

DAVIS FUNDI IRERI

Research and Development manager - Insect feed

A versatile professional with extensive experience in research and development management, market development, sourcing, and nutrition, I am confident in my ability to bring exceptional value to any team. With a proven track record of driving innovation, expanding market presence, and ensuring the achievement of optimal product and process quality, I am always eager to contribute my skills and expertise to further advance any company's objectives.

EDUCATION

- 2015
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2018

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Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, JKUAT, Kenya
Master of Science, Plant Health Science & Management
📍 Nairobi, Kenya
- 2011
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2014

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Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, JKUAT, Kenya
Bachelor of Science, Horticulture
📍 Nairobi, Kenya

CONTACT INFO

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PUBLICATIONS

- Closing Nutrient Cycles: Up-Scaling of Black Soldier Fly Treatment in Nairobi** Ireri Davis, Gold Moritz, Egan Tim, Zurbrügg Chris, Mathys Alexander, Chege Daniel, Mitugo Melody, Kidula Jessy. [Link](#)
- Farmer Knowledge of Bacterial Wilt and Root-Knot Nematodes in High Tunnel Tomato Production in the Tropics (2018)** Davis Fundi Ireri, Lucy Kananu Murungi, Daisy Chepkoech Ngeno & Jesca Mbaka. [Link](#)
- Soil Chemical Properties Influence Abundance of Nematode Trophic Groups and Ralstonia Solanacearum in High Tunnel Tomato Production (2019)** Daisy Chepkoech Ngeno, Lucy Kananu Murungi, Davis Ireri Fundi, Vitalis Wekesa, Solveigh Haukeland, Jesca Mbaka. [Link](#)



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

March,
2023
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Present

● **Research & Development Manager, Nutritionist, & Sourcing Lead**

Nutrition Technologies

📍 Malaysia, Singapore

A forward-thinking Research & Development Manager spearheading innovative projects in the fields of bioconversion, nutrition & Sourcing at Nutrition Technologies Sdn Bhd. I lead a dynamic team of scientists dedicated to creating cutting-edge solutions for sustainable animal feed ingredients production, contributing specialized knowledge in animal nutrition to develop innovative, sustainable, and high-quality insect meal, oil, and biofertilizers, and committed to ensuring the seamless acquisition of high-quality raw materials for our innovative insect-based technology. My responsibilities include:

- Communication with upper management and department heads to understand the business needs and priorities to best shape the R&D plan accordingly and provide the relevant R&D-related conclusions to CEOs and relevant HODs frequently to best shape company strategy.
- Directing and overseeing all phases of R&D initiatives aimed at enhancing our insect-based animal feed ingredients utilizing agricultural processing waste.
- Leading cross-functional teams to ideate, develop, and test novel BSFL feed formulations, ensuring compliance with industry regulations and quality standards.
- Collaborating with R&D teams to assess and optimize agro-waste ingredients for BSFL feed formulation with maximum nutritional benefits.
- Advising on nutritional requirements and contributing to the development of tailored feeding programs for Black soldier fly larvae.
- Collaborating with external partners, academia, and industry experts to drive innovation and foster strategic alliances.
- Developing and executing sourcing strategies aligned with company objectives, emphasizing sustainability, quality, and cost-efficiency.
- Collaborating closely with R&D and production teams to forecast material requirements and mitigate supply chain risks.
- Representing the company at industry events, conferences, stakeholder discussions, etc.

May,
2021
|
Feb,
2023

● **Research & Development Manager - Bioconversion**

Nutrition Technologies

📍 Malaysia, Singapore

- Developed research programs, incorporating the current developments to improve existing bioconversion process and output, products and studied the potential of new processes.
- Delivered applied research outcomes, created innovations for the company and provided evidence-based advice and solutions to major bioconversion problems encountered.
- Investigated the effects that certain factors played on the efficiencies and life-history traits of the Black soldier fly larvae under industrial mass-rearing conditions.
- Feed formulations for BSFL diets based on learnings, focused on a highly efficient output, guided by major constraints like raw material availability, nutrient concentrations in every raw material, and integration of the formulated silage with the developed engineering processes.
- Developed SOPs for the various stages of the bioconversion process from feed preparation to larvae harvesting and processing.
- Stayed informed on what is happening in the research and development field at large to make sure the company was up-to-date and current with the most advanced BSF R&D developments.
- Established and maintained testing procedures for assessing raw materials, in both process and finished products.

Dec,
2019
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April,
2021

● **Market Development Manager, East Africa**

The Sanergy Collaborative

📍 Nairobi, Kenya

- Developed and executed a market penetration strategy for Evergrow organic fertilizer, a new organic fertilizer in the market, achieving 5x growth in sales of the same.
- Developed a market introduction strategy for KuzaPro, a high protein insect-based animal feed leading to multiple trials with feed millers, agro-dealers and home users.
- Managed special projects that opened up sales of fertilizer and animal protein.
- Lead the planning and execution of fertilizer corporate sales.
- Refined the products positioning for the two products, leading to more client appreciation and uptake.
- Enhanced systems to collect marketing and sales data efficiently and effectively.
- Lead the analysis of marketing data to generate insights that led to evidence-based targeted marketing initiatives.
- Coached the sales managers and representatives to adopt agreed standard practices for marketing events.

Nov,
2017
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Dec,
2019

Research & Development Specialist

The Sanergy Collaborative

📍 Nairobi, Kenya

- Developed a tool for feedstocks formulations for BSF diets/recipes leading to optimal production which achieved target yields per square meter of production system.
- Developed and executed trials that led to the establishment of feeding regimes for optimal BSF production.
- Came up with innovative ideas for new products including a European-certified union-certified organic fertilizer and improving existing products to meet clients' demands.
- Led a team that was responsible for designing, performing, and overseeing scientific experiments relating to optimizing the conversion of waste to sustainable animal feed and fertilizer products.
- Led a team responsible for data analysis for projects, processes, or functions to anticipate potential problems and opportunities and develop solutions using a comprehensive evidence-based decision-making approach.
- Provided recommendations to the production team based on trials and data analysis.
- I overtime was tasked with report writing to communicate the results of experiments in clear, cohesive language understandable to all audiences including the management and leadership teams.
- Collaborated with the Quality, Health, Safety, and Environment departments to set quality standards and specs.

Oct,
2016
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Oct,
2017

Dissertation Research Fellow

ICIPE - International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology

📍 Nairobi, Kenya

- Spent time working on my Masters project thesis in the behavioral and chemical ecology department, where I was trying to understand how root elucidates affect the interaction between the plant/crop and bacterial pathogens.
- Helped Ph.D. students in various research projects within the behavioral and chemical ecology field as well as insect for feed unit.