

## Mohamed Matthew Blango

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### PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Holds a PhD in Agricultural Engineering and has served as Head, Department of Agricultural Engineering (2018-2022) and currently as Acting Dean, School of Technology, Njala University. Since 2011, Dr. Blango has been working on extending cropping into the dry season using a micro-dam rainwater harvesting system. He has taught several courses at the University including Irrigation & Drainage, Land Development, Hydrology and Land Surveying. He has also served as consultant for several Projects supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAFSL). He has served as Irrigation engineer for a national project implemented by the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA). Dr. Blango has published several articles in renowned journals in areas including Supplementary Irrigation, Rainwater Harvesting and Agricultural Water management. He has also worked as Principal Investigator for an IAEA sponsored project assessing the effect of a micro-dam rainwater system on artificial recharge of groundwater. In 2015, Dr. Blango was awarded a Borlaug LEAP grant as a PhD scholar, through which he was mentored at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the University of Illinois, USA for a period of six months. Dr. Blango has also published and reviewed a number of academic papers.

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND/ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

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| LEVEL            | INSTITUTION           | YEAR | DEGREE/DIPLOMA/CERT.            |
|------------------|-----------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Tertiary</b>  | NJALA UNIVERSITY      | 2017 | Ph.D. Agric. Engineering        |
|                  | NJALA UNIVERSITY      | 2007 | M.Sc Soil and Water Engineering |
|                  | NJALA UNIVERSITY COL. | 2003 | B. Sc (Hons) Agric .Eng.        |
| <b>Secondary</b> | BO GOVT. SEC. SCH.    | 1997 | G.C.E 'O' LEVEL (DIV. II)       |

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

| DATE OF EMPLOYMENT      | DESCRIPTION OF POSITION            | ORGANIZATION  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Dec. 2005- Mar.2007     | Temporary Teaching Assistant (TTA) | National Agricultural Training Centre (NATC), Njala University. |
| Apr. 2007- Aug. 2018    | Lecturer II                        | Department of Agric. Eng.<br>Njala University.                  |
| Sept. 2018- Sept. 2022  | Head of Dept.                      | Department of Agric. Eng.<br>Njala University                   |
| Oct. 2022 – Present day | Acting Dean, School of Technology  | Njala University  |

## CONSULTANCIES

| ASSIGNMENT   | POSITION  | CLIENT   | DATE                  |
|--|---|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Mid-Term Review of IACCAPFSL: Small Dams in the Inland Valley Swamp</b>                       | CONSULTANT:<br>Inland Valley<br>Swamp<br>Specialist | National Programme<br>Coordination Unit<br>(MAFFS-SL)/<br>International Fund For<br>Agricultural<br>Development (IFAD) | December, 2014        |
| <b>Rehabilitation and Community-based Poverty Reduction Project (RCPRP). Supervision Mission</b> | CONSULTANT:<br>Inland Valley<br>Swamp<br>Specialist | National Programme<br>Coordination Unit<br>(MAFFS-SL)/<br>International Fund For<br>Agricultural<br>Development (IFAD) | 10 – 21 October 2016. |

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|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Smallholder Commercialization Programme- Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (SCP-GAFSP) Supervision Mission</b>   | CONSULTANT:<br>Inland Valley<br>Swamp<br>Specialist | Smallholder Commercialization Programme- Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (SCP-GAFSP) / Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS-SL) | 21 January- 2 February, 2017. |
| <b>Rehabilitation and Community-based Poverty Reduction Project (RCPRP) Project completion mission</b>   | CONSULTANT:<br>Inland Valley<br>Swamp<br>Specialist | National Programme Coordination Unit (MAFFS-SL)/ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)   | 13-31 March, 2017             |
| <b>Economic Recovery of Liberian Rice Farmers in Ebola Affected Counties</b>   | CONSULTANT:<br>SRI Specialist                       | Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Liberia.  | Feb. 2018                     |
| <b>Identification of potential Inland Valley Swamps and Boli Land for irrigation infrastructural Development in the NaCSA project area using available data at MAFFS and Remote Sensing from GIS</b> | Irrigation<br>Engineer                              | Centre for Economic and Social Policy Analysis (CESPA)/ National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA)   | Ongoing Since Nov. 2018       |

## GRANTS RECEIVED

| <b>ROLE/<br/>POSITION</b>                              | <b>Supporting<br/>Agency</b>              | <b>Total<br/>Amount<br/>(\$)</b> | <b>Date</b>                      | <b>Title of Project</b>  |
|--|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Principal Investigator/<br>Project Counterpart<br>(CP) | International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) | 93,700                           | January, 2014-<br>December, 2016 | Assessing the Impact of Rainwater Harvesting technologies on Recharge and Dynamics of Groundwater in an Inland Valley Swamp at Njala |
| PhD Scholar  | Borlaug LEAP Fellowship Programme         | 20,000                           | April, 2015-<br>March, 2016      | The Performance of a Micro-Dam Rainwater Harvesting System in an Inland Valley Swamp   |

## TRAINING WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

| <b>PRESENTATION<br/>TITLE</b>                                | <b>FACILITATOR(S)</b>                                   | <b>DATE</b>   | <b>ORGANIZER/LOCATION</b>               |
|--|---|---------------|---|
| <b>Water resource management for sustainable agriculture</b> | Professor P. K Kalita,<br>University of Illinois<br>USA | January, 2012 | Njala University/University of Illinois |

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|--|--|----------------------|---|
| <b>Surveying and GIS for irrigation and drainage</b> | Professor Richard Cooke,<br>University of Illinois<br>USA      | January,2013         | Njala University/University of Illinois   |
| <b>Research4life and TEEAL programmes</b>            | Professor Dele Fawole (ITOCA) and<br>Dr. Justin Chisenga (FAO) | September 3-6, 2013. | Research4life and Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA)/ Njala University |
| <b>Rice: Research to Production</b>                  | Prof. Jan Leach (Colorado State University)                    | August 10-28, 2015   | National Science Foundation/International Rice Research Institute, the Philippines.             |
| <b>Water for Food Global Conference</b>              | Dr. Robert Lenton  | April 24-26, 2016.   | Water for Food Daugherty Global Institute at the University of Nebraska, USA                    |

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### ***I. Article/Book Chapters in learned journals***

- a) **Blango, M. M.**, Cooke, R. A., Moiwo, J. P., & Kangoma, E. (2022) Modeling the Effect of Climate Change on Water Stored above a Micro-Dam in an Inland Valley Swamp in Sierra Leone, Using SWAT.
- b) Moiwo, J. P., **Blango, M. M.**, Kawa, Y. K., & Conteh, A. M. (2022). Potential for Sustainable Irrigation towards Food Self-Sufficiency in Sierra Leone. *Emerging Challenges in Agriculture and Food Science Vol. 3*, 99-106.
- c) **Blango, M. M.**, Cooke, R. A. C., & Moiwo, J. P., Sawyerr, P.A., Kangoma, E. (2020) Rainwater harvesting for supplemental irrigation under tropical inland valley swamp conditions. *Irrigation and Drainage* 69 (5), 1095-1105

- d) **Blango, M. M.**, Cooke, R. A. C., & Moiwo, J. P. (2019). Effect of soil and water management practices on crop productivity in tropical inland valley swamps. *Agricultural Water Management*, 222, 82-91. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2019.05.036>
- e) Moiwo, J.P., Wahab, A., Kangoma, E., **Blango, M.M.**, Ngegba, M.P., Suluku, R. (2019) Effect of Biochar Application Depth on Crop Productivity Under Tropical Rainfed Conditions. *Appl. Sci.* **2019**, 9, 2602.
- f) Kangoma, E., **Blango, M. M.**, Rashid-Noah, A.B. Sherman-Kamara J.S., Moiwo, J.P, and Kamara, A (2017). Potential of Biochar-Amended Soil to Enhance Crop Productivity under Deficit Irrigation. *Irrig. and Drain.* (2017).

## **REFEREES**

### **1. Dr. A. B Rashid-Noah**

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### **2. Professor Richard Cooke**

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