

Robertson Khataza

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Summary

Robertson Khataza is faculty member at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). He holds a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics (2018) from the University of Western Australia, and an MSc in Development and Resource Economics (2007) from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway. Before joining LUANAR, he served as Research Associate (Impact Assessment) for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Malawi. His research interests broadly cover technology adoption and impact assessment as well as productivity and efficiency analysis. Specific research interests include economics of agricultural sustainability, gendered conflicts and agricultural productivity, and impact of digital technologies in agriculture and natural resources.

EDUCATION

PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2018, University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, Perth, WA6009, Australia

MSc in Development and Resource Economics, 2007, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Box 5003, N-1432 Ås, Norway.

BSc. in Agriculture (Agricultural Economics), 2003, University of Malawi, Bunda College, P.O. Box 219, Lilongwe, Malawi.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2011 to date. Senior Lecturer in Agricultural and Resource Economics, Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (Bunda Campus). Responsibilities include: teaching and conducting research in Agricultural and Resource Economics; Marketing and Agricultural Policy Analysis. Curriculum development and review; and Supervising student research. www.luanar.ac.mw

October 2023-February 2024. National Lead Consultant: Evaluation of ARC impact in Malawi (Assessment of ARC Disaster insurance initiative). Oxford Policy Management/Africa Risk Capacity (ARC)

December 2019-May 2020 National Consultant: Developing policy briefs on gender and agricultural productivity/ Women's land rights and policy in Malawi. UN Women

December 2018-December 2019: Assistant Director, Alliance for African Partnership (AAP)/Michigan State University. Managed to provide administrative and technical

backstopping to a consortium of Universities, research organisations, state agencies and private sector agencies to co-create and upscale best practices and innovations for effective transformation of Africa. <http://aap.isp.msu.edu>

November 2017-April 2018: Consultant: Gender inclusiveness in technology adoption and linking farmers to markets. IITA Southern Africa PO Box 310142, Chelston, Lusaka Zambia.

February-June 2017: **Tutor** responsible for teaching and conducting tutorials for: 1) Environmental Economics (ECON1120); 2) Environmental and Resource Economics (ECON4410), School of Agricultural & Resource Economics, University of Western Australia.

April-June 2013 Consultant for FAO Malawi on Climate smart agriculture: capturing the synergies between adaptation, mitigation and food security. (Dr Giacomo Branca (ESA), Giacomo.Branca@fao.org)

February 2009-December 2011: Worked as **Research Associate (Impact Assessment & Value Chain Analysis)** for the **International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA-Malawi)**, Chitedze Research Station, PO Box 30258, Lilongwe 3, Malawi. Tel: +265 1 707 022. www.iita.org

Achievements

- 2011 Contributed to the study and preparation of the report on global yam situation and outlook, 2007-2030
- 2011 Managed to co-implement a regional study on technology adoption and impacts of crop improvement research for IITA-mandate crops in sub-Saharan Africa (maize, cowpea, soybean, cassava & yams)
- 2011 Coordinated data collection for baseline study on *Making Agricultural Innovations Work for Smallholder Farmers Affected by HIV and AIDS in Southern Africa*.
- 2011 Coordinated data collection for baseline study on Soybean Value chains for Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia
- 2009 Managed to implement IITA project evaluation and complete a technical report on the adoption and impacts of cassava improvement in Malawi and Zambia
- 2010 Successfully implemented a baseline study in Malawi for one of IITA's regional projects "Unleashing the Power of Cassava in Africa - UPoCA"

RESEARCH PROJECTS

2023-2025 co-PI for Facilitating new graduates to participate in international remote work. J-PAL. <https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative-project/facilitating-international-remote-work-new-graduates-malawi>

2022-2025 PI for Trees for better nutrition and health: can result-based contracts and agglomeration payment incentivize the adoption of tree-based sustainable agricultural intensification practices in Malawi? under the Sustainable Food Systems in Malawi (FoodMa) Program funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Malawi

- 2021-2024 PI for Digital Innovations to Improve Market Access for Horticultural Produce in Malawi supported by Feed the Future ALL-IN through MRR Innovation Lab at the University of California Davis/ICED <https://basis.ucdavis.edu/project/digital-innovations-improve-market-access-horticultural-produce-malawi>
- 2021-2023 PI for study investigating the impact of women participation in market-oriented crop production programs and intimate partner violence (IPV) in Malawi. Funded by Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
- October 2021-December 2022 STAARS Fellow, Biomass energy dependency and implications for forest conservation policies in Malawi, Cornell University.
<http://barrett.dyson.cornell.edu/staars/fellows/robertson-khataza.html>
- May-August 2020 Co-Investigator: Research and documentation of Country Case Study on Climate change Loss and Damage (L&D)- Malawi. International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Dhaka, Bangladesh
- November 2019 co-Principal Investigator for the study assessing the contribution of refugees and asylum seekers to national economy in Malawi. UNHCR, Lilongwe
- April-June 2019 Evaluation of the Agroforestry Food Security Program. World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- Haswell, C., & **Khataza, R.** (2024). Can ICT-enabled knowledge acquisition bridge the gap in enhancing the adoption of multipurpose agroforestry tree species (MPTS) in Malawi? *Agroforestry Systems*, 98(6), 1605-1617. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-024-01033-3>
- Mazungwi, B., Njoloma, J., **Khataza, R.**, & Mwase, W. (2024). Why do farmers wait so long before adopting fruit tree-based agroforestry technologies in Malawi? An application of hazard duration analysis. Accepted in *Agroforestry Systems*. <https://doi.10.21203/rs.3.rs-3875033/v1>
- Khataza RRB** (2024) Preferences for urban greenspace functions during public health pandemics. Empirical evidence from Malawi. *Urbanization, Sustainability and Society* 1(1):63-77. <https://doi.org/10.1108/USS-11-2023-0015>.
- Khataza, R.R.B.**, Hailu A., Doole G.J., Kragt M.E., Alene A.D. (2019) Examining the relationship between farm size and efficiency: a Bayesian directional distance function approach. *Agricultural Economics* 50(2): 237–246. <https://doi.org/10.1111/agec.12480>
- Khataza, R.R.B.**, Doole G.J., Kragt M.E., Hailu A. (2018) Information acquisition, learning and the adoption of conservation agriculture in Malawi: a discrete-time duration analysis. *Journal of Technological Forecasting and Social Change* 132: 299-307. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2018.02.015>
- Khataza, R.R.B.**, Hailu A., Kragt M.E., Doole G.J. (2017). Estimating shadow price for symbiotic nitrogen and technical efficiency for legume-based conservation agriculture in Malawi.

Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics 61, 462–480.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/1467-8489.12212>

Alene Arega D., **Khataza R.**, Chibwana C., Ntawuruhunga P. and Moyo C. 2013. Economic impacts of cassava research and extension in Malawi and Zambia. Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics. <https://dx.doi.org/10.5897/JDAE2013.0496>

WORKING PAPERS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS

Agyei NK and **Khataza, R** (2025) Will you pay a premium price? Consumer preferences for moringa-based functional food products in Malawi.
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5074717

Khataza, R. Haswell, C., & Chisale LWH (2025). Seeding for landscape restoration: Are nursery production enterprises raising good quality planting stock to support Malawi's restoration targets?

Gondwe T., **Khataza R.**, Manda J and Alamu E. Gender differences and the adoption of soil fertility management technologies in eastern Zambia. Under preparation for journal submission.

Khataza RRB, Simtowe F, Rahut D. To mulch or to munch? Determinants of heterogeneity in crop residue utilisation decisions among smallholder farmers in Ethiopia. Under preparation for journal submission

Khataza RRB, Simtowe F, Rahut D. To what extent do climate-related risks affect agricultural productivity? Empirical evidence from smallholder maize farmers in Tanzania. Under preparation for journal submission

Khataza RRB, Simtowe F, Rahut D. Can grain traders be trusted? The determinants of trust in buyer–seller relationships. Under preparation for journal submission

REFEREES

Dr. Arega Alene, IITA-Nairobi; E-mail: Arega.Alene@cgiar.org

Associate Prof. Atakelty Hailu, University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA6009, Australia. E-MAIL: atakelty.hailu@uwa.edu.au

Professor Graeme Doole, University of Waikato, Department of Economics, Hamilton 3216, New Zealand. E-mail: gdoole@waikato.ac.nz

Prof. Weston Mwase, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Bunda College. P: +265999669920 E-mail: wmwase@luanar.ac.mw