

# CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

**Nicolas Uwitonze**

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**Citizenship:** Rwandese | **Marital status:** Married | **Gender:** Male

## PROFILE

An aspiring PhD scholar, and a current 'extensionist & research fellow' with over 6 years working experience in agriculture extension work focusing on program/project design, capacity development, monitoring & evaluation, climate smart agriculture, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, integrated pest management, and post-harvest handling practices across major crops & livestock value chains. Possesses the master's degree in integrated crop management (ICM) and a bachelor's degree in agricultural extension education, with impeccable written & verbal communication skills and excellent interpersonal skills. Interested in research for development, program design & evaluation, youth & private sector engagement in extension services.

## EDUCATION

**Masters of Advanced Studies in Integrated Crop Management (ICM), cum laude** **2020**

University of Neuchatel (UniNe), Institute of Biology, Switzerland

*Thesis: "Analysis of farmers' sources of information on fall armyworm and implications for the adoption of integrated pest management in Rwanda: a multivariate probit analysis using STATA"*

**B.sc in Agricultural Sciences (Agricultural extension education), Grade excellent (89.7%)** **2009 - 2013**

Alexandria University (AlexU), Faculty of Agriculture, Alexandria, Egypt

## WORK & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Research fellow

**August 2021- Present**

*High Lands Centre of Leadership for Development (HLC-L4D), Kigali-Rwanda*

*Mission: Shaping policy practice in Rwanda and elsewhere in Africa.*

- Design and formulate technical and financial proposals for research and consultancies
- Research and Consultancy Project Implementation (e.g., Data collection, data analysis, report writing, presentation of findings, among others).
- Writing grant proposals individually or in collaboration with other researchers from the Centre or other organizations for the benefit of the Centre.
- Research Mentorship for junior staff and internees at the Centre.

### Climate Smart Agriculture and Extension Advisor

**July 2017-July 2021**

*Cultivating New Frontiers on Agriculture (CNFA), Rwanda office, Kigali*

**Project:** USAID's "Feed the Future Rwanda Hinga Weze activity", Kigali-Rwanda

- Coordinated (was responsible for the design of work plans & strategies, monitoring the implementation, budgeting, and reporting) the successful achievement of project targets, like: 535,000 farmers who have applied improved technologies and management practices; 500 government extension staff trained on extension skills and climate smart agriculture (CSA); over 535,000 stakeholders that have increased the capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change; over 268,000 hectares under improved management practices or technologies that promote improved climate risk reduction, and 200,000 farmers increasing agriculture yields by over 50%.
- Directed project's interventions on extension & advisory services and climate smart agriculture aiming at helping smallholder farmers become more resilient to climate change in 10 districts.
- Designed & facilitated trainings of government extension staff, project staff and other extension service providers such as agro-dealers, youth, other private sector players to address CSA
- Supported the national extension program "Twigire Muhinzi" Needs Assessment and coordinated the implementation of results including leading the customized agriculture extension system design
- Directed the initiation, and implementation of activities contributing to the Hinga Weze support to the University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine; about "the development of a professional training program and curricula in agriculture extension that integrate CSA".
- Significantly contributed to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning of the project through data collection, analysis, report writing (Bi-weekly, quarterly, annual, project closure documentation)
- Ensured that nutrition, youth and gender mainstreaming efforts are a component of all extension and climate smart agriculture related activities.

**Innovations Manager****July 2015 - July 2017***Extension department, Partnerships Division, One Acre Fund Rwanda, Kigali-Rwanda*

Project: USAID's Farmer-to-Farmer Extension Project implemented in partnership with Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB).

- Supported RAB's food security department to coordinate extension services provision in Rwanda
- Lead the development and implementation of training of trainers (ToTs) sessions for extension workers on good agricultural practices, including pests & diseases on major value chains
- Lead the design and setting up of research/field trials for new agricultural technologies/ innovations, including farmer field schools, demonstrations, ICT tools and pilot training program
- Worked closely with researchers at RAB, One Acre Fund's innovation team and translated scientific results into extension guides & training materials (printed matters, audio-visuals & SMS)

**HQ Core Operations Manager****December 2014 - July 2015***Field Operations/Core Program, One Acre Fund Rwanda (TUBURA) - Kigali, Rwanda*

- One Acre Fund core program provides smallholder farmers with a "market bundle" that include education, finance, seed & fertilizer, agricultural insurance, and market access.
- Oversaw performance in repayment, enrollment and impact using ICT tools and special field team
- Responsible for the development of evaluation tools, performance monitoring trackers, and communication materials for field officers and district teams.

**Research assistant****June 2014- December 2014***Plantwise Internship-study on Mass Extension in Rwanda, CABI-Africa (Centre for Agriculture Bioscience International)/ Plantwise program, in collaboration with the University of Rwanda and RAB*

Supervised by Dr Eric Boa (University of Abarddeen, UK) and Dr Callixte Gatali (University of Rwanda):

- Carried out a 6-month study/research on mass extension in Rwanda, examining large scale campaigns against major pests and diseases on Cassava, Banana and Maize major pest & diseases.
- Investigated through desk study and primary data the scale & impact of extension services offered to farmers by different extension service providers including Local Government, Local NGOs, farmer organizations, cooperatives, projects, and international NGOs in Rwanda
- Developed the survey tools and carried out interviews with 500 small scale farmers and 37 extension service providers. Carried out data entry and data analysis using excel and SPSS.
- Drafted end of study final report, research brief, and presentation which summarizes all findings

**CONSULTANCY EXPERIENCE (Part-time)**

**Nov 2019-August 2020: Independent consultant** for the USAID's Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity project (DLEC), a consortium of IFPRI, Digital Green, and GFRAS:

- *Assisted an international team of extension specialists to conduct a study on Youth engagement in extension and advisory services in Rwanda and Uganda, examining ways to engage youth as both providers and recipients of extension*
- *Provided technical support needed in the planning, collection and analysis of information from interviews as well as review of relevant literatures, final report writing and scientific papers writing*

**March-May 2019: Research assistant** for Regional Research Center for Integrated Development (RCID) Ltd on behalf of ACORD - RWANDA PROGRAM in collaboration with MINAGRI.

- *Provided expertise in agro-ecology in conducting baseline Study on Integrating Agro-Ecological Practices into Agricultural Intensification Programs in Rwanda.*
- *Linked Crop Intensification Program (CIP) and food security and Agro-Ecological Practices (AEPs) districts' progress indicators and line ministries*
- *Aligned data analysis with the literature information and contribution to the final report*

**2019-Present: Consultant and Founding director of NEXT & Research Group Ltd**, a firm providing advisory services, consulting services and mentoring future change agents in sustainable development.

- **April –August 2019:** Sub-contracted by Solution Seekers Company Ltd to lead a *technical team of experts that translated the Rwanda National Agriculture Policy (NAP) from English to Kinyarwanda and the designed the simplified citizen guide of NAP with illustrations*; on behalf of CCOAIB

(umbrella organization for Rwanda civil society organization in development) and the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI)

- **March-June 2019:** Sub-contracted and Independent consultant supporting Viamo's project activities under the Hortinvest innovation fund to *lead the research and development of interactive voice record (IVR) scripts for user friendly good agriculture practices advisory for each step in the horticulture value chains and market analysis tool*
  - Provided feedback on the qualitative research tools for engaging commercial farmers in the design of the materials considering their level of knowledge, experience & understanding.
  - Compiled and compared existing good agriculture practices (GAP) information on targeted horticulture crops. Scripted the market analysis curriculum in user-friendly messages form

## KEY SKILLS

- Excellent user of English & French languages. Kinyarwanda (Mother tongue). Egyptian Arabic (Basic)
- Excellent user of computer, ICT tools, & statistical analysis tools: Excel, E-views, SPSS, STATA
- Excellent writing and presentation skills

## PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Since 2021: Member of YouthLead.org of USAID-funded project YouthPower Learning project
- Since 2020: Member and scientific blogs contributor at USAID's Agrilinks platform
- Since 2020: Member of the Economic Policy Research Network Rwanda (EPRN)
- Since 2019: Member of Rwandan Youth in Agribusiness Forum (RYAF)
- Since 2016: Member of Rwandan Forum for Agricultural and Advisory Services (FAAS-Rwanda)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

US Forest Service travel & training award to the international seminar on climate change in USA	2019
Certificate of Excellence for outstanding performance in BSc at Alexandria University, Egypt	2013
International computer driving licence, awarded by UNESCO	2012
President Mubarak initiative of quality education for African future leaders' scholarship	2008-2013
Rwanda Ministry of Education's award for top performers in Sciences in national examination	2007

## TRAINING AND RELATED COURSES/WORKSHOPS

COUNTRY	DATE FROM – DATE TO
RWANDA (ONLINE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional training by Economic Policy Research Network Rwanda: Proposals and business plans writing skills (Nov 13-16, 2020; Cost Benefit Analysis and Feasibility studies (Sept 11-13, 2020) ; Poverty analysis using STATA (August 29-30 and Sept 5, 2020); Planning, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation and reporting of projects (August 14-16, 2020)</li> </ul>
UNITED KINGDOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>01 June 2021:</b> Successfully completed the Plantwise Crop Pest Diagnosis eLearning course hosted on <a href="#">CABI Academy</a>, CABI, Nosworthy Way, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8DE, UK</li> </ul>
USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>March 3 - 5 2020:</b> Panelist on climate change and presenter of youth study findings during DLEC's envisioning the future of extension <a href="#">conference</a>, IFPRI, DC, USA</li> <li>• <b>27 April-18 May 2019:</b> Training (with 25 people from 18 countries) in the US Forest Service International <a href="#">Seminar</a> on Climate Change, International programs, Northern California</li> </ul>
UGANDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>28<sup>th</sup> Jan- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019:</b> Training on Climate change adaptation in food security and natural resource management, by <a href="#">Wageningen University</a> &amp; Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.</li> </ul>
ONLINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>16 April 2018 – 17 June 2018:</b> Completed e-course: "Feeding a Hungry Planet: Agriculture, Nutrition and Sustainability", offered by SDG Academy, an initiative of the United Nations. <i>Focus: Agriculture's contribution to the environmental, economic &amp; social pillars of sustainable development; the role of food systems in achieving global nutrition security and better health</i></li> </ul>
RWANDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>20-21 February 2018:</b> Participated in the training on nutrition sensitive agriculture &amp; accelerating behaviour change, organized by USAID and SPRING project, Grand Legacy Hotel, Kigali.</li> </ul>
ETHIOPIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017:</b> <a href="#">Participation</a> on behalf of USAID Hinga Weze in the Regional Training of Trainers and Awareness Generation Workshop on Fall Armyworm Pest Management in Eastern Africa, organized by USAID and CIMMYT, Capital Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</li> </ul>

UGANDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>18-23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017:</b> <u>Representative of RAB</u> in the “Strategic Planning Meeting for the establishment of a Regional Field School Support Hub”, organized by FAO, Protea Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda</li> </ul>
SOUTH KOREA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>11- 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016:</b> Represented Rwanda (along other 13 african countries) in the Training of Trainers on Agricultural Extension: “KAFACI capacity building of extension workers for the best use of research results and technologies”, organized by the Korean-Africa Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (KAFACI) of Rural Development Administration (RDA), Jeonju, Korea</li> </ul>
KENYA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>7-10<sup>th</sup> March 2016:</b> <u>Represented RAB</u> in the “Inception planning Workshop for the Institutionalization of Field Schools in Eastern Africa”, organized by FAO Resilience Team for Eastern Africa, Pride Inn Hotel- Nairobi, Kenya.</li> </ul>
RWANDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2015- 2016:</b> Post Postgraduate course work in Agriculture and Applied Economics at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kigali Campus, Rwanda Relevant Courses completed: Agricultural Policy analysis, issues in agricultural and applied economics, statistics, gender and economic development, institutional and behavioural economics, project planning and management, environment and natural resources management.</li> </ul>
RWANDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014:</b> Trained on “How to become a plant doctor” by Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) in collaboration with Plantwise (CABI), at Musanze, Rwanda</li> </ul>

#### **RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS** (*Publications, journal or conference papers, blogs, reports, presentations*)

- **Uwitonze N.**, Senge Moussa. 2021. Rwanda Customized Module: Climate Smart Agriculture in Extension and Advisory Services (part of the NELK Customized package adapted from Module 13: Risk Mitigation and Adaptation in Extension and Advisory Services). Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS), Switzerland. Available at [Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture \(CNFA\) website](#).
- Franzel, S., Miiro, R., **Uwitonze, N.**, Davis, K., Luzobe, B. and Rurangwa, R. 2021. Engaging Youth in Agribusiness through Private Sector Extension and Advisory Services: Lessons from Rwanda & Uganda. In: AIAEE Executive Board (ed.) Proceedings of the Virtual Conference of the Association for International and Agricultural Extension Education. April 12-14, 2021 pp. 207-2014
- Rutikanga, A., Claude, N., Nkurunziza, C., Habimana, S., **Uwitonze, N.**, & Mutoni, T. (2020). Climate-Smart Staking Strategies for Boosting Yield of Iron-Fortified Climbing Beans. Rwanda Journal of Social & Applied Sciences, ISSN: 2310-3205 (Vol 6, Issue 1)
- Franzel, Steven; Lowicki-Zucca, Jane; Miiro, Richard; and **Uwitonze, Nicolas**. 2020. Demand-driven extension and advisory services: Catalysing opportunities for youth in agriculture. *The International Journal for Rural Development* [Rural 21 54\(2\): 23-25](#).
- **Uwitonze, N.**, Gatali, C., Niyonsaba, E., & Boa, E. (2016). Rwanda pioneers rapid responses to crop diseases. In CABI Research Brief Series (Issue No.2, p. 4 pp.). CABI. DOI <https://dx.doi.org/10.1079/CABICOMM-62-8115> .
- **Uwitonze, N.**, Niyonsaba, E., Gatali, C., Boa, E. 2014. Mass extension in Rwanda: Exploring method and connections. CABI Plantwise Poster. Available at [Research Gate](#)
- **Uwitonze N.**, Ndaruhuye J.D, Rurangwa R., Davis K., Franzel S., Luzobe B., Miiro R. 2020. Rwandan Youth Engagement in Private Extension and Advisory Services. [Agrilinks](#) First published online on July 30, 2020
- Davis K., Franzel S., Luzobe B., Miiro R., Rurangwa R., **Uwitonze N.** 2020. Including Youth in Agriculture through Extension and Advisory Services. Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC): [Agrilinks](#) First published online on July 10, 2020
- **Uwitonze N.** as panelist on climate change and future issues in extension and advisory services, Envisioning Future Extension DLEC CoP [event](#), March 4-5, 2020, IFPRI, DC, USA.

#### **REFERENCES**

1. Dr Telesphore Ndabamenye, Strategic & Policy Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture & Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Kigali, Rwanda. E-mail: [ndabaphore@yahoo.fr](mailto:ndabaphore@yahoo.fr) Tel: +250788442105
2. Dr Steven Franzel, Agriculture economist & consultant, World Agroforestry Centre (Retired) | 875 Creston Dr. Maitland, Florida 32751, Orlando, USA | M: 1-321-276-3845 | E-mail: [s.franzel@cgiar.org](mailto:s.franzel@cgiar.org)
3. Prof Alfred Bizozwa, Agricultural Economist and Policy Analyst, University of Rwanda | E-mail: [alfredbiz23@gmail.com](mailto:alfredbiz23@gmail.com) | Tel: (+250)788415218

**I, Nicolas UWITONZE declare that the information provided, is true and honest.**

