

Personal Profile

Over the last twenty years I have been involved in applied research that aspires to promote rural development through agricultural innovations and the enhancement of agri-business in Africa. Throughout this time I have worked closely with the public sector of many African countries in the pursuit of the development of agri-based technology and policy platforms as well interacting closely with the agribusiness oriented private sector to ensure that the whole agricultural value chain is addressed.

Experience and Achievements

My experience spans the management of the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) as the Executive Director for a period of twelve years in which I was able to transform unitary operational centres into one cohesive and internationally recognized centre of research excellence. Realizing that Kenya is part of a regional community that had similar challenges and niche experiences, I helped to found a regional collaborative association in 1994, the Association for Strengthening Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA). This association of eleven countries is now being seen as a good and successful model of regional co-operation which allows for the sharing of cross-boarder experiences in countries sharing similar agro-ecologies and social challenges.

The successful launching of the ASARECA spurred the revitalization and actualization of other regional organizations in both West and South Africa country blocks. All these sub-regional organizations are now co-ordinated by the Africa wide Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) in which I played a key role in founding.

Beyond Africa I have been involved in the development of information exchange platforms particularly through the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), in which I have served in several high level global committees.

After retiring from active management of public research in 2000, I have continued the engagement with agricultural research and agribusiness through consultation and advice to many agribusiness oriented investments in many parts of Africa, where I work with National Governments, a multiplicity of donors and International Organizations as well as the international and local NGOs.

At a personal I have a strong entrepreneurial and proactive drive for agri-business and have invested a lot of personal time and resources in an effort to encourage the development of private sector led technology placement platform especially for new innovations like the tissue culture technology in vegetatively propagated seed materials aimed at reducing disease and enhancing yields.

Special attributes

My main professional commitment is to see that Africa's rural problems of food insecurity and pervasive poverty are resolved through the enhancement of agri-business that is based on a clear understanding of techno-innovations and their applications. For that reason I have a great desire to dialogue with policy groups, the farm families as well agro-processors and financiers since I believe that working as a team is more likely to yield the desired development goals. Indeed I can say that I have great experience and prowess in handling multi-faceted groups making sure that each and everyone sees their role and feels appreciated.

Career History

I was appointed Director of the KARI from 1989 to 2000. During this directorship, I also took up many appointments on Boards and Committees, a few of which are listed here below.

In 1990, I was appointed Board Chairperson of the KEVEVAPI, a board member of the KETRI, member of the Administrative Council for the SR-CRSP, and a member of a 3-man expert team to review progress of the World Bank-assisted EARP. From 1991 to 1993 I was Chairperson of the Crop Management Research and Training Committee, the tripartite responsibility of KARI, Egerton University, and CIMMYT, in an attempt to decentralize training efforts from Mexico to the Africa region. In 1992, I was appointed member of the Board of KEPHIS, a service body responsible for the quarantine and quality control of the plant materials entering or leaving Kenya. That same year I became a member of a core team of the East and Central Africa Research organization coordinated by SPAAR that designed the formation of ASARECA. I was later appointed Chairperson to oversee the organization through the initial stages until a secretariat was established in Kampala, Uganda.

In 1993, I was appointed Advisor to GTL, a body corporate in the Republic of Kenya that deals in the application of innovative science in supporting agricultural development in Kenya specifically and East Africa in general. I was also appointed member of the CGIAR's Specialist Committee on the setting up of the Integrated Livestock Research. The effort incorporated reorganization in management and scientific research approach and recommendations culminated in the formation of ILRI. In 1994, I was appointed Chairperson of the NARS-CGIAR Committee whose mandate was to find ways and means of enhancing collaboration between the NARS and IARCS. 1995 I was appointed Chairperson of the Task Force to review the "Ecoregional Approach to Agricultural Research" and the Oversight Committee, both sponsored by the CGIAR, and board member of the ISAAA. This last organization has the mandate of enhancing accelerated development, especially in the less developed countries, by negotiating proprietary/ non proprietary innovative technologies for application in the solution of agri-development implements. The emphasis currently is on biotechnology whose biosafety track record is proven. In 1996, I was appointed member of the Board of Trustees of CIMMYT and member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the CGIAR. I was appointed member of the Executive Council of the University of Nairobi in 1998.

More recently, I have been involved in the review of the CGIAR relationship with the African NARS generally and Kenya in particular; and consultant for the World Bank-sponsored project of setting up the FARA, a renewed effort to revitalize sub-regional cooperation in agricultural research in Africa amongst many others. I have also been involved in many reviews of development projects in many countries of Africa

In the period referred to I have authored over 40 articles and book contributions, the major work being “Transformation of Agricultural Research Systems in Africa” which in which I was the Editor and which was published in 2004. A few of the works are listed herein but a more comprehensive list can be submitted if required by CPWF.

SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS/BOOKS AND PRESENTATIONS:

1. *Transformation of the Kenya Agricultural Research Systems: Lessons for Africa*. Edited: C.G. Ndiritu, A.N. Mbabu and J.Lynam: published 2004 by Michigan University Press.
2. Not by Bread Alone – Food Security and Governance in Africa, Edited by Adelani Ogunrinade with Ruth Oniang’o and Julian May. Chapter 17 – The role of new technologies in enhancing food security in Africa, by Cyrus G. Ndiritu and Louise Wambuguh. (1999)
3. Ives C., Bedford B.(eds) *Biotechnology for a Better World*, (forthcoming). Chapter on Agricultural Needs in Sub-Sahara Africa: The Role of Biotechnology. (1999)
4. Chopra V. L., Singh R. B., and Anupam Varma (eds.), 1998, *Crop Productivity and Sustainability - Shaping the Future*. Proceedings of 2nd International Crop Science Congress.
5. Buresh R.J., Sanchez P.A.and Calhoun F. (eds.), 1997, *Replenishing Soil Fertility in Africa*, SSSA Special Publication No. 51, (Chapter 1, ”Soil Fertility Replenishment in Africa: An Investment in Natural Resource Capital”)
6. Ndiritu, C.G. (1999). *Biotechnology in Africa: Why the Controversy?* Edited: G.J. Persley and M.M. Lantin. *Agricultural Biotechnology and the Poor*: Proceedings of an International Conference, Washington, D.C., 21-22 October 1999. © Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Washington, D.C. (2000) pp 109-114.

Personal Details

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Education and qualifications

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in veterinary medicine in 1982 at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Master of Science (MSc) in Veterinary pathology, 1976, University of California, Davis, USA
- Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, 1974. University of Nairobi. Kenya

Memberships and Honours

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- * Member of the Kenya Veterinary Association.
- * Member of the Kenya Institute of Management.
- * Member of the Federation of African Consultants (Kenya Chapter).
- * Member (Founder) of Agri-Energy Round Table.

HONORARY/RECOGNITION

- * Admitted into the second edition (2001) of the 2000 outstanding Scientists of the 20th century, a publication by the International Biographical Centre (IBC) Cambridge, England.
- * Order of the Golden Warrior (OGW) 1995
- * Elder of the Burning Spear (EBS) 1996. The latter two awards are compliments in recognition by his Excellency the President of The republic of Kenya for outstanding national contribution to agricultural research and development.