



Mr. Simon Johnbright Habinshuti
Assistant Lecturer / Crop Scientist

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About/Introductory statement

Mr. Simon J. Habinshuti is an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Production, Crop Sciences unit. He teaches and Assesses Undergraduate students, does research in Agronomy and Farming Systems and Conducts community outreach activities in collaboration with colleagues.

Qualifications

- PhD in Agriculture (On-going), Makerere University
- M.Sc. in Agriculture (Agronomy and Plant Physiology), Tshwane University of Technology, 2015
- B.Sc. (Hons) in Agriculture, Makerere University, 2011
- Dip. in Crop Production and Management , Bukalasa Agricultural College, 2006
- Certificate in Computer Application Skills, Makerere University, 2008
- Certificate in Research Writing in Sciences, AuthorAid, 2019
- Certificate in Research and Proposal Writing in the Sciences, AuthorAid, 2021
- Member, Kagadi District Plant Doctors Association, Kagadi District LG, 2016 –To date

Biography

Mr. Simon Johnbright Habinshuti is a male Ugandan, born on 7th April 1982. He acquired formal education, attaining First class National Diploma in Crop Production, First Class Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture, and a First class Master of Science Degree in Agriculture majoring in crop sciences. He pursued several other trainings and acquired relevant skills in computer application skills (Microsoft office packages, Internet and communication, and data analysis packages), stable light isotope mass spectrometry, gender and HIV mainstreaming in farming activities and Commercial seed production and processing, Research writing in the Sciences, and Research and Proposal Writing in the Sciences. He served for at least five years in the Government of Uganda Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services working with rural farmers for socio-economic transformation. Currently he is serving as an Assistant Lecturer, teaching and examining undergraduate students, supervising undergraduate students' research projects, and conducts Research and Outreach activities. He teaches undergraduate course which include Principles of Agriculture, Introduction to Agronomy and agroecology, Introduction to Agronomy and Farming system and Crop production and Management. He is a researcher in agronomy, particularly plant and soil interactions, plant-Rhizobia interactions, Role of Phytohormones in regulating flowering and uniformity in ripening, sustainability farming systems with an aim of maintain productivity of soils and crops which are essential in alleviating food and nutrition insecurity.

Other Activities

- Member, Kagadi District Plant Doctors Association, Kagadi District LG. Involved in diagnosing plant diseases, pests and soil related problems and prescribing appropriate solutions where possible. 2016 -Todate
- Member, Senior Management Committee, Kagadi Revival Explosion Centre Church; the Top Decision-making Organ for the Church, 2019 – To date
- Member, Church Projects Management Committee, Kagadi Revival Explosion Centre Church, 2019 – To date
- Member, Kagadi Revival Men, Development Association, 2022.

Teaching

Programme

BSc. Agriculture

B. Agribusiness Management

B. Agric. and Rural innovation (BARI)

Courses Taught

Introduction to Agronomy and Ecology

Principles of Agriculture

Crop Production and Management

B. Agric. and Rural innovation (BAXI) Introduction to Agronomy and Farming Systems
Crop Production and Management

Research

On-going research project "Towards synchronised coffee flowering and yield" is being carried out in the districts of Lwengo and Masaka districts in Central Uganda, and Ibanda district in Western Uganda in collaboration with farmers. The main aim is to use Phytohormones to achieve synchronised flowering, increasing the number of flowers per coffee tree in order to achieve uniform ripening and increased coffee yields at farmer level.

Past research conducted involved assessing the Nitrogen fertilizer inhibition of biological Nitrogen Fixation in farmers' fields. Particular interest centred on how the artificial N affected Plant-Rhizobia interaction and the subsequent N-fixation.

Research groups and Centres

Research group in Synchronisation of coffee flowering and uniform ripening.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fagro.2021.692933/full>

Community based work

- Member, Kagadi District Plant Doctors Association, Kagadi District LG. Involved in diagnosing plant diseases, pests and soil related problems and prescribing appropriate solutions where possible.
- Implementing the School garden project in collaboration with Uganda Rural Development and Training Programme (URDT) to introduce Primary school pupils to agriculture. After demonstrating to the pupils how to grow a particular crop particularly vegetables in a school garden, the NGO gives pupils seed of a crop of their choice to grow at home. Follow up activities are then arranged to each pupil's home
- Member, Senior Management Committee, Kagadi Revival Explosion Centre Church
- Member, Church Projects Management Committee, Kagadi Revival Explosion
- Member, Kagadi Revival Men, Development Association.

Publications

Habinshuti, S.J., Maseko, S.T. and Dakora, F.D. (2021). Inhibition of N₂ Fixation by N Fertilization of Common Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) Plants Grown on Fields of Farmers in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, Measured Using ¹⁵N Natural Abundance and Tissue Ureide Analysis. *Front. Agron.* 3:692933. doi: 10.3389/fagro.2021.692933
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fagro.2021.692933/full>