



GREAT

**GENDER RESPONSIVE
ROOT, TUBER AND BANANA
BREEDING COURSE**

WEEK 1 | September
12-21, 2016

WEEK 2 | February
13-17, 2017



GREAT

GENDER-RESPONSIVE
RESEARCHERS
EQUIPPED FOR
AGRICULTURAL
TRANSFORMATION



Welcome!

As co-leaders of the Gender Responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation (GREAT) project, we warmly welcome you to the GREAT Theme 1 course. Theme 1 focuses on Root, Tuber and Banana (RTB) Breeding, taking place over two separate sessions, on 12-21 September 2016, and 13-17 February 2017, in Kampala, Uganda.

We have a GREAT vision:

“To equip researchers to create more inclusive and effective agricultural systems by addressing the priorities of both women and men in sub-Saharan Africa.”

About Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation, GREAT:

GREAT equips researchers to create more inclusive and effective agricultural systems by addressing the priorities of both women and men in sub-Saharan Africa.

GREAT delivers courses to agricultural researchers from sub-Saharan Africa in the theory and practice of gender-responsive research, seeking to increase opportunities for equitable participation and the sharing of benefits from agricultural research and improve the outcomes for smallholder women farmers, entrepreneurs, and farmer organizations. By building and engaging communities of researchers equipped with the skills, knowledge, and support systems to develop and implement gender-responsive projects, GREAT will advance gender-responsiveness as the norm and standard for agricultural research.

GREAT is a 5-year collaboration between Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, that started in 2016. Funding support is from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

www.greatagriculture.org

The GREAT vision is based on a premise: That agricultural research projects are often designed with little consideration of how the research outputs, technologies and interventions will impact both men and women. Researchers are increasingly expected to design projects that deliver equitable outcomes, yet there is only limited or inappropriate gender training out there for agricultural researchers. Considering gender in research requires thinking differently, and not just applying tools. GREAT will not only teach participants how to use tools, but also how to change the way they look at their research, to be able to identify relevant gender research questions, or potential points of negative or positive impact for women and men, and how to address these.

What we strive for is changing researchers and research systems. If GREAT can change the agricultural research paradigm so that



gender is the lens through which all projects are conceptualized and implemented, research outputs will be more appropriate to the needs of both women and men farmers, and more widely adopted. Women will gain greater visibility and voice in agricultural research design and implementation.

All of this would culminate in increased benefits from agricultural research for men, women and children together.

The challenge in developing a truly applied gender training course for agricultural researchers bound GREAT proponents together, building a community of passionate supporters. We are indebted to the many visionary voices that have contributed intellectual input into the development of GREAT, and thank everyone who has generously devoted time, thoughts and resources to the GREAT vision.

Rhetoric around gender responsive research is not new, but action and evidence is what is lacking. With GREAT intervention, we hope that the usual process of paying lip-service to gender without linking it to concrete commitments of time, budgets and personnel will change. Change is our greatest challenge. We hope you will join us as agents of change to implement this new vision of agricultural research to intelligently design research projects that maximize impact for all.

Thank you for joining the GREAT vision!

Hale Ann Tufan

Margaret Mangheni

INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING COURSES

GREAT Course 2: *Gender-responsive Cereals Breeding*, will be held at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, with a first session August 7th-16th, 2017 and a second session January 15th-19th, 2018.

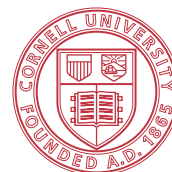
Information about applications and course details will be available in early 2017 on the course website at:

[www.greatagriculture.org/
contentcourses/upcoming-
courses](http://www.greatagriculture.org/contentcourses/upcoming-courses)



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PARTICIPANT TEAMS

Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD) containment and recovery; building capacity and piloting field recovery approaches through a learning alliance.

Donor Agency:

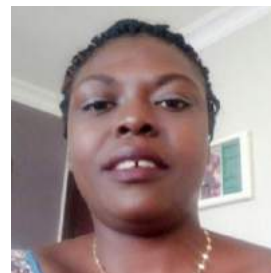
CGIAR-RTB

Mentor:

Brenda Boonabaana

Description:

This project focuses on containing Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD) through: piloting community and farm household recovery strategies, informed by gender role and household typology understanding, in BBTD-affected areas; testing alternative approaches to develop supply chains for virus-free planting material; and building knowledge and predictive tools of virus-vector-host interactions, cropping system and farmer management.



Lilian Nkengla, from Cameroon, is a research associate at IITA in Cameroon who leads the gender aspects of the BBTD project in West and Central Africa. She participates in the development of gender protocols and gender responsive management for data collection and qualitative research. Lilian studied Women and Gender Studies as an undergraduate and holds a PhD in Gender and Natural Resource Management from Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany.



Bonaventure Aman Omondi, from Burundi, is the epidemiologist on the BBTD project. He coordinates and supervises project activities in three pilot sites, runs field experiments to evaluate the role of seed systems in controlling BBTD, and collaborates with gender specialists on the implementation of control packages. Bonaventure studied agricultural education and extension as an undergraduate and has a PhD in Entomology from North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa.

PARTICIPANT TEAMS

Development Food Assistance Program for Burundi (DFAP), entitled “Amashiga.”

Donor Agency:

USAID/Food for Peace (FFP)

Mentor:

Renée Bullock

Description:

Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) is a serious problem of banana production in Burundi. While conventional control can be effective, it is extremely labor intensive, results in the certain loss of all or part of the banana harvest, and farmers have demonstrated significant resistance to adoption. After showing potential in field trials using a new approach called Single Diseased Stem Removal (SDSR), Bioversity scientists established self-help groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) aimed at understanding social dynamics around adopting the technology and participatory learning for fine tuning the control strategy. Preliminary results show that SDSR can rapidly reduce the number of infected plants with little effort, however, the pilot revealed potential gender challenges. Building on this work, gendered and socially differentiated research is needed to better understand the effectiveness of SDSR, and to assess how gender dynamics around decision-making, resource allocation and gendered cropping practices could impact the successful scaling of SDSR.



Francois Iradukunda, from Burundi, has worked as a systems scientist on banana-based cropping systems at Bioversity International on a collaborative, multi-partner development project led by Catholic Relief Service since October 2015. He has conducted research on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and sustainable banana seed multiplication for clean seed supply in rural areas. He has also been involved in agronomic field trials and social scientific surveys to understand the organization of rural agricultural systems. He holds a degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Burundi.

PARTICIPANT TEAMS

Driving livelihood improvements through demand oriented interventions for competitive production and processing of cassava.

Donor Agency:

CRP-RTB

Mentor:

Lora Forsythe

Description:

This project addresses opportunities related to improving efficiency and gender equity issues of cassava processing, and the resulting demand for sustainable intensification of cassava production systems. The research will also exploit opportunities for increasing farmer income through use of by-products of RTB production and processing waste for livestock feeding. Impact, especially benefitting women, will result from integrated improvements along the value chain: greater resource use efficiency and reduced pollution with processing into primary product; value-added utilization of by-products of production and waste from processing; and improved productivity, sustainability and profitability of smallholder cropping systems. This project creates the opportunity for researchers and stakeholders on three continents to work more closely together to expand the worldwide network of collaboration on post-harvest processing of RTBs for South-South learning.



Geneviève Fliedel, from France, is a senior Food Scientist at CIRAD, with more than 30 years' of experience working on adding value to dryland cereals in Africa. Her background includes collaborations on genetic diversity of local varieties, collaborations on improvement of traditional processes for a nutritional and sanitary value, and development of new equipment to facilitate and alleviate African women's work in villages and cities. Her more recent focus is on qualitative surveys, developing specific questionnaires, and product improvement to better meet consumer demand. She has a PhD in food science from the University of Montpellier, France.



Sounkoura Adetonah, from Benin, is an agricultural economist and gender specialist in value chains with IITA, in Benin, and has a PhD from the University of Togo. She specializes in innovative platforms for technology adoption in Africa, and takes a value chain approach for effective and efficient coordination among various value chains actors seeking access to input and product markets. She focuses on achieving gender equity and creating partnerships with other stakeholders (such as public-private, private cooperatives, and related organizations) along value chains. She works in capacity development through sensitization, training and advocacy at the national and regional levels.



Dominique Dufour, from France, is a researcher at CIRAD, currently out-posted to Fruits & Cassava Programs at CIAT in Colombia. He is the leader of the promoting postharvest technologies, value chains, and market opportunities theme of the CGIAR RTB Research Program. For over 25 years he has specialized in adding value to cassava, sweet potato, yam, cocoyam, taro, plantain, and minor RTB crops in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. He has studied how consumer preferences affect varietal adoption by farmers and how consumer or end user expectations inform the research process. Dominique holds a PhD in Bio-industry from the University of Technology of Compiègne, France.

PARTICIPANT TEAMS

Establishment of pilot sites for the strengthening of local seed systems and the validation of strategies for eradication and replanting of banana plantations infected by Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV).

Donor Agency:

BIOVERSITY International

Mentor:

Anne Rietveld

Description:

This project addresses Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD) caused by Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV) through: testing and validation of Musa seed systems in BBTV affected farms; development of farmers' knowledge based on symptoms and practices aimed at BBTD management; improved understanding of host-vector-virus relationships/epidemiology of the disease and awareness raising of different stakeholders/involving government support. Gender aspects are incorporated while organizing meetings in order to involve all categories of stakeholders in banana bunchy top disease management.



Célestin Niyongere, from Burundi, is a horticulturist specializing in plant pathology. He is chief of the crop production program at the Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi (ISABU) and coordinates BBTD, Africa Harvest and Aflatoxin projects. In the framework of the BBTD project, he did his PhD on bunchy top disease in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda, and has supervised seven agronomy engineers on bunchy top disease epidemiology (disease and vector) and socio-economic aspects including gender. He has published four scientific papers and one chapter on BBTD management.



Marie Bernadette Hakizimana, from Burundi, works in the monitoring and evaluation program at ISABU, and contributes to research activities on gender aspects across different projects based at ISABU. She has conducted various activities on gender aspects for BBTD including: gender analysis of ongoing activities; beneficiary and stakeholder sensitization about the gender inclusion in their work plan and activities; and, helping in the establishment of platforms considering gender aspects.



Gaspard Nihorimbere, from Burundi, is a dynamic researcher with an MSc in plant breeding, with a focus on sweet potatoes and also bananas under the crop production program at ISABU. He is in charge of the crop breeding unit and has introduced improved nutritional sweet varieties for selecting high performing parents for breeding, in addition to identifying, collecting and evaluating local sweet potato landraces. He works on reporting of ongoing activities for seed system aspects, including bananas, which include gender aspects.

PARTICIPANT TEAMS

Improvement of banana for smallholder farmers in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Donor Agency:

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, through the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

Mentor:

Sarah Mayanja

Description:

This project aims to improve banana production through: enhancing the performance of banana breeding systems in East and Central Africa; using pathogen identification and accelerated early stage resistance screening to enhance resistance to pests and diseases; improving breeding efficiency through molecular-based genetic studies and development of DNA marker-based early selection; enhancing breeding and adoption through end-user feedback systems and participatory evaluation; and developing an open-source database and tool box for breeders and researchers to improve efficiency and synergy.



Reuben Tendo Ssali, from Uganda, is a research officer (breeder) with the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) in Uganda who has been breeding East African Highland bananas for high yields, pest- and disease-resistance for about 12 years. This involves generating banana hybrids and evaluating their performance and response to pests and diseases to select the most promising hybrids. He holds a PhD in plant pathology from Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and an MS in Crop Science, and a BS in Botany, from Makerere University, Uganda.



Losira Nasirumbi-Sanya, from Uganda, is a highly innovative, proactive and result oriented social and development research professional with over 10 years of extensive strategic, adaptive and applied research experience. She holds an MS in Agricultural Economics and a BA in Social Sciences from Makerere University, Uganda, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Agricultural and Rural Innovation. She has attained further professional training in Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D); designing and managing multi-stakeholder processes for rural innovation; value chains and market-oriented research; and Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment of R&D Investments in Agriculture.



Mary Gorreth Namuddu, from Uganda, is a hard-working and results-oriented food scientist with a great desire to learn and handle new challenges. She has a BS in Food and Nutrition from Kyambogo University, and skills in food product development and value addition. She has gained experience in breeding from her current position as a research assistant in the laboratories of NARO where she is in charge of carrying out sensory evaluation of banana hybrids, the collecting and managing agronomic data and assessing hybrid banana performance to pests and diseases.

PARTICIPANT TEAMS

Increasing the quality and quantity of potato production in south western agro ecological zone.

Donor Agency:

Government of Uganda

Mentor:

Thelma Alkongo

Description:

Women contribute about 90 percent of labor activities involved in potato production in Uganda, yet they benefit less from their efforts than their male counterparts. This project, funded by the Government of Uganda and implemented by KaZARDI, uses pathology, soil fertility and entomology research, staff capacity building, and agronomic value chain development to boost potato yields, but gender sensitivity and equality is needed such that everyone involved in potato production shares in the benefits. Therefore, generating technologies that are gender responsive are paramount for the success of this project.



Joseph Etiang, from Uganda, holds an MSc in Soil Science with additional training in irrigation and drainage in Japan, and rice cultivation techniques in Egypt. Prior to joining the research team at Kazardi as a research officer in soil fertility he had 15 years of experience in agricultural practice at the district level where he was involved in training farmers, supervising interns and mentoring agricultural extension workers. He is a trained plant doctor, and has supervised plant doctors and facilitated establishment of six plant clinics in Bukedea district. He has participated in the development of small scale irrigation system in Kajamaka in Kumi district, the Ebenezer Dairy Farm for Mbale Theological College in Mbale, and the Eden farm in Totolim in Kumi District.



Rose Mwesige, from Uganda, works with the National Agricultural Research Organization as an entomologist. Her major role is to design and implement friendly pest management techniques. She has also trained in leadership and monitoring and evaluation skills. She holds a BSc in Agriculture majoring in Crop Sciences from Makerere University and a MSc in Nematology from Ghent University in Belgium. She also worked as field extension staff with the National Agricultural Advisory Services in Uganda.



Sarah Kyarisiima, from Uganda, holds a diploma in crop production and management from Bukalasa Agricultural College and completed her BS in Agriculture from Uganda Martyrs University in Nkozi. Courses she took include rice production techniques and management including breeding data collection and management from International Rice Research Institute, Philippines (IRRI). She also attended biosafety training involving managing confined trials Kazardi.

PARTICIPANT TEAMS

Mitigating hidden hunger with cassava as a source of pro-vitamin A carotenoids.

Donor Agency:

HarvestPlus Nigeria

Mentor:

Adeline Muheebwa

Description:

This project aims to combat micronutrient deficiencies in women and children, primarily focusing on Vitamin A, through the development and dissemination of resilient cassava varieties with increased levels of β -carotene. As homemakers and the primary actors in the cassava value chain, women play an important role in food choices, but often have little knowledge of yellow cassava and Vitamin A deficiency. There is therefore a need to better understand consumer or retailer preferences, and perceptions, on the productivity, processing, quality and product quality traits of yellow cassava.



Abolore Abdulrazaq Bello, from Oyo State, Nigeria, is the senior research supervisor in the Cassava Breeding Unit at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Abolore focuses on postharvest deterioration in cassava, and conducts gender related surveys with cassava farmers and end users to determine genetic and morphological preference traits. He studied agronomy at Ladoké Akintola University of Technology in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, and has a MSc in Crop Science from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, where he is currently a PhD candidate in Plant Breeding.



Durodola Sakirat Owode, from Nigeria, is a research supervisor working for IITA who is involved in hybridization and data collection. Durodola's passion for agriculture started when she was a student intern curious about what made cassava roots so big, even bigger than yam. The importance of cassava in Nigeria motivates her to breed new varieties for end users and interact with farmers. She has a BSc in Plant Science from Olabisi Onabanjo University, in Nigeria, and is the mother of two children.



Olamide Deborah Olaosebika, works in the Cassava Breeding Unit in IITA as a research associate specializing in gender studies and is experienced in designing and conducting quantitative and qualitative research. Olamide is delighted to learn new tools on how to map out and conduct gender responsive studies necessary to explore crop potentials and secure food, nutrition and income for all. Olamide has a MSc in agricultural extension and rural sociology from the University of Ibadan where she is a PhD student working on gender studies. She loves to dance and sing.

PARTICIPANT TEAMS

The Next Generation Cassava Breeding Project / Nigeria.

Donor Agency:

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Mentor:

Lori Leonard

Description:

The Next Generation Cassava Breeding (NEXTGEN Cassava) project aims to significantly increase the rate of genetic improvement in cassava breeding and unlock the full potential of cassava through: development of methods to increase flowering and seed set in cassava; increasing the rate of genetic gain through use of genomic selection; development of a database for information storage and tracking; enhancement of cassava germplasm exchange between Latin American and Africa; support towards establishment of a biotechnology/biosafety outreach and training in Uganda; development of infrastructure and training of plant breeders in Africa.



Andrew Smith Ikpan, from Nigeria, is a senior research supervisor with the Cassava Breeding Unit of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan where he has over 10 years of cassava breeding experience and a working knowledge of rice and yam production and molecular tools. Andrew, coordinates and conducts NEXTGEN Cassava trials in IITA. His professional interests are developing improved crop varieties, production and technology transfer for sustainable rural development through enterprise development. He is currently a postgraduate diploma student in Crop, Soil and Pest Management at the Federal University of Technology Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria.



Okoro Maria Justin, from Nigeria, is a staff member with the National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Umudike in Abia State. She works with the cassava research program in the breeding unit and is a member of the NRCRI gender team for the NEXTGEN Cassava project. She has a Higher National Diploma in Agricultural Extension and Management, a postgraduate diploma in Crop Production, and is currently an MSc student of plant breeding and genetics in the Agronomy Department of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria.



Tessy Ugo Madu, from Nigeria, has a PhD in Rural Development and over twenty years of progressive and active teaching and research experience in public sector agriculture, extension and women's issues. She is currently Assistant Director with National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI) in Umudike, Nigeria where she undertakes research into gender responsive cassava breeding for the NextGen cassava breeding project in Nigeria. Her remit also includes development and management of collaborative projects in research networks for effective technology/knowledge sharing among relevant Institutions as well as the gender focal point for NRCRI Umudike.

PARTICIPANT TEAMS

The Next Generation Cassava Breeding Project / Uganda.

Donor Agency:

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Mentor:

Richard Miiro

Description:

The Next Generation Cassava Breeding (NEXTGEN Cassava) project aims to significantly increase the rate of genetic improvement in cassava breeding and unlock the full potential of cassava through: development of methods to increase flowering and seed set in cassava; increasing the rate of genetic gain through use of genomic selection; development of a database for information storage and tracking; enhancement of cassava germplasm exchange between Latin American and Africa; support towards establishment of a biotechnology/biosafety outreach and training in Uganda; development of infrastructure and training of plant breeders in Africa.



Robert Kawuki, from Uganda, is currently employed by the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and based at the National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI), Namulonge. Robert has for the past 12 years been involved in cassava breeding in partnership with national, regional and international scientists. One key current project that Robert is involved in is the Next Generation Cassava Breeding Project. He regards development of sustainable technologies and science communication as key to the future development. Robert obtained his PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics from the University of the Free State, South Africa in 2009.



Ann Ritah Nanyonjo, from Uganda, is a graduate student at Makerere University, Uganda, where she is undertaking her Master's degree studies within the realms of plant breeding and gender. She is very keen on issues that target local economic development. Before enrolling for the Master's degree, she worked as an agricultural consultant with Dynapharm International for four years, an assignment which enabled her to work closely with farmers. While at Dynapharm, her responsibilities also included extension work in farmers' fields, and audiovisual training. She has a degree in agriculture specializing in crop science, and holds a postgraduate diploma in gender and local economic development.



Williams Esuma, from Uganda, works with the cassava breeding team at National Crops Resources Research Institute. After graduating with an MSc degree in Crop Science (Plant Breeding) from Makerere University in 2011, he was awarded his PhD degree in June 2016 at University of the Free State, South Africa, with research focusing on genetics of provitamin A carotenoids in cassava. Because of his passion for cassava biofortification, Williams recently won a competitive grant of \$500,000 US (2016-2019) from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to use genomic tools for developing cassava varieties with improved nutritional value and virus resistance in Uganda. Through this project, he sees great opportunity to unlock the potential of cassava for nutritional benefits.

PARTICIPANT TEAMS

The Program for Emerging Agricultural Research Leaders PEARL-1 Cassava Project.

Donor Agency:

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Mentor:

Peace Musiimenta

Description:

This project focus on the development of high micronutrient-content cassava varieties to contribute to a more sustainable solution to the problem of vitamin A deficiency than current strategies, which rely on fortification and supplementation, and do not reach all affected populations. In order to consolidate on gains made so far by IITA, CIAT and NRCRI, this project will screen already developed varieties in Nigeria. Objectives include: evaluating and identifying superior cassava varieties; improving farmers' access to a diversity of high carotene varieties appropriate to their needs and other end users through participatory evaluation and selection; developing new populations of high dry matter and carotene- rich cassava lines; and training a new generation of breeders in Ghana. Cassava is a highly gendered crop in Ghana, and this project incorporates gender through participatory selection using different gender groups; assessments of gender roles and responsibilities in cassava production; and gender-separated sensory evaluations of cassava samples.



Bright Boakye Peprah, from Ghana, is a research scientist, breeder and team leader of the PEARL 1 Cassava Project who is knowledgeable in quantitative genetics and biometry. He has conducted several projects that are development oriented. He currently and has previously had active collaborations with IITA in Nigeria and CIAT in Colombia on cassava breeding. His own research interest is focused on the genetic improvement of nutritional quality of cassava in Africa, and he is currently also working with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on beta carotene in cassava. He was named team member for the 2015 best research team in Ghana.



Benedicta Nsiah Frimpong, from Ghana, is a research scientist and an agricultural economist with specializations in: production economics; environmental and resource economics; gender issues; value chain analysis; marketing; policy analysis; project appraisals; and adoption and impact assessment of promising technologies and projects. She has been part of several international teams that carry out joint research. Her aim is to see research outputs contribute to the improvement of rural livelihoods, and to resource poor smallholder farmers becoming independent. She has contributed to these goals through capacity building for women farmers in improved technologies such as parboiling, and organizing farmers and other value chain actors to be independent and competitive through the innovation platform system approach.



Ruth Naa Ashiokai Prempeh, from Ghana, is a research scientist and a breeder with a molecular biology background with a passion for laboratory related activities, including using molecular tools in crop improvement. She has conducted several activities on diversity studies and marker-assisted selection. She is also involved in hands-on training of graduate and postgraduate students on molecular techniques utilized in agricultural research. Ruth is currently the Quality Manager of the CSIR - CRI Biotechnology Laboratory, where she is responsible for ensuring that farmers are provided with virus-free planting materials.

PARTICIPANT TEAMS

Sweet potato Action for Security and Health (SASHA) with Genomic Tool for Sweet Potato Improvement (GT4SP) complementing.

Donor Agency:

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Mentor:

Netsayi Mudege

Description:

Breeding is an important element of this project, with breeding support platforms established in Uganda, Mozambique and Ghana. Population development for key attributes is complemented by gender-separated, participatory variety selection with national program partners to ensure that end-user-preferred varieties are developed and disseminated. The focus of breeding in Ghana is on exploiting and expanding the diversity of quality types (including non-sweet/staple types) suitable for use both fresh and in processed products, and on reducing postharvest perishability. Breeding efforts include a focus on the nutritious orange-fleshed sweetpotato, and target the larger West African region, most immediately Nigeria and Burkina Faso. The project also includes nutritional and other value chain components.



Utoblo (Grace) Obaiya, from Ghana, is a PhD student at the West Africa Center for Crop Improvement (WACCI) whose research interest is in breeding of sweet potatoes. This interest is in line with her vision of enhancing global food security as well as a starting point for her dream of promoting agricultural productivity through women. She received her BS in Botany followed by a MSc in cyto-genetics and plant breeding, both from the University of Jos, Nigeria.



Eric Kuuna Dery, from Ghana, has worked as a research assistant with CIP's collaborative sweet potato research program based at CSIR-Crops Research Institute and CSIR-SARI in Ghana. His experience includes consumer sensory analysis of breeding trials, development of locally appropriate recipes, and nutrition and utilization extension education. Eric completed his BS degree in Biological Science at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, in 2008. He received his MSc degree in 2013 from the KNUST Department of Food Science and Technology.



John Kanburi Bidzakin, from Ghana, has an MSc in Agricultural Economics from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. He started his career with CSIR-SARI in June 2011 as an agricultural economist where he has carried out baseline, mid-term and end-line impact evaluations for several projects. John has also carried out economic evaluation of on-station, on-farm experiments and other technologies; worked as the marketing officer for Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Savanna Agricultural Research Institute (CSIR-SARI) from September 2010 to June 2011; and designed and implemented monitoring and evaluation plans for projects, contributed to the development of various farm and enterprise budgets, and conducted economic analysis of commodity value chains. He has a number of peer-reviewed publications to his name.



TRAINERS & MENTORS

GREAT brings together experts from a wide array of disciplinary backgrounds and professional experience. Having such a rich diversity of knowledge, skills and experiences together on one team allows us to offer GREAT course participants a truly unique training, and provide top-notch mentoring and support during the field research portion of the GREAT program.



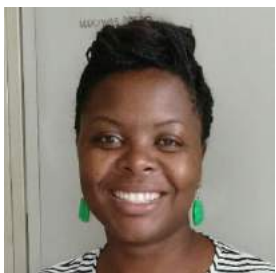
TRAINERS & MENTORS



Adeline Muheebwa is a gender and development consultant, a chairperson of AUPWAE, and a bronze medal winner for the first ever “Create and Cook with Tooke Flour” competition. Adeline’s passion is to inspire individuals, especially women and youths, to discover their purpose, restore their dignity and creatively use their potential for a fulfilling livelihood. She previously worked with ASARECA, a regional organization represented by 11 member countries. Prior to this, Adeline worked as a development practitioner with USAID, IFAD, Chemonics Inc, ILO and Winrock projects. Adeline is a mentor for the GREAT year-1 participant team “Mitigating hidden hunger with cassava as a source of pro-vitamin A carotenoids.”



Anne Rietveld is a researcher and gender focal point for the CGIAR Research program on Roots, Tubers and Banana, based at Bioversity International, and has a degree in International Development Studies from Wageningen University, with a focus on Rural Sociology and Farming Systems Research. Her current research centers on gender roles, relations and norms in the East and Central African highlands. Anne is a mentor for the GREAT year 1 participant team “Establishment of pilot sites for the strengthening of local seed systems and the validation of strategies for eradication and replanting of banana plantations infected by Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV).”



Brenda Boonabaana is a Lecturer at Makerere University, Gender and Development Researcher and trainer, and has a PhD in Tourism, Development and Gender from the University of Otago. She is a Fellow of the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) under the GAAP2 project. Brenda is a mentor for the GREAT year-1 participant team “Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD) containment and recovery; building capacity and piloting field recovery approaches through a learning alliance.”



Deborah “Dee” Rubin is a leading expert on gender and social systems analysis, and Co-Director of the consulting firm Cultural Practice, LLC. She has a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Johns Hopkins University, a bachelor’s degree in Anthropology from Brown University, and over 25 years of experience on strategic planning and evaluation, and agricultural policy research. She is primary author of “Promoting Gender Equitable Opportunities in Agricultural Value Chains: A Handbook.” Dr. Rubin leads Cultural Practice’s cutting edge work on gender and agriculture, based on the handbook, which guides much of USAID’s current work on gender and food security. She held an Agriculture and Rural Development Fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation, a AAAS fellowship, a MacArthur Foundation research and writing award and a Fulbright Fellowship.



Devon Jenkins is an agricultural development and project support / communications specialist based at Cornell University. His background covers over 13 years of international and community development experience, with a focus on sustainable agriculture and holistic community development, and includes extensive work in West Africa. As part of the GREAT project support team, Devon works on communications, project management support, and communications for institutional behavior change. He has a master’s degree in International Agriculture and Rural Development from Cornell.



Elizabeth Asiimwe is an agricultural extension professional with an MSc in Agricultural Extension Education. Currently, she works at Makerere University as a project administrative and financial support officer on the GREAT project. She is also a part-time tutor at Makerere, where she teaches in-service secondary school teachers of agriculture. Elizabeth’s work experience ranges from promotion of agricultural inputs in the private sector to research and research / communication work in academic and CGIAR institutions, respectively. Her research interests include gender, agriculture, human nutrition and adult learning.

TRAINERS & MENTORS



Elizabeth Parkes has been a HarvestPlus cassava breeder at IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria since 2012, after 20 years with Ghana's CSIR-Crops Research Institute. She develops cassava varieties with high levels of provitamin A in the storage roots, in collaboration with partners across Africa, and supports delivery activities to over 750,000 households in Nigeria. Elizabeth obtained her PhD in Plant Breeding from the University of the Free State, South Africa; her MPhil. in Crop Science from the University of Ghana; and her BSc. in Agriculture and Diploma in Education from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Her passion lies in working with end-users, particularly women farmers, youth and young women scientists.



Godfrey Kayoby is a socio-economist based in Uganda, who works as a consultant with Nkoola Institutional Development Associates (NIDA). His work has included research briefs and impact assessments for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Opportunity International, Uganda's national agricultural advisory services (NAADS), CTA and others.



Hale Ann Tufan is Principle Investigator of the GREAT project. A molecular biologist by training, she has worked for the John Innes Centre, CIMMYT, and the University of East Anglia, School of International Development. Hale joined International Programs, Cornell University in 2012 to manage the NEXTGEN Cassava project, for which she developed the NEXTGEN Cassava "Gender-Responsive Cassava Breeding" initiative to capture needs, priorities and challenges women and men face in cassava production, to prioritize gendered traits in breeding program design and implementation. Her current research focus is linking qualitative cassava trait descriptors with breeding and food science variables on station.



Hazel Malapit is a Research Coordinator at the Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). She coordinates research, training and technical assistance on the implementation of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), manages and coordinates the integration of gender into the research of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health, and conducts research on gender, women's empowerment, agriculture, health and nutrition issues. Before joining IFPRI, she conducted research on gender and development economics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and the World Bank. She received her PhD in Economics from American University.



Jaron Porciello is the Associate Director of Research Data Engagement and Training in International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University. As an information science researcher she is interested in how we collect, curate, and use data to solve problems and as well as how to build a culture of data sharing across international science collaborations. She is responsible for curating GREAT's resource hub and will be working with the group on online collaboration and group work. Jaron brings more than seven years of academic experience, and holds Masters degrees in Library and Information Sciences, and English, from Indiana University.



Jonathan Ngobi is a social scientist and development specialist based in Uganda, who works with Associates Research Trust (ARI), and the Development Research and Social Policy Analysis Center (DRASPAC). For the GREAT project he is involved in leading sessions on quantitative methods, including the quantitative methods practicum.

TRAINERS & MENTORS



Josephine Ahikire is Dean of the School of Women and Gender Studies and an Associate Professor of Gender Studies at Makerere University, and is Executive Chair of the Centre for Basic Research (CBR), a leading research centre in Kampala. Josephine has worked extensively in feminist political theory and has published works on women and politics, labour and urban culture. She is an active member of the Uganda Women's Movement and is also member of regional bodies such as the Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and the African Gender Institute (AGI) University of Cape Town.



Lawrence Lubyayi is a statistician with over 8 years' experience in data management, analysis, synthesis and dissemination; health systems research; social and public health evaluation research. Lawrence has a Master's degree in Statistics (Specialization-Biostatistics) from the University of Hasselt, Belgium, and international experience in Belgium and in the African context, particularly in Uganda. He has worked with global donors including PEPFAR, NIH, ICER, IFPRI, DFID, Global Fund for Children and USAID.



Lora Forsythe is a Gender and Livelihoods Specialist at the Natural Resources Institute (NRI), University of Greenwich. She has worked on a range of research and consultancy projects related to gender and social difference, applied in a variety of development contexts, including value chain development, food security and nutrition, land and natural resource rights, and project monitoring and evaluation. Her research focus is on value-chain development of staple crops and its impact on rural livelihoods, using qualitative and quantitative methods. Lora will be leading the session on gender-based constraints and opportunities in the RTB value chain. She is a mentor for the GREAT year-1 participant team "Driving livelihood improvements through demand oriented interventions for competitive production and processing of cassava."



Lori Leonard is an associate professor in the Department of Development Sociology at Cornell University and Director of the Polson Institute for Global Development. She teaches courses on gender and development and was a long-time board member of the Program for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality at the Johns Hopkins University. Gender and the gendered impacts of development projects are cross-cutting themes in her research, which is based primarily in Chad. Lori is a mentor for the GREAT year-1 participant team "Next Generation Cassava Breeding Project / Nigeria."



Margaret Mangheni is the Co-Project Leader for GREAT, and an Associate Professor at Makerere University. She has over 10 years of practical experience supporting integration of gender into higher education, and successfully spearheaded the integration of gender into the agriculture curriculum at Makerere. Margaret has conducted research and short-term consultancy projects with: the Rwanda Agricultural Board, Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organization, ASARECA and RUFORUM, focusing on gender responsiveness of project proposals, gender training, evaluations, project design, and institutional analysis. She is also a member of the international advisory committee of a USAID-funded project on integrating gender and nutrition into agricultural extension and advisory services.



Maria Nassuna-Musoke has worked extensively across Africa facilitating change processes since 2003, and is currently involved in facilitation for team building, strategic planning, process documentation, and project monitoring and evaluation. She has a PhD from the Institute of Crop and Animal Production in the Tropics and Subtropics, University of Göttingen, Germany. Maria also has an MSc in Animal Reproductive Physiology from James Cook University, and a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Makerere University.

TRAINERS & MENTORS



Miriam Kyotalimye is a Program Assistant at the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), and is based in Uganda. Her work as ASARECA includes agricultural policy support for the Policy Analysis and Advocacy Programme (PAAP). Prior to working at ASARECA, Miriam worked with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and she continues to publish with them on agricultural policy. She has an MSc in Agricultural Economics from Makerere University.



Netsayi Mudege is a Gender Research Coordinator for the International Potato Center based in Nairobi and the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB). She previously worked with the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), the African Population and Health Research Center, and the University of Zimbabwe. She has a PhD in Social Science from Wageningen University. Netsayi is a mentor for the GREAT year-1 participant team "Sweet potato Action for Security and Health (SASHA) with Genomic Tool for Sweet Potato Improvement (GT4SP) complementing."



Peace Musiimenta is a lecturer at the School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University, Uganda, and holds a PhD in Gender Studies. She is an experienced gender analyst, mentor, trainer and researcher in women, gender and socioeconomic development issues (gender equality, equity and development; Gender Equity Budgeting; gender analysis and alternative transformative leadership) at both national and international levels. Peace is a GREAT mentor for the year-1 participant team "The Program for Emerging Agricultural Research Leaders PEARL-1 Cassava Project."



Peter Kulakow is a Cassava Breeder / Geneticist with IITA. He obtained his BSc and PhD degrees, both in Genetics, from the University of California, Davis. Prior to joining IITA, he was an environmental consultant and research assistant professor in agronomy at Kansas State University. He has extensive experience in plant breeding, environmental science, and project management, including eight years with the Land Institute in Salina, Kansas and 13 years with Kansas State University, and has also worked as a consultant in Landscape Ecology with the University of Nebraska.



Renée Bullock is a post-doctoral fellow with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her work has focused on gender equality in value chains, land ownership issues, and relationships between community knowledge / ownership and livelihoods, particularly around agroforestry and sustainable land use. She has both a PhD and an MA in Geography from the University of Florida. Renée is a mentor for the GREAT year-1 participant team "Development Food Assistance Program for Burundi (DFAP), entitled 'Amashiga.'"



Richard Miir, a Senior Lecturer, trainer, facilitator and researcher at Makerere University, is passionate about gender integration. His work involves promoting gender equity and learning in a sweet potato-through-schools project, and he is engaged in an IDRC-funded project assessing the capacity of agricultural researchers to conduct gender-responsive research in Rwanda and Uganda. He guides graduate students' research in gender and climate change adaptation, and in understanding gendered patterns in farmer decision-making strategies. Previously he worked promoting gender with the Grameen Foundation's Community Knowledge Workers initiative. Richard is a mentor for the GREAT year-1 participant team "Next Generation Cassava Breeding Project / Uganda."

TRAINERS & MENTORS



Ravin Weerawardena is an international development professional with over 7 years of Programme Management and M&E experience with the UN and several leading INGOs in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and currently works as a consultant with ALINe. Ravin has worked on emergency response, early recovery and stabilisation programmes in countries affected by acute and chronic conflict and natural disasters. Prior to this, Ravin worked for management consulting firms in Sri Lanka, with a large portfolio of private and public sector clients across Asia and the Middle East.



Sarah Mayanja is a Research Associate at the International Potato Center in Uganda, and Deputy Project Leader / Gender in Value Chains and Marketing Specialist for the RTB-ENDURE Project. She was previously a Regional Manager at AGRINET, and an African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellow (2010-2012). She has an MSc in Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture from Uganda Martyrs University. Sarah is a mentor for the GREAT year-1 participant team "Improvement of banana for smallholder farmers in the Great Lakes region of Africa."



Thelma Alkongo is a gender advisor for Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and the East Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (EAAPP). She has worked as well with AfricaRice, and as a lead researcher for a gender analysis of the rice value chain for NARO. She has a graduate diploma in Project Monitoring and Evaluation from the Uganda Management Institute; a PhD in Agricultural Policy, Gender and Rural Development from the University of Reading; and an MSc in Entomology from Makerere University. Thelma is a mentor for the GREAT year-1 participant team "Increasing the quality and quantity of potato production in south western agro ecological zone."

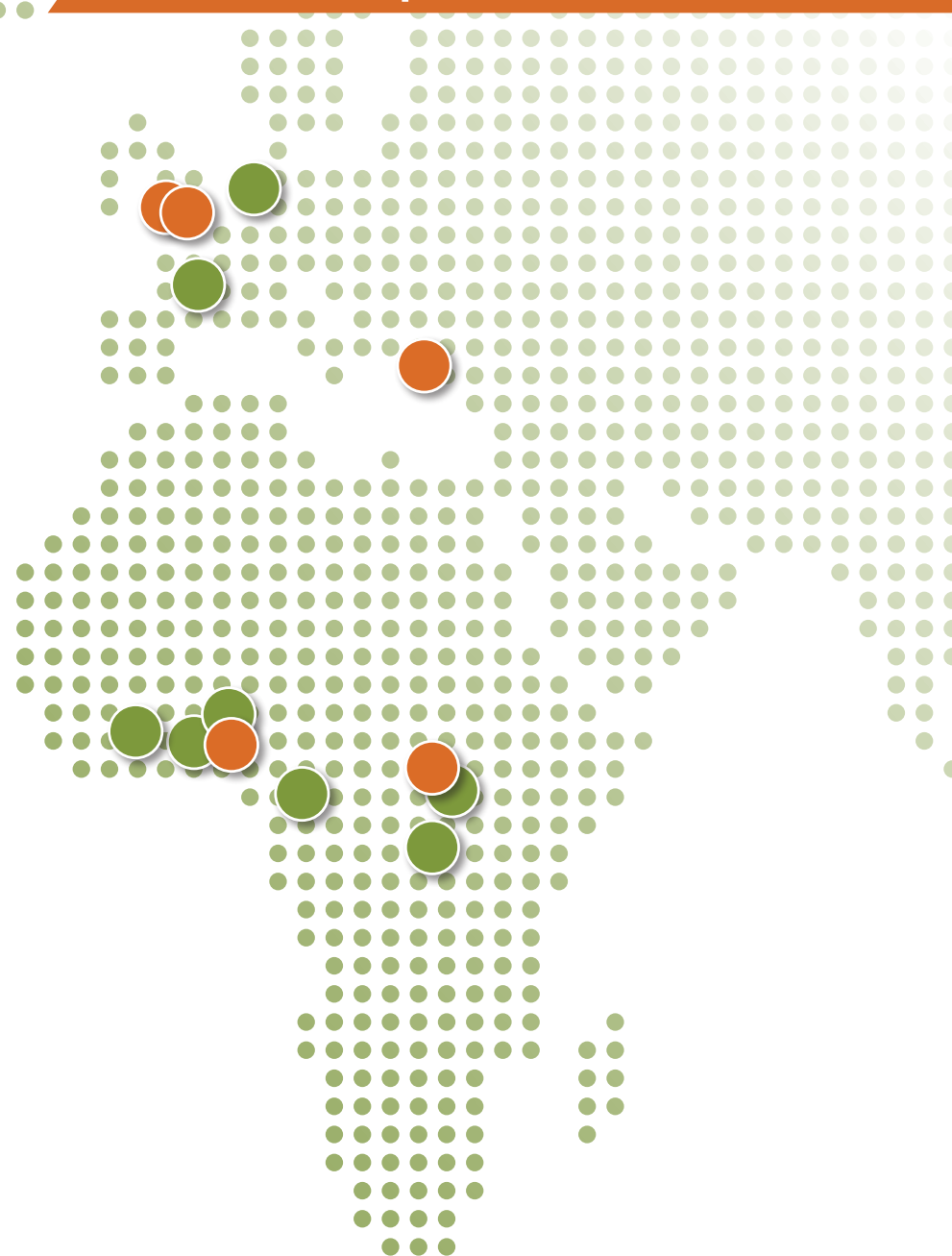


Banana flowers and leaves sold in a Thai market
by Takeaway (CC BY-SA <http://bit.ly/2gYRUIs>)

Participants/Teams Trainers & Mentors

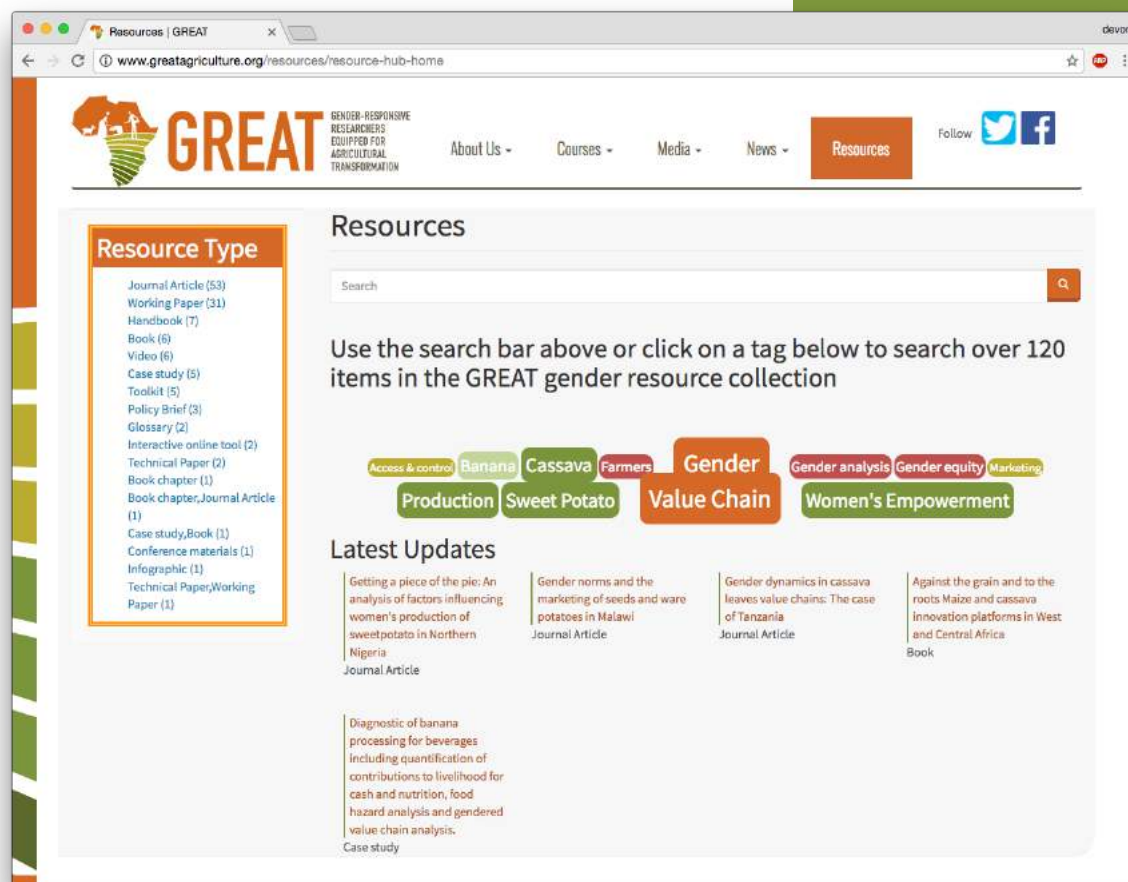
32 researchers
27 trainers / mentors
12 countries
11 participant teams
4 continents

MAP of Participants and Trainers



ONLINE Resources

Providing access to curated resources for gender-responsive agricultural research



Introducing:

The GREAT Resource Hub

Complementing the training and mentoring components of the project, GREAT also curates a collection of gender resources for agricultural researchers. This resource is freely available to anyone via the GREAT website, at www.greatagriculture.org/resources/resource-hub-home.

Resources cover gender-responsiveness for agricultural research for a broad range of crops and come from a diverse array of sources. As each themed GREAT cohort training takes place new resources will be added that are tailored to the respective crops and value chains of the cohorts.

If you have a specific resource you can't find, or would like to contribute something to the GREAT Resource Hub, please use the integrated form on the website to contact the GREAT web team.



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