

Dr Eric Boa

Agricultural Development

Born 1952. British nationality.

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KEY EXPERTISE

- Project management and planning: including resource mobilisation and evaluation
- Effectiveness of agricultural extension and farmer support services
- Training: course design and implementation, curriculum development, training of trainers
- Integrated approaches to sustainable rural livelihoods
- Natural resource management
- Workshop and conference moderation and planning
- Research planning, supervision and operations
- Innovation for knowledge exchange

MAJOR EXPERIENCE

- All agricultural production systems: field crops, forestry, commodities, horticulture
- Plant health systems (IPM, surveillance, diagnostics, phytosanitary, input supply)
- Bilateral and multilateral donors; private and third sector (NGOs, farmer groups and others)
- Projects and consultancies in more than 35 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America
- Report writing, editing, publishing and production of wide range of materials
- Developing partnerships between public, private and third sectors
- Promoting integrated health approaches (plant, human and animal)

EMPLOYMENT

2013 to date □ **Independent consultant**

Research Fellow, University of Aberdeen; Associate of *Agro-Insight*

1995 to 2012 □ **CABI**

Director: Global Plant Clinic and Plant Health Systems.

1991 – 1994 □ **Natural Resource Institute, UK**

Project manager and leader

1981 – 1991 □ **ODA**

Team leader. Cloves project, Indonesia (3y). Technical cooperation officer, Bangladesh (6y).

WORK EXPERIENCE

AFRICA: Burundi; Côte d'Ivoire; Ethiopia; DR Congo; Ghana; Kenya; Malawi; Mozambique; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; South Africa; Uganda

ASIA: Afghanistan; Bangladesh; India; Indonesia; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Sri Lanka; Vietnam

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN: Bolivia; Brazil; Colombia; Cuba; Ecuador; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua; Mexico; Peru; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago

OTHERS: Estonia; Georgia; Hungary; Italy; Spain; Solomon Islands

EDUCATION: 1981: PhD Forest pathology. *University of Leeds*; 1976: Diploma in Education, qualified science teacher. *University of Aberdeen*; 1975: B.Sc. Botany. *University of Aberdeen*

LANGUAGES: Mother tongue is English. I have good speaking and reading skills in Spanish and French and basic knowledge of Indonesian.

PROJECT FUNDERS

Bilateral and multilateral: ACIAR; AusAid; DFID; DANIDA; GTZ; SDC; CFC; EU; FAO; IFAD, SIDA, UNIDO, USDA, World Bank

Others: American Cocoa Research Institute; CARE; Commonwealth Development Corporation; Crawford Fund (Australia), ESCO Uganda (commodity exporter); Masterfoods; Natural England.

WORK AND RESEARCH

2000 – 2012

Plant health systems and plant clinics *Global* [DFID, SDC, IFAD AND OTHER DONORS]

I managed over 20 staff at CABI working in over 16 countries with a multi-million pound budget . Responsible for overall strategy, operational matters and research, including management of international diagnostic laboratory.

Selected projects and consultancies

2012 AND ONGOING

Agricultural Risk Assessment □ *Rwanda* (WORLD BANK). Risk analysis and identification of solutions for long term agricultural planning.

Extension capacity building □ *South Africa* (DEPT AGRIC.). Develop training courses, establish advisory services.

Development of commercial diagnostic services. □ *Brazil* (AGRÔNOMICA). Training, publications.

Organising farmer support □ *DRC* (ESCO KIVU SRL). Develop methods and tools for staff responsible for overseeing production of certified cocoa by 16 000 farmers.

Agricultural Innovation □ *Kenya* (EU - SOLINSA). How plant clinics help extension providers become demand-driven and gain better access to quality advice and technical support.

Plant health rallies □ *Africa, Asia and Latin America* (CABI PLANTWISE) Increase national capacities in rapid responses to manage agricultural risks, threats and realise the potential of new technologies.

2008 – 2011

IPM and pesticide reduction by smallholders □ *Nicaragua* (SWISS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION) Team leader and part of management group that included similar work in Kosovo, Albania and Tanzania. Three year project.

Training: plant health research and extension responses □ *Africa-wide* [AUSAID, CRAWFORD FUND]. Practical tools for diagnosing and responding to plant health problems.

2005 – 2007

Strengthening innovation for agricultural enterprises □ *Bolivia* (DFID) Examined demand, availability and uptake of new technologies by farmers, including crops, forestry, dairy products and livestock. Two year project.

Market-based development with bamboo □ *Ethiopia, Kenya* [UNIDO AND CFC] Participatory rural appraisal, analysis of research needs relevant to farmer demands and extension strategies.

1999 – 2004

Technology Transfer Expert □ *Belgium, France, Germany, Portugal, Philippines, India* EU Review potential of bamboo for growth and pro-poor development (particularly in housing). Three year project.

Building Plant Disease Management Capacity □ *Vietnam* [ACIAR] Project leader. Developed strategies for linking research and extension throughout Vietnam, focussing on export crops. Three year project.

1997 – 2001

Due diligence, renewable energy with bamboo □ *Honduras, Brazil* [CDC] Evaluated the production of bamboo for generating electricity. Assessed feasibility of investment proposal.

Biodiversity conservation and smallholder cacao □ *Ecuador* [ACRI; USDA] Project leader. Recommendations on how to ensure profitable farming and conservation of natural resources by smallholders. One year project.

1992 – 1997

Integrated Rural Bamboo project □ *India* [DFID] Project leader. Kerala Forest Research Institute and Kerala Forestry Service. Understanding farmers needs and matching them to available technologies. Three year project.

OTHER

Widely published: 50 + peer-reviewed publications, three books and regular popular articles. Reviewer of project proposals for EU, BMGF and others. Attended advanced course on monitoring and evaluation (INTRAC).