

CURRICULUM VITAE: WEGAYEHU FITAWEK

PERSONAL DATA

Full name Wegayehu Bogale Fitawek
Gender Female
Nationality: Ethiopian
South African ID 8307281277187
Date of birth 28 July 1983
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EDUCATION

2022 PhD, University of Pretoria, South Africa
 Agricultural Economics
 Thesis: The impact of large-scale investment in agricultural land on household food security: a comparative analysis of Kenya, Madagascar and Mozambique

2016 MSc. University of Pretoria, South Africa
 Agricultural Economics
 Dissertation: *The Effect of Export Tax on the Competitiveness of Ethiopia's Leather Industry*

2016 MSc. Haramaya University, Ethiopia
 Agricultural Economics
 Thesis: *Impact of Cooperatives' Quality Seed Potato Production on the Livelihoods of Rural Households in Haramaya and Kersa Districts, East Hararghe, Ethiopia*

2010 BSc. Haramaya University, Ethiopia
 Agricultural Economics
 Project title: *The Impact of Haramaya University on the Surrounding Community*

2002 Diploma, Jimma University, Ethiopia
 Plant Science

2004 Diploma, ACAS Computer College, Ethiopia
 PC Diploma

WORKING EXPERIENCES

February 2022 present Lecturer
 University of Pretoria
 Courses Taught for

	Undergraduate: Introduction to Agricultural Economics, Introduction to Agricultural Policy, International Agricultural Trade, Price Analysis, Rural Development Principles Postgraduate: Measuring and Monitoring Food Security, International Agricultural Trade and Policy, Research Project, and Advanced Agricultural and Rural Development Applications.
July 2022 -June 2023	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Pretoria CLAB Africa Project, Future Africa The Impact of Climate Change on Food Systems
January 2020- Dec 2021	Tutor University of Pretoria
July 2017- Dec 2019	Research Assistant University of Pretoria
July 2019-August 2022	Data Editor Land Matrix Africa
Oct-Dec 2019	Consultant (Data mining) African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)
July 2017- Dec 2019	Internship AUDA- New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
July 2013- Feb 2014	Plan and Program Officer Haramaya University, Ethiopia
Feb 2010- June 2013	Graduate Assistant Haramaya University, Ethiopia
May 2005- Sep 2008	Technical Assistant II Werer Agricultural Research Centre, Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization (EARO), Ethiopia
Feb 2003- April 2005	Technical Assistant I Sekota Dry-land Agricultural Research Centre, Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI), Ethiopia

PUBLISHED PAPERS

Sambo, N., Selomane, O., & **Fitawek, W.** (**under review**). The effect of food price shocks on household poverty in South Africa

- Abdulrahman, L. O., Aderinoye-Abdulwahab, A. S., **Fitawek, W.** (*under review*). Training needs assessment of tomato farmers climate-smart measures: a Borich model analysis.
- Fitawek, W.**, Anjulo, A., Healey, M., & Hurley, B. P. (*under review*). Gender dynamics in the moringa value chain and the role of cooperatives in enhancing household income and food security in Ethiopia
- Leyu, TK., Karuaihe, S., & **Fitawek, W.** (*under review*). Climate Variability and Smallholder Productivity in Ethiopian Agriculture. *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.
- Leyu, TK., Karuaihe, S., & **Fitawek, W.** (*under review*). Productivity Impacts of adaptive responses to Climate Variability in Ethiopian agriculture. *Climate and Development Journal*.
- Fitawek, W.**, Karuaihe, S. T., Ntuli, H., Owusu-Sekyere, E., Sayed, N., & Schönfeldt, H. C. (*under review*). Exploring the role of small and medium food enterprises in enhancing food security among low-income consumers in South Africa.
- Fitawek, W.**, Mgweba, L., & Loki, O., (*under review*). Policy options to transform food systems for affordable and healthy diets in South Africa: A review study.
- Owusu-Sekyere, E., Karuaihe, S. T., Ntuli, H., **Fitawek, W.**, Sayed, N., & Schönfeldt, H. C. (*under review*). Small and medium-sized type of food business: determinants and impacts on revenue and net returns in South Africa.
- Jorge, C. J., Loki, O., **Fitawek, W.**, & Mpuzu, S. M. (*under review*). Prioritising no-regret solutions for addressing food systems disruptions in Central Mozambique.
- Makola, M., Loki, O., **Fitawek, W.**, Mpuzu, S., Thompson, P.N., Rostal, M., Karesh, W.B. and Weyer, J. (*under review*). An impact assessment of zoonotic diseases on food systems: The case study of Rift Valley Fever in South Africa.
- Fitawek, W.**, Anjulo, A., Healey, M., Lawson, S., & Hurley, B. P. (2026). The moringa value chain in Ethiopia and the socio-economic impact of pests and diseases. *CABI Agriculture and Bioscience*, 7:1, 0041. <https://doi.org/10.1079/ab.2026.0041>.
- Atofarati, O. E., Osabohien, R., **Fitawek, W.**, Oludoye, O. O., & Enweremadu, C. C. (2026). Balancing bioenergy and food security through circular biomass utilization and fourth industrial revolution (4IR)-driven framework. *Biomass and Bioenergy*, Volume 214, 109497, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biombioe.2026.109497>.
- Leyu, T. K., Karuaihe, S. T., & **Fitawek, W.** (2025). Climate Variability, Land-Cover and Vegetation Dynamics in Ethiopia. *African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences*, 8(9).

- Kegode, H., Karuaihe, S., Jourdain, D., & **Fitawek, W.** (2025). An empirical analysis of the determinants of food insecurity among smallholder farmers in Eastern Rwanda. *Agriculture & Food Security*, 14(1), 37.
- Fitawek, W.**, & Hendriks, S. (2024). The role of contract farming on household food security in Kenya and Madagascar. *African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences*, 7(3), 896-914.
- Dama, T. I., Loki, O., **Fitawek, W.**, & Mpuzu, S. M. (2024). Food policy analyses and prioritisation of food systems to achieve safer food for South Africa. *Applied Food Research*, 100476.
- Fitawek, W.**, & Hendriks, S. L. (2022). Large-scale agricultural investments and household vulnerability to food insecurity: Evidence from Kenya, Madagascar and Mozambique. *African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences*, 5(1), 107-138.
- Oberlack, C., Giger, M., Anseeuw, W., Adelle, C., Bourblanc, M., Burnod, P., Eckert, S., **Fitawek, W.**, Fouilleux, E., Hendriks, S. and Kiteme, B. (2021). Why do large-scale agricultural investments induce different socio-economic, food security, and environmental impacts? Evidence from Kenya, Madagascar, and Mozambique. *Ecology and Society* 26(4):18.
- Fitawek, W** and Hendriks, S.L. (2021). Evaluating the Impact of Large-Scale Agricultural Investments on Household Food Security Using an Endogenous Switching Regression Model. *Land*. 2021; 10(3):323.
- Fitawek, W.**, Hendriks, S., Reys, A., & Fossi, F. (2020). The effect of large-scale agricultural investments on household food security in Madagascar. *Food Security*, 1-17.
- Fitawek, W. B.**, & Kalaba, M. (2019). Do export taxes promote export growth? Evidence from Ethiopia's leather industry. *African Review of Economics and Finance*, 11(2), 19-37.
- Fitawek, W. B.**, & Legesse, B. (2018). The Role of Potato Seed Cooperative on the Livelihood of Rural Households in Ethiopia. *Journal of Agricultural Studies*, 6(4), 10-22.
- Fitawek, W. B.**, & Kalaba, M. (2018). Rural financial services and their effects on livestock production in Ethiopia. *International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Proceedings*, June 2018.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Fitawek, W.** 2024. Approaches to assessing the impact of education on food security. *Handbook on Public Policy and Food Security*, 131.
- Fitawek, W.**, & Hendriks, S. L. 2024. Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries. *Handbook on Public Policy and Food Security*, 247.
- Fitawek, W.**, & Hendriks, S. L. 2024. 25. Assessing the impact of inequality on food security. *Handbook on Public Policy and Food Security*, 260.

Fitawek, W., & Hendriks, S. L. 2024. Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on land. *Handbook on Public Policy and Food Security*, 354.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Karuaihe, S. T., **Fitawek, W.**, Owusu-Sekyere, E., Ntuli, H., & Schönfeldt, H. C. 2026. Unlocking the Potential of Food SMEs to Boost Income and Food Security. Policy Brief: <https://publication.aercafricalibrary.org/handle/123456789/4069>.

Fitawek W. The interlinkage between climate change and the food system in Africa. *Future Africa Sustainable Food Systems Research Chair Blog* published on 6 December 2023.

Hendriks, S. L., **Fitawek, W.**, Mkandawire, E., & Mkusa, L. 2018. Food Security and Nutrition Indicators for 20 Priority CAADP Countries (No. 1879-2018-2155).

Chamberlain, W and **Fitawek, W.** 2021. Africa's Land Rush – what do we really know? Oxfarm blog published on 15 March 2021: <https://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/africas-land-rush-what-do-we-really-know/>.

Fitawek, W. 2021. Book Review Symposium: The Transnational Land Rush in Africa: A Decade After the Spike. Published on Afronomicslaw in 19 November 2021: <https://www.afronomicslaw.org/category/analysis/book-review-transnational-land-rush-africa-decade-after-spike>.

Fitawek, W and Hendriks, S. 2020. Foreign agriculture investments don't always threaten food security: the case of Madagascar. *THE CONVERSATION* published in September 1, 2020: <https://theconversation.com/foreign-agriculture-investments-dont-always-threaten-food-security-the-case-of-madagascar-144135>.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Paper presented at the **10th Annual Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health (ANH) Research Conference** from 23-26 June, 2025 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Title of the paper: *Exploring the role of small and medium food enterprises in enhancing food security among low-income consumers in South Africa*.

Paper presented at the **5th Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CPLA-2023)**, from 21-24 November 2023, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Paper presented at the **7th African Conference of Agricultural Economists & 60th Annual AEASA Conference** 18 – 21 September 2023, Durban, South Africa. Title of the paper: *The role of contract farming on household food security in Kenya and Madagascar*.

Paper presented at the **4th Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CPLA-2021)**, 1st- 4th November 2021, hybrid format - online and in Kigali, Rwanda. Title of the paper: *Large-scale agricultural*

investments and household vulnerability to food insecurity: Evidence from Kenya, Madagascar and Mozambique.

Participated in **Senior Policy Seminar XXII on Agriculture and Food Policies for Better Nutrition in Africa** organized by African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) in Abuja, Nigeria 09–10 March 2020.

Paper presented at the **6th International Conference of the African Association of Agricultural Economists**, 23-26 September 2019, Abuja, Nigeria

Paper presented at the **Global Land Programme 4th Open Science Meeting 2019**, April 24-26 in Bern, Switzerland. Title of the paper presented: *The Impact of Large-Scale Agricultural Investments on Household Food Security in Madagascar.*

Organized and participated in the **3rd African Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance** Forum Organized by NEPAD in Dakar, Senegal, 27-28 March 2019.

Poster presented on **Science Forum 2018 (SF18)**, CGIAR, Independent Science and Partnership Council, 10-12 October 2018 in Stellenbosch, South Africa. *Title of the posters presented: The Influence of Large-Scale Investments in Agricultural Land on Household Food Security in Africa.*

Paper presented on African Food, Agriculture, Land and Natural Resource Dynamics in the Context of Global Agro-Food-Energy System Changes (**AFGROLAND**) **Workshop**, 15 to 18 January 2018, Pretoria, South Africa. *Title of the paper presented: The impact of large-scale agricultural investments on household food security: The case of Madagascar.*

Paper presented on the **3rd AfricaLics International Conference** at Oran2 University, Algeria, 27-29 November 2017.

Posters presented on **55th Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa Conference**, 19 to 21 September 2017, Elangeni Hotel, Durban, South Africa. *Title of the posters presented: The role of intra-regional fish trade in improving food and nutrition security in Africa; and Increasing intra-Africa Trade through Economic Giants: The case of Potential Nigeria-South Africa Free Trade Agreement.*

Participated on Trade Show as exhibitor with NEPAD staffs on World Aquaculture 2017 Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, 26-30 June 2017.

Paper presented on **CMAAE Thesis Dissemination Workshop**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27 March 2017. *Title of the paper presented: Impact of Cooperatives' Quality Seed Potato Production on the Livelihoods of Rural Households in Haramaya and Kersa Districts, East Hararghe, Ethiopia.*

Paper presented on the **International conference on livestock value chain finance and access to credit**. Ezulwini, Swaziland, 21-23 February 2017. *Title of the paper presented: Rural Financial Services and Its Effects on Livestock Production in Ethiopia.*

Paper presented on the **5th International Conference of the African Association of Agricultural Economists**, 23 – 26 September 2016 United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *Title of the paper: The role of trade policy on Ethiopia's leather industry: effect of export tax on competitiveness.*

Paper presented on the **54th Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa Conference**, September 14 - 16, 2016, Misty Hills Country Hotel, Conference Centre & Spa, Muldersdrift, Johannesburg, South Africa. *Title of the paper: The Role of Potato Seed Cooperative in Improving the Livelihood of Rural Households: The Case of East Harerghe, Ethiopia.*

Paper presented on the **53rd Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa Conference**, September 29 – October 2, 2015, Khaya Ibhubesi, North West, South Africa. *Title of the paper: the effect of export tax on Ethiopia's leather industry export competitiveness.*

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

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| 2024 | Impact Evaluation Retooling Workshop from 1-7 July 2024, held in Nairobi, Kenya, organized by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and the University of North Carolina. |
| 2022 | Impact Evaluation for Public Policy training held on Monday, 7-11 November, 2022 organized by the Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR) and the Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa (NIERA). |
| 2020 | Participated and analysed data in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) acute analysis for South Africa organized by FAO REOSA- UN. |
| 2020 | Training on Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems organized by ITOCA in collaboration with FAO. |
| 2020 | Training on Analysing Land Grabbing and Sharing for Action organized by the International Land Coalition and AGTER. |
| 2019 | PhD (Short term courses), University of Cape Town, South Africa
Land Economics and Governance organized by AERC, World Bank and GIZ |
| 2019 | Training on Research Writing in Sciences organized by the AuthorAID project of INASP, an international development organisation in the UK, online course. |
| 2019 | Training on Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Level 1 organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO), University of Pretoria, South Africa. |

2019	Training on the Global Land Governance Index (LANDex) organized by International Land Coalition (ILC) and Land Network National Engagement Strategy (LandNNES), Johannesburg, South Africa.
2019	Data Mining and Management Training organized by African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Midrand, South Africa.
2018	Training on Ethics and Anti-Fraud and Corruption, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
2017	International symposium "Strategies in Periods of Crisis", International Business School Americas (IBS).
2017	Collaborative Master in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE) Thesis Dissemination Workshop, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
2013	A Proposal Development Training, Haramaya University collaborated with Africa RUFORUM, Haramaya University, Ethiopia.
2013	Basic Laboratory Skill Training, Haramaya University, Ethiopia
2005	Basic Management and Gender Management Training, Amhara National Regional State (ANRS) management Training Institute, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia.
2003	Training of Trainers (TOT) Course on Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME), Save the Children (UK), Woldia, Ethiopia.
2003	Plant Pest Management Database (PPMD) Training, Save the Children (UK), Woldia, Ethiopia.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY

2026 to date	Pan-African Network for economic Analysis of Policies (PANAP)
2022 to date	African Scientists Directory
2018 to date	Ethiopian Professionals Association in Southern Africa
2018 to date	Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)
2016 to date	Agricultural Economics Society (AES)
2017	World Aquaculture Society
2016 to date	African Association of Agricultural Economists Society (AAAE)
2015 to date	Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa Society (AEASA)

PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEES AND SOCIAL CLUBS

2018 to date	Board Member and Secretary of the Ethiopian Professional Association in
2003-2005	Member of Staff Recruitment Committee, Sekota Dry-land Agricultural Research Center, Ethiopia

2004 Monitoring and evaluation committee, Sekota Dry-land Agricultural Research Center, Ethiopia

AWARDS, GRANTS AND HONORS

2026 Research Grant from the EU under the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development (Agrinatura AISBL), for the implementation of the StEPPFoS Project (R104 500)

2025 Research Grant from the British Academy (R59 406)

2024 Research grant from the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) under the theme: Policy Analysis for Sustainable and Healthy Foods in African Retail Markets (PASHFARM)

2022-23 CLAB Africa Postdoctoral Fellow research grant

2021-2022 LANDac PLN project seed grant

2019-2022 Land Matrix PhD Scholarship

2017-2019 University of Pretoria, UP Postgraduate Bursary

2018 University of Pretoria, AFGROLAND Project Research grant

2018 CGIAR, Early Career Scientist (ECS) travel grant to attend the 2018 Science Forum

2014-2016 University of Pretoria, CMAAE DAAD in-country scholarship

2013 Haramaya University, ISSD Project Research grant

2016 Haramaya University dean's list, Highest Distinction (MSc. in Agricultural Economics)

2010 Haramaya University dean's list, Distinction (BSc. in Agricultural Economics)

2002 Best Female Students Award Certificate, Jimma University, Ethiopia

POST-GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

Graduated MSc students:

- **Tshilidzi Isaac Dama** (Graduated in September 2024). Dissertation Title: Food policy analyses and prioritisation of food systems to achieve safer food for South Africa.
- **Mahlatse Makola** (Graduated in September 2024). Dissertation Title: Impact assessment of zoonotic diseases to food systems: The case study of Rift Valley Fever in South Africa.
- **Crisaldo Jorge** (Graduated in September 2024). Dissertation Title: Prioritisation of no-regret solutions to address food system disruption in central Mozambique.
- **Lukhangele Mgweba** (Graduated in May 2025). Dissertation Title: Policy options to transform food systems for affordable healthy diets in South Africa.
- **Mwansa Mwansa** (Graduated in May 2025). Dissertation Title: The impact of participating in the biodiversity economy on household food security: a Gonarezhou National Park Communities' case study.

- **Nonjabulo Sambo** (Graduated in May 2025). Dissertation Title: The effect of food price shocks on poverty in South Africa

Currently, I am supervising and co-supervising **17 postgraduate students: MSc (9), PhD (6), and Postdoc (2)** at the University of Pretoria.

POST-GRADUATE EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

I reviewed five master's dissertations from Ghent University, the University of the Free State, and the University of the Witwatersrand.

REFERENCES

1. **Prof. Sheryl L Hendriks**
Director of Natural Resources Institute and Professor: Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, Central Avenue, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4TB. UK.
PhD Supervisor
Email: S.L.Hendriks@greenwich.ac.uk, Tel: +44 (0)1634 883478
2. **Dr. Mmatlou Kalaba**
Lecturer: Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development, University of Pretoria, South Africa
MSc. Supervisor
Email: mmatlou@bfap.co.za,
3. **Dr Selma Karuaihe**
Senior Lecturer: Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development and Past President: African Association of Environmental and Resource Economists
Email: selma.karuaihe@up.ac.za Tel +27 (012) 4204659
4. **Dr. Moraka Makhura**
Senior Lecturer: Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development, University of Pretoria, Collaborative Centre on Economics of Agricultural R&D (UP ARC)
Email: moraka.makhura@up.ac.za, Tel: +27 (12) 420 5022
5. **Dr. Hamady Diop**
Private consultant
Email: hamady.diop@dns-consulting.com; hamady.diop@gmail.com

Name: **Wegayehu Fitawek (Dr)**

Signature:



Date:

09/06/2026