Simon Vudiya Lirova

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Profile

I am self-motivated individual with a dream to make the society a better place to live through agriculture. I would like to bridge the gap between what the society does in Agriculture and the role of science in ensuring improved production, food safety and sustainable use of the resources necessary in food production. I believe that Agriculture is key in pushing sub-Saharan countries to higher levels of development like industrialization and reliance on service industry for employment of our youthful population. This dream has motivated my academic journey consistently, sometimes changing on the strategies I implement but the end result remaining the same,' *contributing towards a food secure nation that can rely on itself*'. I am also fully aware that to achieve this, I can not work in Isolation, I therefore need to be a team builder, a leader and be of inspiration to people around me to orient their dreams and efforts to be in tandem with mine to have a greater impact.

Skills

i. Conduct field experiments by preparing layout and setting up the experiment
ii. Data collection with Kobo and ODK
iii. Preparing questionnaire in excel to be used in ODK or Kobo data collection tool kit
iv. Data collection for both pests and diseases
v. Data cleaning and entry
vi. Data analysis- both descriptive and inferential using SPSS, GenStat and R programming and Python programming on Java script
vii. Writing reports.
viii. Computer literate and can use Microsoft office, word, excel, and PowerPoint
ix. Designing posters
x. Drawing maps and fields.
xi. Organizing fellow employees
xii. Carrying out surveys

Academic background

I have completed a **master's** degree in **Plant Pathology** from the University of Nairobi. The program introduced me to logic reasoning, research work and matters on data analysis. I was able to master proposal writing skills and preparing scientific papers. I involved in collecting and collating data from surveys, collecting data from field and laboratory experiments, cleaning the data and analyzing to draw inferences from the sample to the original population. I am able to identify problem as it appears in the general population and come up with strategy to confirm before laying strategy to address.

I did my **Bachelors** degree of **Horticulture** from the University of Nairobi which I completed in 2018. Here I got insight on the importance of using modern farming techniques in addition to scientific innovation to address the problems experienced in agriculture. Most importantly is the idea of maintaining our environment for posterity. Horticulture opened my eyes to exterior landscaping and internal landscaping through ornamental plants and their therapeutic effect on humanity.

I completed my secondary education in 2012 where I did well to secure government scholarship to the competitive university programs. In my elementary and primary education, I interacted with my immediate environment and friends which shaped my career after I realized the insufficient food that affected most of the homesteads.

Work experience

2024-present- Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate service

Activities

i. Identification and classification of parasitic nematodes in Nematology laboratory.
ii. Extract, denature and purify DNA/RNA from different sample types e.g. Nematodes fungal,
iii. Bacterial cultures, and plant material.
iv. Detection of plant pests using advanced molecular techniques such as Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) and PCR (Real Time and Conventional)
v. Micro propagation of plant germplasm and virus clean up by tissue culture, meristem tip
vi. culture and thermotherapy.
vii. Preparation of reagents, solutions and buffers required for molecular analysis.

viii. Performing routine testing, quality control, maintenance and proficiency testing in accordance with current laboratory procedures.

ix. General principles of Good Laboratory Practices and Quality Management Systems (under the ISO 17025 and 9001-2015 systems).
x. Report writing and sample reception using LIMs (Laboratory Information Management Systems)
xi. General principles of Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and pest surveillance.
xii. Biosafety regulation and testing of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

2023- Agriculture and Food Authority

Activities

i. I served in the Technical Advisory Services of the Food crop Directorate where I collected data, cleaned and analyzed them producing reports.
ii. I also educated the Sub-County Agricultural Officers of the regulations in the Crop Acts 2019.
iii. I organized stands in a number of Shows in Bukura, KALRO headquarters and ASK Shows.
iv. I prepared demonstration plots for alternative food crops with the Agricultural Training Centers in Kisii, Migori, Kisumu and Elgeiyo Marakwet.

2022- Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International

Activities

i. Collecting data through surveys in all sub counties of Embu on fall army worm
ii. Collecting data on the adoption of mobile technology by farmers in Njoro, Molo, Kuresoi Noth and Kuresoi South

2021- Keya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation

- Carried out field research Experiments at Kalro Mwea where I screene 186 rice germplasm for their tolerance to brown spot, rice blast and bacterial wilt at Kirogo field station

2018- Wildfire Horticulture

i. Hypericum and roses production from planting to harvesting
ii. Crop protection and management
iii. Crop nutrition and fertigation
iv. Crop husbandry and cultural practices
v. Quality Check and monitoring by scouting
vi. Post-harvest treatment and grading of roses and hypericum

vii. Health and safety adherence and provisions
viii. Employee management and work plan operations • Produce of detailed report on work areas.
ix. Supervision of Hypericum propagation as well as training tissue culture.

2016- Oserian Development Company

i. Priva/water/irrigation system; including source of water, fertilizers classification and formulation, priva operations, and filter units operations
ii. Fertigation: Fertigation process and vermiculture process
iii. Supervision in propagation of statice: using the tissue culture method.
iv. Crop protection as well as training casuals; Identification of diseases and their casual agents – Powdery Mildew, Botrytis, Rust, Crown gall and their control. Identification of pests and their control – whiteflies, thrips, mites, caterpillar, aphids, mealy bugs, leaf miner. Management of soil-borne pests and diseases-nematodes, fusarium

2015- Finlay's Horticulture

i. The use of biopesticides to manage pests and diseases on horticultural crop
ii. How to rear the biopesticides(Neoseiulus californicus, Phytoseiulus persimilis

Trichoderma harzianum)

iii. Agronomic activities on the production of herbs and spices (Persely, mint, sage, tarragon, rosemary) and other crops including baby corn, sugar snaps, French beans, broccoli among others

REFEREES

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