

## 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.

### 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. Njala University.
Sept. 2018- Sept. 2022	Head of Dept.	Department of Agric. Eng. 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: Inland Valley Swamp Specialist	National Programme Coordination Unit (MAFFS-SL)/ International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD)	December, 2014
<b>Rehabilitation and Community-based Poverty Reduction Project (RCPRP). Supervision Mission</b>	CONSULTANT: Inland Valley Swamp Specialist	National Programme Coordination Unit (MAFFS-SL)/ International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD)	10 – 21 October 2016.

<b>Smallholder Commercialization Programme- Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (SCP-GAFSP) Supervision Mission</b>	CONSULTANT: Inland Valley Swamp 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: Inland Valley Swamp 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: 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 Engineer	Centre for Economic and Social Policy Analysis (CESPA)/ National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA)	Ongoing Since Nov. 2018

## GRANTS RECEIVED

ROLE/ POSITION	Supporting Agency	Total Amount (\$)	Date	Title of Project
Principal Investigator/ Project Counterpart (CP)	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	93,700	January, 2014- 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- March, 2016	The Performance of a Micro-Dam Rainwater Harvesting System in an Inland Valley Swamp

## TRAINING WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

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

<b>Surveying and GIS for irrigation and drainage</b>	Professor Richard Cooke, University of Illinois USA	January,2013	Njala University/University of Illinois
<b>Research4life and TEEAL programmes</b>	Professor Dele Fawole (ITOCA) and 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**

Department of Agricultural Engineering  
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### **2. Professor Richard Cooke**

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