

CHARLES SSEMWOGERERE

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Expert in Agriculture, program development and project execution, with 5+ years of middle level experience

Recognized achievements in Agriculture research & Extension as well as execution of sustainable livelihood projects, both in single and multi-stakeholder entities. Successfully led the implementation of Agriculture and Financial Services projects for Grameen Foundation and so far transformed over 33,000 livelihoods, improved their productivity and access to quality inputs, extension and financial services whilst supporting budget management for multi-million dollar budgets and multiple partnerships every year.

Core Knowledge	Thematic Areas
• Agriculture research & Extension	• Livelihoods
• Climate change & Early Warning systems	• Value Chain Development
• Strategy Planning and Project Execution	• Development Sector issues
• Relationship Management	• Multi-Stakeholder Platform Development
• Impact Assessment/M&E	• Market Information Systems & market access
• Capacity Building	• Financial Inclusion and Value Chain financing
• Budget management	• Biometrics/Statistics
• Agro-inputs	• Training/Lecturing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

A. Project Lead AgFin Services / Lead Agriculture Extension

Grameen Foundation, April 2014 - present

In charge of leading the design and implementation of Agriculture and financial projects in Uganda for Grameen Foundation. Responsible for designing research intelligence driven extension models, execution, supporting budget management for all field implementations, risks, and regulatory compliance. Currently lead the flagship projects on mobile agriculture and financial service initiatives in Uganda.

Key roles and responsibilities:

- Managing stakeholders and partners relationships throughout the projects' implementation cycle.
- Serving as subject matter expert for Agriculture and financial services
- Managing and supervising project teams
- Contributing to the design and implementation of projects as well Monitoring and Evaluation systems
- Supporting the design and conducting of various research studies (baseline, gaps assessment and end-line studies) on selected value chains including maize, coffee, banana, sunflower, simsim, groundnuts, sorghum and cassava among others.
- Designing content on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and training manuals on project value chains for rural smallholder farmers.
- Training field agents/Community Knowledge Workers (TOTs) and selected farmer groups on selected GAPs and farming as a business based in the respective value chains.
- Training project team on essential extension methodologies and data analysis.
- Establishing, maintaining & strengthening linkages between Grameen Foundation & National research institutions including NARO, Makerere University & the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) among others.
- Overseeing activities of the farmer call center including aggregating & reporting on operational KPIs.
- Ensuring market opportunities with potential for pro poor growth and promotion
- Project implementation oversight (distribution and uptake of technology-based agriculture innovations and mobile financial services for the people in rural areas)
- Managing risks to the project's successful outcome
- Organization representation at National and Global level.

Key Accomplishments:

1. Successfully completed the Community Knowledge Worker (CKW) program, a 5year program. Developed Project Implementation strategy, TOTs successfully conducted for 300 CKWs in 7 districts that reached out to over 15,000 households, providing access to Agriculture, market information and weather extension services while creating a cadre of self-sustaining para-extensionists; bridging the gap between extension and other institutions.
2. Successfully led the implementation a 3year multi-stakeholder Uganda Value Added Maize Alliance (UVAMA) Project in Busoga region funded by USAID targeting smallholder maize farmers under Agroways Uganda Ltd, a grain warehouse in Jinja. TOTs conducted on maize GAPs and Mobile Agriculture Extension for 20 Agents/CKWs reaching 9,000 Households in Busoga region.
3. Currently leading the implementation of multi-stakeholder 3year project on rural financial inclusion and value chain financing. This project in the Teso-sub region focuses on Maize, simsim, sunflower, groundnuts, sorghum and cassava among others. So far TOTs/capacity building successfully done with 40 agro-input dealer Network agents reaching over 4,000 households providing access to agriculture and financial extension services, quality agro-inputs as well as easy access to financial products and services.
4. Similarly, am also leading the implementation of a 2year Multi-stakeholder project in Central Uganda focusing on Robusta Coffee farmers and rural financial inclusion. So far, TOTs successfully carried out on Robusta Coffee GAPs, Mobile Agriculture Extension and financial literacy among others for 44 Agents/CKWs reaching 6,000 households growing.

B. Researcher & Early Warning Systems Specialist:

Grameen Foundation, April 2013 – March 2014

Led agriculture research initiatives and designing of innovative extension offerings to farmers and early warning alerts.

Key roles and responsibilities:

- Led research on the key enterprises or activities based on region, season & farmers' interest.
- Led monthly trends analysis for the farmer queries & documented key findings that fed into designing FAQs
- Designed research questionnaires/surveys on content usability & feedback analysis from CKWs, farmers and partners.
- Provided technical trainings to Farmer Call Center staff, CKWs & farmers on the new agriculture appropriate technologies
- Supported the research and documentation of key learnings from farmers on local technologies used by the farmers to manage pests and diseases.
- Supported the setting up of farmer groups and selecting of model farmers in the selected regions to drive adoption of good agriculture practices (GAPs).
- Conducted field diagnostic (problem-solving) visits, identified field problems & proposed appropriate interventions.
- Supported projects with monitoring and evaluation

Key Accomplishments:

- Developed the CKW-farmer adoption drive strategy and training manuals on key adoption messages with their respective KPIs. The adoption messages included Farmer group formation and sustainability, Livestock management, Sustainable Agriculture, Post harvest handling and water harvesting among others.
- Successfully supervised and monitored the set up of over 100 farmer groups and demos on best practices for maize, coffee, banana, fish farming, water harvesting, farming as a business and grain storage structures among others.

- Successfully conducted TOTs for key staff and over 500 CKWs targeting over 5000 farmers in the districts of greater Bushenyi, Masindi, Kasese, Oyam, Gulu, Amuru, Kapchorwa, Masaka and Mbale.
- Successfully contributed to development of 7 key standard operating procedures (SOPs) on Collection, verification and dissemination of Indigenous/local technologies, Market information systems, content, sourcing and packaging & farmer call center processes among others.
- From the research on local/indigenous technologies, 15 technologies were identified, verified (some verified on TECA/FAO platform & others with NARO and other partners) and disseminated to farmers through the CKW platform.
- Successfully conducted a baseline survey on Uganda Value Added maize (UVAMA) project with 200 maize farmers in Busoga region.
- Spearheaded data mining initiatives on Agriculture trends that saw the development of crop first aid kits, calendars, FAQs, early warning alerts, crop business models and new agriculture content offerings for farmers for 7 key enterprises that included banana, beans, cassava, cattle, coffee, fish farming and maize.

C. Visiting Research Scholar:

Ohio State University (OSU), Ohio Agriculture Research Development Centre (OARDC), Department of Entomology, USA (May – August 2013)

As part of my Master's program that was funded by USAID through the Department Agricultural Production, Makerere University under the Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM-CRSP), I was offered an opportunity as a Visiting Research Scholar at Ohio State University (OSU) where I gained more experience in Entomological techniques and research methodologies. My key roles during this exchange visit included;

Key Accomplishments:

- Trained on various entomological techniques & attended online (Carmen) Lectures on Entomological techniques (ENTMLGY 6702).
- Assisted on testing the effectiveness of various pesticides on managing mites at the different growth stages of spider mites (Adult, Immature, Egg & nymphs). Main activity was sampling and data recording of spider mites on selected crops.
- Assisted on aphid scouting and data collection at the OARDC, USDA & Private Nurseries Research Collaboration Programme on the Efficacy of Smart Intelligent sprayer vs. the conventional sprayer in the control of aphids on club apples (Malus Sp).
- Trained on greenhouse farming technology, vegetable production as well as tunnel crop production.
- Trained on Data analysis using SAS, R and sigma plot.

D. Graduate Research Assistant

Makerere University, School of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Production, IPM-CRSP project (08/2010-08/2013)

Activities and key roles included

- Assisted in developing Pesticide Usage Decision Tools For Key Insect Pests of Arabica Coffee In Uganda
- Supported drafting experimental budgets and procurement of experimental materials.
- Setting up experiment, data collection, entry, cleaning, analysis and report writing.
- Training coffee farmers in Farmer Field Schools (FFS) on improving their Coffee Agronomy and yields
- Acted as a standing in teaching assistant; lectured and mentored students in various course units as indicated in the following classes:

Period	<u>Class</u>
2012	Makerere University. Standing-in Teaching Assistant For J. Karungi (Associate Professor), Department of Agricultural Production. CRS1202. Introduction to Entomology and Nematology. Lecturing 1 st year students for BSc. Agriculture and BSc. Food Science & Technology)
2013	Makerere University. Standing-in Teaching Assistant For J. Karungi (Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Production. CRS2105. Crop Science for Engineers. Lecturing 2 nd Year Students of BSc. Agricultural Engineering and BSc. Agriculture and Rural Innovations.
2014	Makerere University. Standing-in Teaching Assistant for Samuel Kyamanywa (Professor), Department of Agricultural Production. CRS3202. Pesticide Application Technology. Lecturing 3 rd Year Students of BSc. Horticulture.
2011-2014	Makerere University & Uganda National Agro-input Dealers Association. For the Department of Agricultural Production Coordinated by Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa. Supporting the examination of Agro-Input Dealers across Uganda and Issuing Dealership Certificates for those that have passed the Examination on Safe Pesticide use and Handling.
2011	Makerere University, Recess term. Standing-in Teaching Assistant For J. Karungi (Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Production. Entomology Practical on sampling techniques, Insect classification and preservation techniques. Lecturing 1 st Year students of BSc. Agriculture and Horticulture.

C. Customer Services Representative:

Grameen Foundation, Farmer Call Center; July 2011 to March 2013.

Activities, responsibilities and key roles

- Supported the initial development of agricultural databases with actionable content on 46 Crops and 7 livestock.
- Supported the initiation of strategies for the development and dissemination of Indigenous technologies among the smallholder farmers through ICT platforms.
- Participated in content quality assurance including data simplification and prototyping of new products.
- Reported on key metrics and variables and provided periodic progress reports to the Team Leader.
- Supported the documentation of key service areas (i.e. pests and diseases, weather etc) to ensure that we reach the desired population with a quality product at the right price and with the right promotion
- Supported linkages to research institutions like NARO & Makerere university as sources of new improved Ag technologies.

D. Research Assistant; Enumerator; Data Entrant; Trainer

Makerere University/National Graduate Institute for policy studies (GRIPS) Joint research project, Department of Agribusiness & Natural Resource Economics, Dick Sserunkuuma (Associate Professor) – (09/2009 – 04/2011):

Activities, responsibilities and key roles

- Assisted in carrying out Randomized Control Trials on Maize Technologies, understanding factors preventing maize farmers from using improved technologies & the challenges they face as well getting an insight on their perception on crop insurance.
- Administering both household & focus group interviews

- Data entry, cleaning and field report writing
- Training farmers on improved maize technologies such as using fertilizers, row planting & post-harvest handling

E. Research Assistant

Makerere University, School of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Production, IPM-CRSP project (06/2008-06/2009)

Activities and key roles included

- Assisted in research on understanding the effect of management practices on occurrence of thrips and determination of the thrips species composition on Tomato and Pepper in central Uganda. This was mainly through surveying selected farmer fields and using laboratory techniques and microscope to do the classification of thrips.
- Co-Assisted on research on the dynamics of thrips and tospoviruses as influenced by management practices in Uganda, A case of tomato and pepper.
- Conducted BSc. Dissertation research on effect of management practices on occurrence of thrips and their species composition in tomato and pepper.
- Data collection and analysis, report writing, and conference paper presentation.

F. Intern:

National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI-NARO) - Horticulture Department (06/2008 – 08/2008)

Activities and key roles included

- Assisted in field Agronomy & Nursery management of various of various horticultural crops
- Assisted in establishment of trials on mangoes and pineapples
- Assisted in pest and disease monitoring, identification and control in horticultural crops
- Assisted in data collection and handling on characterization of indigenous vegetables

PUBLICATIONS/PAPERS

1. **Charles Ssemwogerere**, Mildred Kathryn Nyaburu Ochwo-Ssemakula, Joe Kovach, Samuel, Kyamanywa and Jeninah Karungi (2013). Species composition and occurrence of thrips on tomato and pepper as influenced by farmers' management practices in Uganda. *Journal of Plant Protection Research*. Vol. 53, No. 2 (2013). DOI: 10.2478/jppr-2013-0024
2. Kyamanywa S, Ochow. M. K. N. S., Karungi J, Erbaugh M, Rayapati N A, **Ssemwogerere C** (2010). "Thrips profiles on Scotch bonnet pepper (*Capsicum Chinense*) and tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) in Uganda." *Journal of Insect Science*: Vol. 10. Article 166.
3. C. T. Muwanika, **C. Ssemwogerere**, J. Karungi, S. Kyamanywa, M.Ochwo-Ssemakula, N. Rayapati, J. Kovach (2013). Dynamics of Thrips and Tospoviruses as influenced by management practices in Uganda: A case of Tomato and Pepper. *Conference paper presented at the 12th International Symposium of Plant Virus Epidemiology*; 02/2013.
4. S. Kyamanywa, P. Kucel, G. Kagezi, K., Nafuna, **C. Ssemwogerere**, J. Kovach, and M. Erbaugh (2012). IPM of the white stem borer and root mealybugs on Arabica Coffee in the MT Elgon region in Uganda. Poster presented at the 7th International IPM Symposium, Memphis, TN, March 27-29, 2012.

EDUCATION BACKGROUND

2010 - 2013 MSc in Crop Science (majoring in Crop Protection), Makerere University by Course Work and Research. Thesis Title "Developing Pesticide Usage Decision Tools for Key Arabica Coffee pests in Uganda". CGPA 4.51 (To graduate January 2017).

2005- 2010 BSc. Agriculture (Hons) majoring in Crop Science, Makerere University. Dissertation title “Occurrence of Thrips and influence of management practices on their populations on tomato and pepper in central Uganda”

CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

02/2016 Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro1) - Certification; Inside NGO training, Nairobi Kenya

06/2012 Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and Pest Surveillance in Phytosanitary Systems, Center of Phytosanitary Excellence (COPE), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Nairobi-Kenya

05/2012 Comprehensive Plant Disease and Insect Pest Diagnostics, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro – Tanzania.

03/2012 Progress Out of Poverty Index (PPI) Data Analysis and reporting

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