

Borlaug LEAP- Past Fellows Directory (2009)

Bernard Obaa

Country:

Uganda

University:

Iowa State University

Department & Degree:

Rural Sociology, PhD

US Mentor institution:

Iowa State University

CGIAR Mentor Institution:

International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

Research:

Livelihood Resilience for Food and Income Security Among Formerly Displaced People in Lira, Northern Uganda

Websites:

[Graduate Student Highlight: Bernard Obaa](#)

Email:

obaaben@caes.mak.ac.ug

{No Bio}



Eusebius Mukhwana

Country:

Kenya

University:

University of Wyoming

Department & Degree:

Soil Science, PhD

US Mentor institution:

University of Wyoming

CGIAR Mentor Institution:

International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

Research:

Sustainability of Soil Fertility Management Approaches and Practices for Small-scale Farmers in Africa



Email:

emukhwana@cue.or.ke

In 2009, Dr. Eusebius Mukhwana was awarded a Borlaug LEAP fellowship while completing his PhD in Soil Microbiology at the University of Wyoming. He worked with Dr. Jay Norton, a professor of Soil Science at the University of Wyoming and Dr. Emmanuel Sanginga, a soil microbiologist at CIAT. He was able to focus his research on the analysis of different cropping systems on soil health and thereby assess the viability of those different systems in terms of long-term sustainability.

Mukhwana formerly served as president of the African Agricultural NGOs Network based in Ghana. He was also a recipient of the Kenyan Head of State Commendation (HSC) for his role in assisting farmers to improve their food security and increase their income. He has dedicated much of his life and work to the plight of small-scale farmers. Mukhwana founded SACRED in 1997, a training institute that partnered with Moi University to bring education and support to farmers in the western and central parts of Kenya. SACRED still maintains a campus outside Bungoma town in Western Province and one in Nairobi. Since its establishment, SACRED Africa has become a reputable and formidable agricultural research and development organization with research and training facilities in Bungoma, Kenya. Mukhwana is also the founding chairman of the Nzoia Water Services Co. Ltd, the company providing water and sanitation services to the towns on Bungoma, Kitale, Webuye and Kimilili in Western Kenya. Mukhwana is currently serving as the Deputy Commission Secretary in charge of Planning, Research and Development at the Commission for University Education (CUE) in Kenya and is an associate editor with the American Agronomy Journal.

Lydiah Gatere**Country:**

Kenya

University:

Cornell University

Department & Degree:

Soil and Crop Sciences, PhD

US Mentor institution:

Cornell University

CGIAR Mentor Institution:

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Research:

Socio-Economic Model and Biodiversity Conservation in Zambia

Email:

lwq2@cornell.edu



Borlaug LEAP fellow Dr. Lydiah Gatere grew up in the Murang'a district of Kenya and began her college education with Agricultural Studies at Egerton University. As the daughter of a small-scale Kenyan farmer, the virtues and challenges of this field inspired her to pursue a

PhD, working with small-scale stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa. Her background in Horticulture (BS) and Agricultural Extension (MS) gave her a unique perspective as she pursued her PhD in Soil and Crop Science at Cornell University.

Dr. Gatere's doctorate research focused on conservation farming as an approach to climate change and mitigation strategies, and the conservation of biodiversity and increasing food security in Zambia's game management areas that serve as buffers zones to National Parks. Specifically, she targeted improved crop yields through soil fertility management and soil conservation measures using locally available resources and capacity. Her research concentrated on biodiversity conservation as a strategy for alleviating poverty through rural development that links markets, agriculture and natural resource management in a way that addresses core needs of poor, food insecure families.

Dr. Gatere began her Borlaug LEAP Fellowship in the fall of 2009 and was mentored by Dr. Johannes Lehmann, a professor at Cornell University and Dr. James Kinyangi, a researcher at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). Her research was also connected to a COMACO project of the World Conservation Society that seeks to improve livelihoods of agricultural communities around the Luangwa National Park.

Mary-Alice Marete

Country:

Kenya

University:

Pennsylvania State University

Department & Degree:

Agricultural Extension Education, PhD

US Mentor institution:

Pennsylvania State University

CGIAR Mentor Institution:

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Research:

Research Evaluation of Nutri-business Initiatives in Kenya

Email:

mmm455@psu.edu

{No Bio}



Nhuong Tran

Country:

Vietnam

University:

Auburn University

Department & Degree:

Applied Economics, PhD

US Mentor institution:

Auburn University

CGIAR Mentor Institution:

WorldFish Center

Research:

Impacts of Food Safety and Environmental Standards on Seafood Supply Chains from the South: Evidence from Vietnam

Email:

trannhu@auburn.edu



During his Borlaug LEAP Fellowship, Nhuong Van Tran worked towards a PhD in Applied Economics as well as a Master's in Rural Sociology and a Statistics Minor at Auburn University. Early in his education, Tran pursued interdisciplinary studies comprised of natural and social sciences. A Vietnamese student from Nghe An province, he entered Hanoi Agricultural University, but then transferred to and graduated from Nha Trang Fisheries University with a Bachelor's degree in Aquaculture in 1997. He also specialized in the socio-economic and environmental aspects of Aquaculture. He got a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management from the Agricultural University of Norway in 2000, and has had over ten years of research experience with the Research Institute for Aquaculture No.1 (RIA1), a governmental institution in Vietnam.

In 2004 he received a grant from the International Institute for Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET) with supporting funds from the Aquaculture CRSP. This grant allowed Tran to attend the biennial IIFET conference in Tokyo to present the research he had been working on. It was this experience that inspired Tran to pursue his graduate studies in the US. Tran received a three-year fellowship from the Ford Foundation's International Fellowship Program in 2006 for his PhD program in Applied Economics at Auburn University. Tran's doctoral research focused on the impacts of food safety and environmental standards in the seafood trade in Southeast Asia. Based on fieldwork in his home country of Vietnam, Tran looked at how global market pressures have impacted small-scale shrimp farmers and the consequences/benefits of large-scale and industrial shrimp production systems.

Nhuong Tran began his Borlaug LEAP Fellowship in the summer of 2009 and was mentored by Dr. Robert Pomeroy, University of Connecticut, Dr. Conner Bailey, Auburn University and Dr. Michael Phillips, Worldfish Center. His research was integrated with an AquaFish CRSP project in the Lower Mekong basin which was, and still is, working on improving aquaculture and seafood markets and trade in order to reduce poverty and hunger in the region. Upon completion of his PhD Mr. Tran, plans to return to Vietnam and work with small-scale producers and enterprises.