

MERCY MUTHONI LIMBUA

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SPECIALIST

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dependable and detail-oriented Food Safety and Quality Specialist with training and in-depth work experience in the food and agribusiness sectors with a bias toward training and capacity building in line with SDG2. I have knowledge and in-depth experience in food safety and production requirement, food security advocacy, policy development and implementation, quality assurance and control. Track record of capacity building, compliance and risk control/aversion as well as development of SOPs and related consultancy work. I have good presentation skills, clarity of communication and outstanding interpersonal skills. As a quick learner, agile and adaptable, I am seeking to leverage the aforementioned for value addition within a new team, project or organisation.

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Agribusiness Management | Food Security & Safety Management | Policy & Procedure Development | Occupational Health & Safety | Site Evaluation & Management | Environmental Management & Safety | Training & Capacity Building | Quality Assessment and Assurance | Project Management | Stakeholder Engagement | Supplier Management | Research: Data Collection and Analysis | Records Management | Proposal Development & Report Writing | Presentation | Team Management & Supervision | Excellent Communication & Interpersonal Skills | Above-average computer proficiency |

Professional Affiliations: OFAB Kenya Associate Program (2020/2021)

CONSULTANCIES

1. Team Lead, Agroguild (May 2019 – Present)

As a Food Safety & Food Security Consultant, I am engaged in providing training in food safety, hygiene and sanitation, Kenya Standard 1758, Agricultural practices, Value Addition and Capacity Building in Developing SOPs, Food Safety Management Systems, HACCP Development & Implementation, Traceability System Development & Implementation.

2. Consultant, Trade Mark East Africa (May – June 2021)

- Developed Food Safety Manual for horticulture and aquaculture industry.
- Developed training guides for: Horticulture, Dairy, Aquaculture
- Trained trainers of trainees along aquaculture value chain.

3. Consultant, ASSIT (October 2019 – June 2020)

- Developed Aquaculture Standard Operating Procedure for TVET Kenya's curriculum.
- Provided Technical Support to the Somali Fish Inspection and Quality Assurance (FIQA) RTI project.

4. Consultant, Mugie Conservancy Ranch (October 2019)

- Trained and monitored staff on hygiene and sanitation, food handling, SOPs and good slaughtering practices.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Agribusiness Project Lead

August 2020 – March 2021

Invest in Africa

Key Responsibilities:

- Designing of the Agribusiness Program and championing the growth of IIA's Wakulima Hub through identification, engagement and recruitment of Lead farmers, Youth and Women -Led groups and aggregators.
- Support liaison and engagement with key partners, collaborators and counties to enhance and maintain the effective relationships and partner good will.
- Coordination of relevant meetings and working groups, maintaining communication and tracking actions.

- Ensuring registered farmers are trained on good agricultural practices on oil seed and bee-keeping value chain.
- Development and maintenance of databases of key market actors be used to further the projects objectives, linking these to off takers, financiers and input suppliers.
- Generation of internal and external project reports.

Key Achievements:

1. Redesigned the organization Wakulima hub portal.
2. Mapped and defined value chains and programs of focused for IIA's Food and Agriculture work.
3. Recruitment of 1000 farmers and training of 200 farmers on Good Agricultural Practices for sunflower value chain and bee keeping.

Intern

February – November 2018

Ecosystem Based Adaption for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA)

Key Responsibilities:

- Mapping out irrigation (solar powered, micro-irrigation) and basic value chain addition
- Mapping out solar micro-grids/decentralized power systems that can power a processing factory.
- Planning relevant energy initiatives that can supply technology and technical expertise to power the agro-value addition.
- Linking the energy enterprises to farmers when demand arises.

Other Work Experiences:

- Intern, Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisory of Kenya (SOCAA) | February – July 2018
- Food Microbiology & Quality Assurance Intern, NAS Airport Services | August 2017 – January 2018
- Quality Control Attaché, Coffee Research Institute | May – August 2016
- Attaché, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology | May – June 2015

EDUCATION BACKGROUND

2017: Bachelor of Science (Food Science and Technology), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

2012: Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education, Matungulu Girls' Secondary School

Additional Training:

- Certificate in Computer Systems and Applications, Kianjai Youth Polytechnic (2013)
- Food Safety Champion training (2019)
- High Field Level 3 Trainers training (2019)
- Kenya Standard (KS) 1758 Trainer of Trainers Training (2019)

PERSONAL INTERESTS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service: Advocacy for Food Safety & Security in Kenya and Africa (February 2018 – Present)

Leading a twitter campaign @limbua_mercy #isupportSDG2, I am involved in:

- Engaging in agribusiness discussions and deliberations, pushing for better agribusiness space for the youth.
- Sensitizing the public, industry players, policy makers and regulators on why food safety is a key element for the food security agenda and on reducing post-harvest losses towards achieving food security.
- Pushing for adoption and implementation of food safety policies and regulations by the industry players and government.

Personal Interests: Swimming, Charity Work, Reading and Blogging.

REFEREES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST