

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Dr. Phyllis Wambui Muturi

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### 1. Personal details:

Name: Phyllis Wambui Muturi  
Nationality: Kenyan  
Gender: Female  
Language: English and Kiswahili  
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### 2. Academic Qualifications:

2008 - 2013: **Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology** (by course work and research), Makerere University, Uganda. Thesis Title: "Resistance to the African and spotted stem borers in sorghum"  
2005-2008: **Master of Science in Crop Protection**, University of Nairobi, Kenya. Thesis title; "Participatory evaluation of sweet potato varieties for response to virus infection in Central Kenya"  
2001-2005: **Bachelor of Science in Agriculture** (Honors.) University of Nairobi  
1996-1999: Certificate for Secondary Education, Mary Leakey Girls School (B + PLUS)  
1987-1995: Certificate for Primary Education, Kerwa Primary School

### 3. Current Positions

- *9<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to date:* Lecturer/Researcher in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
- *7<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 to date:* Deputy Dean of Students

### 4. Experience

2014- To date: **Lecturer/Researcher in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology**, Department of Agricultural Resource Management, University of Embu, Kenya

#### *Roles and responsibilities*

- Teach ACS 408: Introduction to Molecular Genetics, ACS 410: Biotechnology, ACS 604: Seed Science and Technology, ACB 602: Biotechnology, Cytogenetics and Mutation Breeding, ACS 412: Genomics and molecular breeding, AAS 307; Molecular genetics, ACB 601: Molecular Genetics and Bioinformatics
- Setting, marking and return of course assessment tests and examinations within deadline
- Conduct research in indigenous crops and disseminate of research findings
- Supervise undergraduate and post graduate students research
- Participate in community outreach programmes and departmental activities

18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019: **Visiting Scientist, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Department of Ecology**

#### *Responsibilities*

Teaching, aiding in carrying out practicals and supervision of post graduate research

June 2015 – November 2015: **Visiting Scholar, Iowa State University, Department of Agronomy**

2010 - 2013: **PhD Scholar** at International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT, Nairobi)

### *Roles and responsibilities*

1. Designed sorghum breeding experiments and layouts
2. Phenotypic data collection in sorghum breeding experiments and analysis
3. Organised, planted and managed sorghum breeding seed increase activities
4. Participated in organisation of farmer field days and dissemination of information to stakeholders

2010-2012: **Tutor**, Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection, University of Nairobi, Kenya

### *Roles and responsibilities*

- Facilitated Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, Principles of Crop Protection, Plant Pathology, Crop Physiology and Seed Technology courses
- Guided undergraduate students in special projects
- Provided counseling to individuals regarding career development

### **Ongoing Post Graduate Co-Supervision**

#### **PhD**

1. Genetic Diversity and Proteomics of Wild Goose Berry (*Physalis Peruvian*) Accessions in Kenya. **Anthony Kiranga Njagi** University of Embu. Registered on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018
2. Germination, Early Seedling Growth and Genetic Diversity of East African Sandalwood in three selected provenances for domestication and conservation in Kenya. **David Muigai Ngumi** Reg. A800/155/2015, University of Embu. Registered on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019
3. Genetic Diversity of *Alternaria Solani* and *Phytophthora Infestans* in Tomato Fields in Mwea, Kenya and Their Management using Selected Plant Extracts and Essential Oils. **Lydia Gakunyi Mugao**, Reg. A800/192/2017 University of Embu. Registered on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018

#### **MSc.**

Agronomic Performance, Genetic Diversity and Nutritional Composition of Horned Melon Accessions from Selected Agro-Ecological Zones in Kenya. **Marline Hanny Owino**, University of Embu. A505/1146/2017 Registered on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### **Appointment to Examine Post-Graduate Research Proposals**

1. 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019: **PhD proposal** entitled 'Combining ability and genetic mapping of pod and yield traits in locally adapted snap beans in Kenya'. Serah Nyawira Njau, Department of Agricultural Resource Management, University of Embu
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019: **MSc. proposal** entitled 'Characterization and breeding for disease resistance in common bean landraces grown in medium and high altitude zones in Kenya'. Shamir Misango, Department of Agricultural Resource Management, University of Embu
3. 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019: **MSc. proposal** entitled 'Marker assisted selection for resistance to bean common mosaic necrosis virus in French bean cultivars in Kenya'. Grace Wambui Watare, Department of Agricultural Resource Management, University of Embu
4. 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018: **MSc. Proposal** entitled 'Characterization of *Crotalaria Spp* Accessions and Their Ability to Induce Suicidal Germination of *Striga Hermonthica* Seeds'. Frida Mwakha, A505/1138/2017. Department of Agricultural Resource Management, University of Embu
5. 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017: **MSc. Proposal** Host plant resistance to *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* in French bean cultivars grown in Kenya. Anthony Kimani Kamiri, A506/1078/2015 Department of Agricultural Resource Management, University of Embu

### **Appointment as Thesis Internal Examiner**

1. PhD Thesis entitled 'Integrated management of the tomato leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta*) on tomato in Kirinyaga County, Kenya by Ms. Peris Wangari Nderitu, Department of Agricultural Resource Management, University of Embu.

2. MSc. Thesis entitled ‘ Response of SPK 004 to meloidogyne species infestation and impact of sweet potato management practices on nematofauna in Mwea, Kenya by Ms. Hellen Njeri Maina, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Embu

#### **Appointment as Thesis External Examiner**

1. Genotype by Environment Interaction and Characterization of Selected Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) Genotypes for Cold Tolerance in Uganda by **Ms. Kidist Tolosa Entele** registered for a Master of Science Degree in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda
2. Inheritance of Resistance to Common Bean Bacterial Blight (*Xanthomonas axonopodis phaseoli*) Disease of Common Bean by **Ms. Cynthia Osundwa**, registered for a Master of Science Degree in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda

#### **Contribution to review of Degree programmes at the University level**

1. BSc. Agriculture curriculum
2. BSc. Horticulture curriculum
3. PhD Crop Protection curriculum
4. MSc. Information Technology curriculum

#### **5. Awards**

- *19<sup>th</sup> June 2019*: Awarded the **University of Embu Vice-Chancellor’s Research Grant Award** for participatory on-farm climate smart crops research
- *4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018*. Awarded the **African Challenge Fund Fellowship (ABCF) at Biosciences eastern and central Africa-International Livestock Research Institute** (BecA-ILRI) Hub, Nairobi, Kenya to unravel the genetic diversity and population structure of elite Bambara groundnut in Kenya
- *19<sup>th</sup> June 2015*: **Field Attachment Programme Award for the Dryland Cereals Program of the CGIAR Research**. Attached to International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, (ICRISAT) Kenya to conduct plant breeding research on sorghum resistance to stem borers.
- *June 7 – November 21, 2015*: Awarded a **visiting scholarship** at Iowa State University in Ames, USA for 6 months from June 2015 to November 2015. Attached to sorghum breeding program in the Department of Agronomy. The programme was sponsored by Du-Pont Pioneer for the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Programme.
- *16<sup>th</sup> December 2012*: Awarded the **African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellowship** for two years in 2013-2014

#### **6. Academic Exchanges/Fellowships/Internships**

- *18<sup>th</sup> November – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019*. **Teaching and supervision** of postgraduate students at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Department of Ecology
- *4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 -3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018*: **Africa Biosciences Challenge Fund (ABCF) Fellowship** to unravel the genetic diversity of elite Bambara Groundnut in Kenya using Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Markers
- *19<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016*: **Field Attachment Programme Award (FAPA) Internship** to support research on ‘Resistance to the African and spotted stem borers in sorghum in Kenya’
- *June 7 2015 - November 21 2015*: **African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellowship** for Advanced Science Training at Iowa State University, USA
- *16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 – December 2013*: **Carnegie Fellow** at Makerere University, Uganda

## 7. Grants

- Principal Investigator in a proposal entitled ‘Enhancing community resilience and adaptation to climate change through participatory evaluation and selection of elite Bambara groundnut genotypes for improved food and nutrition security in semi-arid lands of Eastern Kenya. **Awarded Ksh. 700,000**
- Field Attachment Programme Grant for the Dryland Cereals Program of the CGIAR Research in 2015. **Awarded US \$ 10,000.**
- Carnegie Fellow Doctoral Finalization Grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York, USA, 2013 to finalize my Doctorate in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology at Makerere University. **Awarded US \$ 10,000.**

## 8. Consultancy

- *3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019:* Consulted by Makerere University to examine and write reports of post graduate theses research for students registered for a Master of Science Degree in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems
- *5<sup>th</sup> January 2017:* Consulted by Kenya University to review a proposal and write its report for the 2016 Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor’s Research Grant

## 9. Scholarships/Sponsorship

- Sponsored by Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences to travel to Sweden, Uppsala and teach agriculture related courses and supervise post graduate students between 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019
- Full sponsorship by RUFORUM to attend the Fifth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference on 17-21 October 2016, Cape Town, South Africa
- Full sponsorship by Du-Pont Pioneer to undergo advanced research training at Dupont Pioneer and Iowa State University, USA on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 – November 30, 2014
- Full sponsorship by Du-Pont Pioneer to attend the World Food Prize meeting in Des-Moines, U.S.A, in Oct. 12-16<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Full sponsorship by Du-Pont Pioneer to attend Famers’ Progress Show, in Decater, Illinois Sept. 3, 2015
- Full scholarship by RUFORUM to train in Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology in Makerere University, Uganda in 2008 - 2013
- Full scholarship by RUFORUM to train in MSc. in Crop Protection at the University of Nairobi, Kenya 2005 - 2008
- Full sponsorship by CTA Netherlands to attend the 10th African Crop Science Conference in Maputo, Mozambique in 2011
- Sponsored by FAO and RUFORUM to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> African Crop Science Conference in El-Minia Egypt, on 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007
- Sponsored by Institut Des Sciences Agronomiques Du Rwanda (ISAR) to participate in the First National Conference in Kigali, Rwanda held between 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007

## 10. Short Courses/Workshops Attended

- Training on Pedagogy held from 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at University of Embu, Kenya
- Integrity in financing higher education in order to achieve the Big4 Agenda. Forum held from 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Maanzoni Lodge, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Integrating Gender into Research training held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at the International Livestock Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya
- Communicating Research Findings to Non-experts training held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at the International Livestock Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya
- Attended a workshop on Environmental Conservation Awareness held at University of Embu, Kenya on 8th March, 2018

- Workshop on Environmental Audit and Environmental Impact Assessment held at University of Embu, Kenya on 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017
- Training on postgraduate supervision held at the University of Embu, Kenya on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2016
- Training on Worker Right-to-Know OSHA Hazard Communication Standard Training held at Iowa State University of Science and Technology, USA on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015
- Training on Worker Protection Safety for Agricultural Workers course held at Iowa State University of Science and Technology, USA on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015
- Training on Waste and Recycling Guidelines for Laboratory Personnel held at by Iowa State University of Science and Technology, USA on July 04, 2015
- Training on Personal Protective Equipment Training developed by the Department of Environmental Health And Safety held at Iowa State University of Science and Technology, USA on June 24, 2015
- Training on Laboratory Safety Core Concepts Training developed by the Department of Environmental Health And Safety held at Iowa State University of Science and Technology, USA on June 29, 2015
- African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Advanced Science Training at Dupont Pioneer in collaboration with Iowa State University, USA from June 7 – November 21, 2015
- Trained on Genotyping-by-sequencing held at BecA Hub Nairobi, Kenya 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> /8/2013
- Trained on Scientific Communication Course held at Kenyatta University, Kenya 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>/7/2012
- Training on Application of Molecular Markers in Crop Improvement held at BecA Hub at ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010
- Training on Enhancing Conservation and Use of Neglected and Underutilised Species held at Kenyatta University, Kenya from 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July 2010
- Training on Personal Mastery and Soft Skills workshop held at Egerton University, Kenya from 13<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009
- Training on Proposal development and Technical Writing Skills held at Makerere University, Uganda from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009
- Training on Biosafety held at Makerere University, Uganda from June 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2009

## 11. Publications

1. **Muturi P.W.**, Mgonja M. and Rubaihayo, P. 2019. Gene action conditioning resistance traits to spotted stem borer, *Chilo partellus*, in grain sorghum. International Journal of Tropical Insect Science. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42690-019-00020-x>
2. **Muturi P.W.** Mgonja M. and P. Rubaihayo, 2018. Inheritance of Resistance Traits to the African Stem Borer in Grain Sorghum. *In press; African Crop Science Journal*
3. **Muturi, P.W.** Mgonja M. and Rubaihayo P, 2014. Identification of new sorghum genotypes resistant to the African and spotted Stem borers. *International Journal of Tropical Insect Science*, pp 1 of 9
4. **Muturi PW**, Rubaihayo P, Mgonja M, Kyamanywa S, Sharma HC and Hash CT, 2012. Novel source of sorghum tolerance to the African stem borer, *Busseola fusca*. *African Journal of Plant Science* Vol. 6(11), pp. 295-302
5. **Muturi P.W**, Rubaihayo P, Mgonja M, Kyamanywa S, Kibuka J and Sharma HC, 2012. New sources of resistance to spotted stem borer, *Chilo partellus* in sorghum. *Int. J. Agr. & Agri. R.* Vol. 2, No. 8, p. 18-28
6. Mwololo J.K., Mburu M.K.W., **Muturi P.W.**, 2012. Performance of sweet potato varieties across environments in Kenya. *Int. J. Agr. & Agri. R.* Vol. 2, No. 10, p. 1-11
7. **Muturi, P.W.**, Mwololo, J.K., Munyiri, S.W., Rubaihayo P., Munyua, J.K., Mgonja M., Manyasa E. and Kiarie N, 2010. A perspective on proteomics: Current applications, challenges and potential uses. *Agriculture and biology journal of North America*, Vol. 1, Issue 5: 916-918

8. J.K. Mwololo, **P.W. Muturi**, S.W. Munyiri and J.K. Munyua, 2010. An overview of advancement in bioinformatics and its application in functional genomics. *Journal of Animal and Plant Sciences*. Vol. 6, Issue 3:645-652
9. J.K. Mwololo, H.G Karaya, **P.W. Muturi**, S.W. Munyiri and J.K. Munyua, 2010. Utilization of proteins and nucleic acids in the study of gene function: A comparative review. *Journal of Applied Biosciences*, 30: 1861-186
10. J. K. Mwololo, **P. W. Muturi**, M. W. K. Mburu, R.W. Njeru, N. Kiarie, J. K. Munyua E. M. Ateka, R. W. Muinga and R. E. Kapinga, 2009. Additive main effects and multiplicative interaction analysis of genotype x environmental interaction among sweet potato genotypes. *Journal of Animal & Plant Sciences*. Vol. 2, Issue 3: 148 - 155.

## 12. Papers in Conference Proceedings

1. **Muturi P.W**, Rubaihayo P and Mgonja M, 2018. Inheritance of Resistance in Sorghum to the Spotted Stem Borer, (Swinhoe) (Lepidoptera; Crambidae). Paper presented during Organisation for Women in Science for Developing Countries, regional conference – Africa on 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at ICIPE, Kasarani, Duduvile campus, Nairobi, Kenya
2. **Muturi P.W**, 2017. Linking Agricultural African Universities with Stakeholders to Build Resilience among Small Holder Farmers: Need for Attention, Collaboration and Support. Paper presented during ASA 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on 16-19<sup>th</sup> November, Chicago IL
3. **Muturi P.W**, 2016. Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods and Building Resilience in Semi-Arid Lands through Cultivation of Elite Sorghum. Paper presented during ASA 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, December 1-3,
4. **Muturi P.W**, Rubaihayo P and Mgonja M, 2016. Inheritance of resistant traits to the African stem borer in Sorghum. Paper presented at the Presented at RUFORUM Biennial conference held in Cape town, South Africa on 5-21 Oct. 2016
5. **Muturi PW**, Mgonja M and Rubaihayo P, 2015. Morphological traits conditioning sorghum resistance to the African stem borer, *Busseola fusca*. Paper presented at the Entomological Society of America (ESA) conference in November 15 - 18, 2015 Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
6. **Muturi PW**, Mgonja M and Rubaihayo P, 2013. Resistance of sorghum to indigenous stem borers. Paper presented in the 11<sup>th</sup> African Crop Science Society conference held on 14 - 17 October 2013, Entebbe, Uganda
7. **Muturi PW**, Rubaihayo P, Kyamanywa S, Mgonja M and Sharma H C, 2012. Performance of Selected Grain Sorghum Genotypes for Improved Food Security and Livelihoods. Paper presented in the 3<sup>rd</sup> RUFORUM Biennial Conference, 24-28 September, Entebbe, Uganda
8. **Muturi P W**, Rubaihayo P, Kyamanywa S and Mgonja M, 2011. Sources of resistance to *Busseola fusca* and *Chilo partellus* in sorghum for improved food security and livelihoods. Paper presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> African Crop Science Society Conference held at Maputo, Mozambique on 10-13 October
9. Mwololo J.K., **Muturi P.W.**, Mburu M.W.K., Njeru R.W., Kiarie N., Munyua J.K., Ateka E.M., Muinga R.W and Kapinga R.E. “Participatory evaluation of sweetpotato production in Kirinyaga and Kwale districts in Kenya” Presented at the Regional Universities Forum Biennial Meeting, April 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Mangochi, Malawi.
10. **Muturi P.W.**, Mwololo J.M., Mburu M.W.K., Njeru R.W., Kiarie N., Munyua J.K., Ateka E.M., Muinga R.W. and Kapinga R.E. Strategies for maintaining sweetpotato nurseries free from insect vectors that spread Sweet potato Virus Disease. African Crop Science Society Conference proceedings 2007, Vol. 8 pp 2071-2074.

## 13. Special Appointments and Recognition

- Appointed by Makerere University to serve as an **external examiner** to evaluate post graduate thesis research for students registered for a Master of Science Degree in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems on 3rd October 2019
- Served as **chairperson**; and facilitated Science, Technology and Innovation for Development session during the Organisation for Women in Science for Development (OWSD) - Africa Regional Conference, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at ICIPE, Kasarani-Duduvile Campus, Nairobi, Kenya
- Served as a **member of distinguished panel of agriculture leaders** from the U.S. and Africa and helped lead a conversation on how agriculture and food systems can achieve greater productivity and sustainability to help feed the world at World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2015
- Recognized for **outstanding contribution** towards the University's attainment of composite score of 1.9826 in the excellent category in the performance contract in 2014/2015 Financial Year
- **Appointed by Kenyatta University to review a proposal for the 2016 Vice-Chancellor's Research Grant** entitled 'On farm management of biochar, fertilizer and water to increase productivity, soil carbon content and mitigate eutrophication and greenhouse gas emission from intensive rice- fish systems' on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017
- Invited as a **resource person** to a field day at ICRISAT – Kiboko Field station, Makueni County to participate in educating participants on sorghum value chain on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

#### 14. Appointments

- *26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to date: Academic advisor in PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding*  
*Terms of reference*
  1. Programme placement
  2. Mentor students/ensure maintenance of internal quality assurance mechanism
- *26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to date: Academic advisor in MSc. In Plant Breeding and Biotechnology*  
*Terms of reference*
  1. Programme placement
  2. Mentor students/ensure maintenance of internal quality assurance mechanism
- *26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to date: Academic advisor in PhD in Crop Protection*  
*Terms of reference*
  1. Programme placement
  2. Mentor students/ensure maintenance of internal quality assurance mechanism
- *26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to date: Academic advisor in BSc. Agriculture*  
*Terms of reference*
  1. Programme placement
  2. Mentor students/ensure maintenance of internal quality assurance mechanism
- *18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to date: Chairperson, Gender Mainstreaming Committee*  
*Terms of References*
  1. Development and Implementation of the Gender Policy and ensure periodic reviews
  2. Undertake sensitization programmes on gender mainstreaming issues
  3. Oversee the implementation of guidelines on gender representation
  4. Implement work place policy on gender-based violence

## **15. OTHER APPROPRIATE SKILLS**

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Self motivated, diligent and a team player
- Flexible and effectively work with minimum supervision
- Results oriented, able to meet deadlines and reliable
- Excellent facilitation skills and ability to work well in multidisciplinary teams
- Ability to manage high-level relationships with collaborating organizations/partners

## **16. Professional Affiliation**

Women in Science for the Developing World, Kenya Chapter

## **17. Community Outreach**

1. Mentoring students and young scientists
2. Participating in community development projects

## **18. Referees**

1. Prof. Eucharua Unoma Kenya  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning, Administration and Finance)  
University of Embu  
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