

Statement of Research Philosophy

Nixon S. Chekenya¹

Research Philosophy

My research program focuses broadly on the intersection of agricultural economics, climate economics, development economics, environmental economics and financial economics focusing on the Sub-Saharan Africa region. I use methods and theories from economics, finance, mathematics and political science to understand problems. Recognizing my obligations to our students and the university to maintain currency, to the academic discipline of applied economics to contribute new knowledge, and to industry professionals to help them solve problems, I continuously strive to:

- Develop and apply econometric methods, microeconomic theory, mathematical tools in solving problems in applied economics.
- Identify opportunities to integrate theoretical and methodological issues across economics sub-fields, such as finance, development economics, agricultural economics, and econometrics.
- Promote collaboration through a within and multidisciplinary modus operandi.
- Share findings widely, including presentation at conferences and in lectures to students to expose them to state-of-the-art advances in understanding trends in finance.

Research Agenda

I have a strong multidisciplinary research agenda that includes several major streams of research in which I would like to engage. I plan to begin a series of papers based on my experience living, studying and working in African countries. I am interested in understanding the climate change impacts and adaptations by vulnerable groups and smallholder farmers in developing countries, including the role of indigenous knowledge systems. I also seek to study the role of microfinance institutions in local economic development.

Research Effectiveness

I have published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at refereed conferences that attest to my quest for producing both quality and relevant science.

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