager

2020- Present

[DryGro](#) –The UK and Kenya

Water lentils'(Lemna) RuBisCo isolation and purification: Partners – University of Hertfordshire, University of Jena, European Space Agency and the University of Greifswald

Key roles and contributions

- Part of the team that successfully isolated RuBisCo protein from water lentils (Lemna)
- Established a reliable lab testing regime to assess quality standards for our product at both local and international labs
- Oversee critical plant science downstreaming processes such as SDS PAGE analysis, Ion exchange resin reaction, Ion exchange chromatography and final product functionality tests for our plant protein derived from the water lentils

Principal Investigators: Dr Ricky Lam and Alyssa Blachez

Funding: Jointly funded by The [European Space Agency](#), [Rothamsted Research Institute](#) and [EIT Foods](#)

Technical Support Specialist**2017- 2020**[Crop Nutrition Laboratory Services](#) - Kenya

Principal Scientist - Dr Thomas Urselhevon

[OCP Africa School Lab project](#)*Key roles and contributions*

- Led the installation of 12 mobile soil testing laboratories across Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Rwanda, Namibia, Burundi & Tanzania) by offering training to the lab technicians assigned to these labs on sample preparation/handling, analysis and interpretation of the soil analysis reports
- Offered training to farmers on climate-smart agriculture, including Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), in different farmer field days, workshops, seminars and workshops organised by Cropnuts in collaboration with its stakeholders
- Worked and coordinated with GIS experts and Precision Agriculture Specialists on the processing of soil data from grid, zonal or field soil sampling, as well as provided any necessary technical information/interpretation that will aid in the generation of high-quality maps for nutrient management
- Coordinated and oversaw crop health and soil fertility management-related projects.
- Interpretation of soil data and generation of correctional and fertiliser recommendations being offered by Cropnuts to its spectral laboratory customers

Graduate Research Fellow**2016- 2018**

University of Ibadan - The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture- Ibadan (IITA), Nigeria

[Biofortified cassava varieties for improved nutrition](#)

Supervisors: Dr. Bunmi Olasanmi and Prof. Victor Adetimirin

- Prepared materials for reports, presentations, and submissions to peer-reviewed journal publications.
- Worked on a cassava bio-fortification improvement project that focused on studying the genetic variation for beta carotene content in two breeding cassava populations
- Supported department members with administrative, research and academic assistance.
- Developed program plans, goals, objectives, and milestones for evaluating and measuring the effectiveness of the research study undertaken

Funding – African Union Commission

Soil Fertility Analyst**Jan- Nov 2016**[AgroCares](#), Karen, Kenya

- Performed day-to-day soil fertility analysis in the lab using dry chemistry methods (Spectrometry)
- Studied different characteristics of soil based on location, minerals in the soil and living organisms and how they impact production under the SNV HORTIMPACT project in Uasin Gishu and Nakuru counties.
- Researched the composition of soil to determine effects on plant growth

Project Lead: Reinder van der Meer and Anja Weber

AWARDS, HONOURS & RECOGNITIONS

- African Plant Nutrition [Scholar Award](#)** **2025**
- African Plant Nutrition Institute, Morocco
- South Africa Society of Crop Production [Bursary Award](#)** **2025**
- University of Pretoria PhD Research [Scholarship](#)** **2024**
- Funding to pursue PhD studies
- [GCP-21 - Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st Century](#)** **June 2018**
- Grant to attend and participate in the International Cassava Conference held in Cotonou, Benin
- Pan African University [Scholarship Award](#), African Union** **2016-2018**
- Full funding scholarship for MSc studies
- Best Graduating Student, [School of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences \(SAVET\)](#)** **Dec 2015**
- Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

Certificate of Recognition

- Recognised for diligent and selfless service to the class of 2018, MSc. Plant Breeding, University of Ibadan, as a **Class Representative** for 2 years. **Nov 2018**

Conferences Attended

- **March 2024**- Speaker, [Fertiliser and Soil Health Conference](#). Nairobi, Kenya.
- **May 2022**- Sixth International Conference on Duckweed Research and Applications (ICDRA) [conference](#) held at The Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Gatersleben, Germany.
- **June 2018**- Fourth International [GCP-21](#) Cassava Conference. Cotonou, Benin Republic

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, South African Society of Crop Production **2025 to date**
- Member, International Society of Precision Agriculture **2025 to date**
- Member, International Lemna Association **2020 to date**
- Member, International Society of Root Research **2016 to date**
- Member, International Society for Tropical Root Crops-Africa Branch (ISTRAC-AB) **2016 to date**

REFERENCES

<p>Dr Ricky Lam Head of Food Ingredients DryGro-UK Mobile: +1 (306)2278876 Email: ricky@drygro.com/ ricky.sh.lam@gmail.com Relationship: Line Manager</p>	<p>Dr Robert Mangani Researcher and Lecturer Department of Plant and Soil Sciences University of Pretoria South Africa Email: robert.mangani@up.ac.za Relationship: PhD Supervisor</p>	<p>Alyssa Blachez Former Head of Plant Science - DryGro - UK Mobile: +447403709155 Email: alyssa.blachez@gmail.com Relationship: Line manager</p>
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