



# Mengistu Woube Mengesha

Associate Professor

## Contact

### Address

Addis Ababa

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Accomplished scholar, agricultural consultant, and Founding Member and Senior Advisor of Utopia Organic Fertilizer Production Company, with over 40 years of experience in agriculture, land reform, environmental planning, and sustainable rural development. Dr. Mengistu has worked across Ethiopia, Sweden, the U.S., and East Africa, bridging scientific research and community impact. His leadership at Utopia reflects a lifelong commitment to organic farming, soil restoration, and environmentally responsible agro-industrial development, making his expertise highly relevant for grant organizations, institutional partnerships, and green innovation ecosystems.

## Work History

2002-01

### Associate Professor

*Uppsala University*

2022-01 -

Current

### Founding Member & Senior Advisor

*Utopia Organic Fertilizer Production Company,  
Addis Ababa*

- Co-established a pioneering enterprise focused on eco-friendly, organic fertilizer solutions that improve soil fertility and increase smallholder productivity in Ethiopia.
- Advises on strategic direction, sustainability goals, and environmental standards compliance.
- Contributes technical and policy expertise to product development, research, and grant proposal formulation.
- Acts as a bridge between the company and academic, governmental, and donor institutions, enhancing funding opportunities and knowledge transfer.
- Actively engaged in capacity-building and training for staff and farmers on organic practices and climate-resilient agriculture.

2012-01 -

Current

### Founder & Director

*Wanza International Consulting (WIC)*

2006-01 -

2020-01

### Founder & Executive Director

*Biodifood Association (NGO)*

2009-01 -

2016-01

### Managing Director

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|----------------------|---|
| 2001-01 -<br>2003-01 | <b>Lecturer &amp; Associate Researcher</b><br><i>Addis Ababa University</i> |
| 1997-01 -<br>2003-01 | <b>Research Advisor</b><br><i>Stockholm School of Economics</i>             |
| 1991-01 -<br>1993-01 | <b>Visiting Research Fellow</b><br><i>Michigan State University</i>         |

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## Education

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|---------|---|
| 1986-01 | <b>Ph.D.: Human Geography</b><br><i>Uppsala University</i><br>Dissertation: Problems of Land Reform<br>Implementation in Rural Ethiopia |
| 1982-01 | <b>M.Sc.: Land Reform &amp; Use</b><br><i>Uppsala University</i>  |
| 1996-01 | <b>B.Sc.: Geomorphology/Soils</b><br><i>Uppsala University</i>  |
| 1978-01 | <b>B.A.: Social Anthropology</b><br><i>Uppsala University</i>   |
| 1993-01 | <b>Diploma: Water and Environment Studies</b><br><i>Linköping University</i>  |

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## Certifications

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Diploma in Water and Environment Studies,  
Linköping University, Sweden, 06/93

Advanced Certificate in GIS & Environmental  
Education, Uppsala, 06/94

Advanced Certificate in Pedology & Soil  
Classification, SLU, 06/90

Advanced Certificate in Range Ecology and  
Livestock Production, SLU, 06/89

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## Key Roles And Leadership

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- Founding Member & Senior Advisor, Utopia Organic Fertilizer Production Company, Addis Ababa, 01/22–Present
- Founder & Director, Wanza International Consulting (WIC), 01/12–Present
- Founder & Executive Director, Biodifood Association (NGO), 01/06–12/20
- Managing Director, MELA Agricultural Development PLC, 01/09–12/16
- Visiting Research Fellow, Michigan State University, 01/91–12/93
- Lecturer & Associate Researcher, Addis Ababa University, 01/01–12/03
- Research Advisor, Stockholm School of Economics, 01/97–12/03
- Associate Professor, Uppsala University, Sweden, 01/02–Present

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## Consultancy And Development Projects

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Led or advised on over 35 multidisciplinary projects, including Environmental & Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) for agro-industries and infrastructure, Feasibility Studies on organic inputs, poultry, rural agribusiness, and irrigation systems, Climate Change Training and Carbon Trade Readiness programs for farmer groups, Land Use & Tenure Studies, including USAID-supported land administration reform, Donor-Funded Evaluations: Save the Children, World Vision, Tetra Tech, World Bank.

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## International Conferences And Workshops

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Keynote and panelist in over 25 global and regional events, Nile Basin Cooperation Forums, Stockholm Water Symposium, Pan-African Environment Summits, Organized stakeholder workshops on land policy, food systems, biodiversity, and circular economy.

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## Personal Information

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- Profession: Associate Professor | Agricultural & Environmental Consultant | Organic Fertilizer Entrepreneur
- Driving License: Valid Ethiopian Driving License – 2nd Grade

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## Awards

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Funded by SIDA/SAREC, USAID, FAO, Forum Syd, Swedish Research Council, and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Received multiple fellowships and research grants for studies on land use, migration, food policy, and climate resilience.

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## Publications

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My Life-Long Journey – From a Livestock Care-Taker to a Climate Change Advocate, Effects of Resettlement Schemes on Biophysical and Human Environments in Ethiopia, Problems of Land Reform Implementation in Rural Ethiopia, Published in AMBIO, Land Degradation & Development, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Featured in The Ethiopian Herald, The Reporter, Addis Fortune, Guest expert on EBC, Abay TV, Voice of America, Walta TV