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Professional Training and Experience

2012: PhD Plant Virology [Molecular Biology] Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK
2008: M.Sc. Biotechnology, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
2006: B.Sc. Agriculture, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Research Interests/Expertise

12 years of research experience with a range of multidisciplinary skills in plant viruses (Geminiviruses, Potyviruses and Ipomoviruses infecting cassava and sweet potato) and plant pests (cassava and sweetpotato whiteflies and aphids). Specific skills are in; serology, PCR, real time (quantitative) PCR, DNA cloning, sequencing, deep sequencing, tissue culture, thermotherapy, surveys and field trials.

Publications

Wasswa, P., Mukasa, S.B. and Gibson R.W. 2018. Identification of a 'mild' strain of sweet potato chlorotic stunt virus and impact on titres of co-infecting SPFMV. *African Crop Science Journal* 26: 349-363.

Kyallo, M., Sseruwagi, P., Skilton, R.A., Ochwo-Ssemakula, M., **Wasswa, P.** and Ndunguru, J. 2017. Deinbollia mosaic virus: a novel begomovirus infecting the sapindaceous weed *Deinbollia borbonica* in Kenya and Tanzania. *Archives of Virology* DOI 10.1007/s00705-016-3217-9.

Gibson, R.W., **Wasswa, P.** and Tufana, H.A. 2014. The ability of cultivars of sweetpotato in East Africa to 'revert' from *Sweet potato feathery mottle virus* infection. *Virus Research* 186: 130-134.

Wasswa, P., Otto, B., Maruthi, M.N., Mukasa, S.B., Monger, W. and Gibson, R.W. 2011. First identification of a sweet potato begomovirus (sweepovirus) in Uganda: characterization, detection and distribution. *Plant Pathology* 60: 1030-1039.

Wasswa, P., Alicai, T. and Mukasa, S.B. 2010. Optimisation of *in vitro* techniques for *Cassava brown streak virus* elimination from infected cassava clones. *African Crop Science Journal* 18: 235-241.

Abarshi, M.M., Mohammed, I.U., **Wasswa, P.**, Hillocks, R.J., Holt, J., Legg, J.P., Seal, S.E. and Maruthi, M.N. 2009. Optimization of diagnostic RT-PCR protocols and sampling procedures for the

	<p>reliable and cost-effective detection of Cassava brown streak virus. <i>Journal of Virological Methods</i> 163: 353-359.</p>
<p>Research Projects</p>	<p>Principal Investigator, PEARL Project: Sustaining sweetpotato productivity through exploiting reversion from sweetpotato virus infections. Sept, 2014 – Sept, 2018. Funded by the MBGF (0.5M US Dollars).</p> <p>Collaborator, RUFORUM CARP+ PROJECT, “Making Potato Value Chain Vibrant and Enhance Productivity and Incomes in Uganda” Feb 2018 – Jan 2021.</p> <p>Collaborator, RUFORUM CARP+ PROJECT, “Capacity building for micro propagation and certification of cassava planting materials to enhance productivity, incomes and food security and nutrition for small holder farmers in coastal Kenya,” Feb 2018 – Jan 2021.</p>