

ESTER JIMMY SIMFUKWE CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Date of birth: 11th June 1986

Nationality: Tanzanian

Gender: Female

Languages: Proficiently speaking, writing, reading and listening in English and Swahili.

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ABOUT ME

Ester Jimmy Simfukwe is the Project Associate at HarvestPlus Alliance Bioversity International & CIAT Tanzania, working on the commercialization of biofortified crops in the country. Before HarvestPlus, She worked with World Vegetable Center as a Coordinator - Legume Agronomist; and before that as an agronomist with the One Acre Fund, Minjingu Mines & Fertilizers Ltd. and Agricultural Research Institutes-Naliendele. Ester has a wealth of experience in the field, including working with innovation teams and communities facing agricultural challenges. Her career has focused on crop nutrition, soil science and agronomy for sustainable agriculture and development in Africa.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Establishment of commercial Pro-Vitamin A maize (VAM) and High iron bean (HIB) seed and grain systems, where two varieties of VAM and three varieties of HIB are now multiplied and distributed through the seed companies with a good network of agro-dealers.
 - Identification of key-value chain actors along Tanzania's biofortified crops value chain.
 - Together with GAIN supporting the Tanzania school feeding program with nutrient-rich food by mobilizing farmers to produce biofortified crops and linking them to school food suppliers.
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Organization: HarvestPlus-Alliance International Bioversity-CIAT Tanzania. Dates: October 2021 to date

Position Project Associate – Seed Systems

Key responsibilities

- Facilitate use, and support scaling up of the innovative, varied and affordable market and dissemination options (e.g. viable seed packs, mobile seed shops, voucher system etc.), to reach smallholder farmers, particularly women
- Assist in coordinating data collection at various stages of the value chain (seed production, seed sale, planting, harvesting and marketing) to support evidence-based learning and documentation of case studies
- Assist in coordinating partner organizations and county government agronomists on crop husbandry including post-harvest handling of biofortified crops (High Iron Beans)
- As a field contact person, build and sustain strong partnerships of various value chain actors and institutional linkages to deliver on the project's expected results and targets
- Support Project Coordinator in organizing various partner and field engagement and meetings
- Represent the project in relevant activities and forums
- Support in organizing and implementing training of farmers and farmer groups and other stakeholders in biofortified crop production, aggregation and marketing

- Participate in the preparation of periodic reports
- Maintain up-to-date data system of monitoring data that capture a value chain approach to biofortified crops commercialization

Organization: World Vegetable Centre-Arusha. Dates: October 2018 to October 2021

Position: Coordinator-Legume Agronomist.

Key responsibilities:

1. Characterization of legume germplasm for agronomic traits, biotic and abiotic stresses.
2. Conducted and coordinated varietal evaluation trials in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.
3. Increased breeder seed for use in multi-location trials, and distribution to partners as per requirement.
4. Prepared experimental protocols and share them with national partners. Collect, compile and analyse data from experimental trials.
5. Prepare progress reports and contribute to scientific paper writing for publication.
6. Lead capacity building activities targeting farmers, public and private seed producers, and other stakeholders through training, demonstration and dissemination of improved varieties.
7. Assist with the development of project proposals for funding.

Organization: One Acre Fund Tanzania. Dates: October 2017 to October 2018.

Position: Impact Field Agronomist

Key responsibilities

1. Drafted agricultural training driving towards simple and impactful methods for smallholder farmers to increase yields and maintain long term soil health.
2. Worked Field Operations Team to train Field Officers, implement training and supervise execution in the field.
3. Consulted directly with farmers through the Customer Service Hotline, engaging them with clear questions to identify their agricultural challenges and provide actionable advice.
4. Conducted targeted and prioritized follow up in farmer fields to confirm major challenges and suggest practical responses for both the farmers and One Acre Fund.
5. Conducted regular field checks in farmer fields and research station plots for technical identification of pests, diseases, and other irregularities.
6. Track weather data across operating regions and confirm the possible impact on farmer fields to inform crop insurance pay-outs.
7. Supported expansion research to identify the best-suited agro-ecological zones across Tanzania for One Acre Fund services
8. Created reports and effectively communicate results within and outside the organization.

Organization: One Acre Fund Tanzania. Dates: October 2016 to October 2017.

Position: Impact Research Agronomist at One Acre Fund Tanzania

Key Responsibilities

1. Trials designing and execution
2. Conduct regular trial plot checks for technical identification of pests, diseases, and other irregularities.
3. Conduct targeted and prioritized follow up with Research station managers in Iringa and Mbeya. Including tracking weather data across Research stations.
4. Support expansion research to identify the best-suited agro-ecological zones across Tanzania for One Acre Fund services
5. Create analytical reports and effectively communicate results within and outside the organization.

6. Partner in agricultural trial strategic planning.
7. Internal team support with agronomic technical information.
8. Agro input quality check; seeds, pesticides, and fertilizers.

Pangani District Council, TANGA: 2014.

Position: Agro Officer II- Commercial Crops and Cashew Specialist

Key responsibilities

1. Offer pest and disease management advice to farmers and District Commissioner.
2. Agricultural training to farmers and field staff.
3. Conducting agro-input, tool quality, and judicious use checks.
4. Gathering sharing is information on market trends on agricultural products
5. Linking research findings and offering extension services to farmers.
6. Conducting agricultural field schools and demonstrations.
7. Working with Cashew Industry Development Industry Trust Fund (CTFF) and Cashew Board of Tanzania in boosting cashew production in the District.

Institute: Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute, Cashew program -2013

Position: Agricultural Research Officer

Key Responsibilities

1. To conduct agricultural research that addresses the needs farmers needs and aspirations, particularly loved crop productivity and quality of Cashew.
 - This included; Conventional breeding of cashew clones, Cashew pruning trial, Cashew spacing trial, Cashew herbicide trial and Cashew intercropping trial.
2. Help to manage cashew nurseries where cashew grafted seedlings were produced. In order to faster speedy dissemination of its salient outputs, the Institute had seven Cashew nut Development Centres (CDCs) at Nanyanga (Tandahimba), Mangaka (Masasi district), Nakayaya (Tunduru district), Nyangao (Lindi district), Mkuranga (Mkuranga district) and Mlingano CDC in Tanga region.
3. Represent the Institute in research consultation as requested by Cashew nut Board of Tanzania under Cashew Industry Development Trust Fund (CTF) in seed and seedling multiplication programme in 2013.
4. Annual report writing and presentation to donors.

Organization: Minjingu Mines & Fertilizer: 2013

Position: Regional Sales and Extension Officer

1. Presenting the company at the regional level.
2. Soliciting for potential dealers all over the region.
3. Ensure all fertilizer logistics are clear to dealers and orders are communicated back to the factory and Sales Department.
4. Work with District Councils and selected dealers to create awareness on quality agro-input use
5. Helping customers to adhere to Government Price Directives and Voucher (Subsidy) collection System and payment.

Other Work Experiences

- Field Practical training at Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Centre in Moshi-Kilimanjaro for 6 weeks
- Field Practical training at Ngwazi Estate of Unilever Tea Tanzania Limited in Mufindi-Iringa for 6 weeks
- Working with One Acre Fund as Agronomist in Iringa region (part-time) for 7 months

- MSc. Researcher –the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Soil and Geological Sciences Department-2014/2016

Selected Publication

Simfukwe, E and Tindwa, H. (2018). Rock phosphate-solubilising potential of fungal and bacterial isolates from soils surrounding panda hill and minjingu phosphate rock deposits in Tanzania. *Tropical Ecology*. 59. 109-118.

EDUCATION BACKGROUND

TIME/YEAR	SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY	AWARDS
2014-2016	Sokoine University of Agriculture	M.Sc. Soil science and Land management
2009 -2012	Sokoine University of Agriculture	BSc. Agronomy

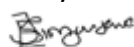
SKILLS

- Pest and Disease IPM accusation.
- GIS and remote sensing.
- Breeding and biotechnology.
- Soil and water conservation.
- Land management.
- Tree nursery management.
- Sales and marketing
- Team Management and Leadership
- Project Management
- Training.
- Communication skills.
- Ms Office - MS Word, Excel, PoPowerpointS Access and MS Publisher
- Google suits
- GenStat

REFEREES

Dr. Fekadu Fufa Dinssa (Ph.D.) World Vegetable Centre- Eastern and Southern Africa Position: Vegetable Breeder P.O. Box 10 Duluti, Arusha Tel: +255 27 2553093/2553102 Email: fekadu.dinssa@worldveg.org	Dr. Hamis Tindwa (Ph.D.) Sokoine University of Agriculture Position: Lecturer Department of Soil Sciences P.O.BOX 3008, MOROGORO. Mob: +255 (0) 754 565808 E-mail: tindwa@yahoo.com hamisi.tindwa@gmail.com hamistindwa@suanet.com	Emma Impink Step-Tanzania Position: Programs Manager - Southern Tanzania Elephant Program P.O.BOX 2256, Iringa Mob: +255 (0) 766 438126 E-mail: emmailpink.step@gmail.com
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I certify that the information given above is correct and true.



Ester Jimmy Simfukwe