

About the Contributors

Blessing Mukabeta Maumbe graduated with a PhD in Agricultural Economics with specializations in agribusiness management and marketing from Michigan State University (MSU) in 2001. Blessing has received fellowship awards from the Rockefeller Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, MSU Thoman Foundation, and the Southern Africa Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural Research/Germany Agency for Technical Cooperation (SACCAR/GTZ). He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in agribusiness management at various universities in Zimbabwe, South Africa and the United States over the past 18 years. He was the founding Lecturer and Coordinator of Agribusiness Management studies at Africa University (AU) in Zimbabwe. After that, he was appointed Senior Land Bank Lecturer at the University of Fort Hare (UFH) in South Africa. He later served as an Associate Professor in Business and Community Informatics at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), in Cape Town, South Africa. Blessing is currently working as an Assistant Professor of Agribusiness Management at West Virginia University, USA. Prior to this position, he was an Associate Professor responsible for the agribusiness management program at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU).

Charalampos Z. Patrikakis was born Greece, in 1970. He received his Dipl.-Ing. and his Ph.D from the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department of NTUA, Greece. He is an Assistant Professor at the Dept of Electronics of the TEI of Piraeus. He has participated in more than 27 National, European, and International programs (ESPRIT, RACE, ACTS, IST, ICT, eContent, eContentPlus), in 12 of which he has been involved as technical coordinator or principal researcher. He has published 21 chapters in books, 27 papers in international journals, 53 papers in international conferences, 6 reports, and has 2 contributions in national legislation. He is a member of the editorial committee of 11 international journals, 30 international conferences, and has acted as editor in the publication of 2 special issues of international journals, 3 conference proceedings volumens and coedited one book. His research interests include: mobile network applications and services, mobile and pervasive computing, broadband network communications, IP data communications, P2P and ad hoc networks, personal networks, and multimedia streaming. He is a senior member of IEEE, a member of the Greek Computer Society, a certified trainer by the National Accreditation Centre of Vocational Training Structures and Accompanying Support Services and a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece.

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Muhammad Shakil Ahmad is PhD scholar at the Department of Management and HRD in Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia. He is also Lecturer at Department of Management Science in COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Pakistan.

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Sylvester Ozioma Anie is a staff of Delta State Polytechnic, Ozoro, Delta State of Nigeria. He has served as Polytechnic Librarian and Dean of Students Affairs. He is a member Nigerian Library Association. His qualifications include BSc (Ed) Library Science; MSc Library and Information Science; and presently, a PhD student in Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State of Nigeria. His research interest is on the impact ICT on life and the environment. The best award/ Commendation was received from Emerald Literati Network (Emerald Group Publishing Limited) which has qualified the author to be a member of Emerald Literati Network. His recent publication is entitled “The Social Benefits of ICT Policies in Nigeria” published by Library Philosophy and Practice in March, 2011.

Isaac Kwadwo Asare is currently working as a Project Manager of the AGRA-funded Ghana Agro Dealer Development Project (GADD) project implemented by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC). Mr Asare holds a BSc. Degree in Agricultural Technology from University for Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana, a Postgraduate Diploma and Master of Philosophy in Sociology from the University of Ghana. His research and development interests include: participatory program planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of ICT applications in agriculture and rural development. He has participated in short courses in Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation – Managing and Learning for Impact, conducted by the Wageningen International, the Netherlands and in Project Management, conducted by the Management for Development Foundation (MDF) in Accra, Ghana. In the five years of professional experience, he has two key publications to his credit published in the *Urban Agriculture Magazine* and the *Journal of the Ghana Science Association*.

Ayanlade Ayansina is a Lecturer and Researcher in Department of Geography, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, Nigeria. His research interest is in applied GIS and remote sensing, environmental remote sensing and agro-climate modelling and monitoring.

Theodora Betsidou, was born in Alexandroupolis Greece in 1984 where she still lives. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering from the Department of *Environmental Engineering* of the Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH) and a MSc in “*Sustainable Management of the Environment and Natural Resources*” (specialized in “*Management of Mountainous Water Resources with Intelligent Systems and GIS*”) from the Department of *Forestry and Management of the Environment and Natural Resources* (DUTH). Her postgraduate thesis was entitled “*Soft Computing Modeling of the Wild Fire Risk Indices: The Risk Profile of Peloponnesus Region in Greece.*” She is currently teaching of Environmental Education in a school that is specialized for adult learning. She has attended several International Conferences about fractures-wastewater utilities. Most recently, she attended the 16th European Conference of Fracture in Alexandroupolis (July 3rd 7th 2006) the 13th International Conference on Experiment Mechanics in Alexandroupolis (July 1st 6th 2007) and the 2nd International Conference on Water Economics, Statistics, Finance and Asset Management of Small and Medium Wastewater Utilities in Alexandroupolis (3rd to 4th of July 2009).

Someshwar Bhagat (Senior Scientist, Plant Pathology, NCIPM, New Delhi) has awarded his Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Bengal, India. He has started his professional career by joining ARS in March, 2003 as Scientist (Plant Pathology) in Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. He has more than nine years of professional experi-

ences in plant disease management with special emphasis on biocontrol of plant diseases and Integrated Disease Management. He has more than fifty (50) publications in his credit. He is awardee of Jawaharlal Nehru Outstanding Post Graduate Studies in Plant Protection for his Outstanding Ph. D. Research work.

Archana Bhardwaj (Research Associate, NFSM Project) awarded MCA from IGNOU, Nagpur, Maharashtra. She has started her professional career as Research Associate in the year 2001. She has professional experience of 9 years working in ICT based applications for farmers & technical assistants.

Siegfried Kofi Debrah has 26 years experience in International Agricultural Development. A Ph.D from the University of Kentucky, Dr. Debrah holds a Project Management Professional (PMP) credential from the Project Management Institute (PMI). He doubles as IFDC's Representative in Ghana and Project Manager of the Millennium Challenge Compact (MCC)-funded agricultural project in the Northern Ghana. He also manages the Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA)-funded "Linking Farmers to Markets" project. His research and development interest includes soil fertility improvement, agro-dealer associations building, farmers' organizations capacity building, market development and ICT-based market information, and decision support systems. Dr. Debrah was previously Chief of Party of the USAID-West Africa funded Market Information Systems for Traders Organizations in West Africa (MISTOWA) which made innovative use of ICT to link agricultural traders in the West African sub-region. In 2006, Dr Debrah was awarded the maiden IFDC Board Chairman's Outstanding Professional Staff Award, the highest honor given to a professional staff for outstanding service and innovative contributions to international agriculture. He has published over 30 articles in refereed journals and workshop proceedings.

Abraham Getachew is a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, ILRI, IPMS Project. Abraham has over ten years of professional experience and holds B.Sc in Agricultural Economics from Alemaya University (Ethiopia) and M.A in Regional and Local Development Studies (RLDS) and Development Evaluation and Management from Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia) and University of Antwerp (Belgium) respectively. He has worked with UNDP, Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization and St. Mary's University College before joining ILRI.

Dirk Hoekstra is IPMS Project Manager for ILRI. He is an agricultural economist, with IR degree from Wageningen Agriculture University (The Netherlands). Dirk has worked for ICRAF and coordinated the East and Central African Highlands Agro-forestry Research Network and also managed a Dutch funded project in Ethiopia before joining ILRI.

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Lazaros S. Iliadis is Associate Professor of Forest Informatics in the Department of Forestry and Management of the Environment in the Democritus University of Thrace. He has published 30 research papers in scientific Journals, 60 in Proceedings of International Conferences and he is author of one book "Intelligent Systems and Applications in Risk Estimation." He is Guest Editor in the journals: *Information Sciences, Neurocomputing, Neural Networks, Computers and Electronics in Agriculture,*

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Engineering Intelligent Systems and member of the Editors' board of the *Universal Computer Science Journal*. He has been Program Chair in the following Conferences: EANN 2007, AIAI 2009, AIAI 2010, ICANN 2010, EANN/AIAI 2011 and Organizing Chair in HAICTA 2008. He has been Keynote Speaker in EANN 2009 London and Tutorial Presenter in AIAI 2010 Cyprus. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of London Birkbeck College, in University of East London, and in University of Western Makedonia Greece, in University of Makedonia, Greece. He is member of the Technical Committee 12, Working Group 12.5. of the IFIP, member of the board of ENNS (European Neural Network Society) and ex-president of the HAICTA.

Kamlesh Kumar (Senior Research Fellow, NFSM Project) awarded MCA from IGNOU, New Delhi and has one and half years professional experiences in computer application in e-pest surveillance based decision supporting system in pulses.

Okanlade Adesokan Lawal-Adebawale is a Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. He had his PhD in Agricultural Communication in June 2009, from the same University. His PhD thesis focused on ICT usage in agricultural research-extension-farmer linkage system in southwest Nigerian. Ever since then, the author's research work has been on Organisational Communication, Communication Media/ ICT usage in Agricultural and Extension Issues. Arising from his research activities, the author had 14 publications on ICT in Agriculture to his credit in both local and international journals, and Learned Society/ Association's proceedings and a chapter in book. He is a member of Learned Associations such as Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria (AESON), Agricultural Society of Nigeria (ASN), Farm Management Association of Nigeria (FAMAN), the Nigerian Rural Sociological Association (NRSA), and African Society for Information and Communication Technology (ASICT).

N. Mathiyalagan is an Associate Professor at the Post Graduate and Research Department of Communication, PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore. He has an academic experience of over 25 years and his specific area of interest includes e-governance implementation, developmental communication, new media activities and prime developmental projects undertaken by the government machinery. He has been guiding research programs leading to M.Phil and Ph.D in media studies for the past 25 years.

Neelam Mehta (Technical Officer, NCIPM, New Delhi) is awarded PGDCA and has 13 years of professional experience. She is actively involved in ICT based decision support system in various crops and implementation of IPM in various crops.

Julius Juma Okello is a Lecturer and the Coordinator of Agribusiness Management Program in the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nairobi, Kenya. He earned his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University with specializations in international agricultural development, agricultural marketing and resource and environmental economics. His current research focuses on the role of ICT in linking smallholder farmers to high value domestic and international markets, food safety and risk, sustainable management of natural resources. His other research activities are on safety of peri-urban fresh vegetables, sustainable water management and sustainable management of community forests. His latest publications include "From circle of poison to circle of virtue: Pesticides,

export standards and Kenya's green bean farmers," *Journal of Agricultural Economics* (2010); "Control of invasive *Liriomyza* leaf miner species and compliance with international food safety standards by small scale snow pea farmers in Kenya," *Crop Protection* (2010); "Using ICT to integrate smallholder farmers into agricultural value chains: The case of DrumNet project in Kenya" *International Journal of ICT Research and Development in Africa* (2010). Dr. Okello is currently coordinating an IDRC funded Africa-wide project on effectiveness of ICT on promoting smallholder farmer commercialization and market linkage. He has in the past worked for various international organizations including the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Oxfam (America), International Livestock Research Institute, and International Food Policy Research Institute as a consultant.

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Senthil Priya is a Research Scholar from the Department of Communication, PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, India and she has completed her MS (Communication) from Manipal Institute of Communication, Manipal and MPhil from PSG College for Arts and Science, Coimbatore. Her main area of interest is new media and communication. She has published two book chapters from her MPhil dissertation that analyzed the implementation level of two e-governance projects in revenue administration at district and taluk levels within Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu state. Her major research interests are e-governance implementation, new media and developmental communication. She is currently pursuing PhD research on implementation of E-Agriculture in Coimbatore taluks.

Ermias Sehai is a Knowledge Management Specialist, ILRI, IPMS project. Ermias has over 18 years of professional experience and holds B.Sc in Mathematics from Cumberland College (US) and M.Sc in Management Science (Specializing in Project Management) from the George Washington University (USA). He has worked with Ernst and Yong USA as senior consultant and with Price Water House Coopers as principal consultant before joining ILRI.

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Abebe Shiferaw is a Research & Development Officer, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Improving productivity and Market Success (IPMS) of Ethiopian Farmers' project. Abebe is Ph.D student at University of Bern and hold B.Sc in soil and water conservation (Asmara University) and M.Sc degree in Soil Science (Zhejiang University, P.R. China). He has over 15 years of work experience. He worked for Asmara University as Graduate Assistant, Alemaya University as Assistant Lecturer and Mekelle University as Senior Lecturer. Prior to joining ILRI, he worked as a program development coordinator and Senior Agriculture Officer for World Vision Ethiopia.

Niranjan Singh (Scientist, Senior Scale, NCIPM, New Delhi) has been awarded post graduate degree in Statistics from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India. He started his professional career as scientist (Computer Application in Agriculture) in the year 1998 and got posted in National Centre for Integrated Pest Management, New Delhi. He has been working since 1998 in the field of development of decision support systems for pest management in the mentioned Institute and has published more than 20 publications in his credit. For the last three years, he has been involved in implementation of IT based pest surveillance and IPM in pulse crops in collaboration with various stakeholders such as state department, State Agricultural Universities and large number of farmers across the country.

Saurabh Singh is a Business Professional registered with AIMA; Professor in Domain of Business Administration at G. B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar, India. Many titles have been conferred on him, such as Accredited Management Teacher by AIMA, India; Professional Member by ISM, Arizona, USA; Fellow of the Society by ISM, India. He has earned his MBA with Certificate of Merit from Barkatullah University; Bhopal, India preceded by his B. Sc. from University of Allahabad, India. He started his career with Corporate Sector and stayed with it for six years before entering in world of academics, research, and consultancy in 2003 and still continues to work for the same cause. He has supervised the Master's Research/ Project/ Thesis work of more than fifty students. He has already authored six monographs published in Great Britain and USA and significant number of research papers in scholarly journals which achieved top ten slots in many reputed B-Schools internationally, besides having authored few popular articles. He has contributed towards development of new courses, study materials, and played key role in development and successful launch of one Bachelor and two Masters' Degree Programs in the University.

Petros A. Tsioras has acquired an MSc (equiv) Degree in Forestry and Natural Environment from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (1999) and a Doctorate from the same University on the subject “Analysis and formation of modern forest workers’ training systems for Greek forestry” (2004). He is currently (Oct 2010 – Apr 2011) conducting postdoctoral research on ergonomics in forest operations at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU – Vienna, Austria). Since 2000, he has been working in many national and international research programmes (e.g. DeSurvey - EU Contract number: IP-003950, PINDOSLIFE – NAT/GR/000291). He has been working as a Research Assistant at the Laboratory of Forest Utilization – Aristotle University of Thessaloniki since 2006. His main research interests are forest workers’ training, ergonomics, and wood harvesting systems. Some of his papers have been published in peer-reviewed journals (e.g. Forest Ecology and Management, iforest), and he has also reviewed papers for other international journals.

S. Vennila (Principal Scientist, Agricultural Entomology, NCIPM, New Delhi) was awarded her Ph.D. degree from University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. She has started her professional career as Scientist (Agricultural Entomology) in Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi and she has professional experiences of more than 20 yrs in insect pest management specially Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Recipient of 14 awards during B.Sc.(Ag.), gold medals during M.Sc.(Ag.) and Ph.D, she has published more than 100 publications in her credit. She developed genetic, biological, forewarning, curative and educational tools of cotton IPM. She is Honoured Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Woman Agricultural Scientist Award. She is currently engaged as team leader for electronic networking and database management through surveillance and advisories for pest management and research into pest dynamics *vis a vis* climate change and pest forewarning.

Tizita A. Wasihun is currently a PhD student and Graduate Research Assistant at West Virginia University in the Department of Natural Resource and Environment Economics. She completed her Master’s degree in Agricultural Resource Economics in the same University. Before coming to the United States, she earned her Bachelor’s degree in Development and worked for almost four years in a research center and local and international non-government organizations on different community development projects in Ethiopia. Her research interest mainly is on agribusiness, regional and developmental economics.

Pádraig Wims has been Lecturer in Rural Development at University College Dublin, Ireland since 1987. His main academic interest is rural development, and his main research interests include the contribution of ICT to agricultural extension and rural development, the application of ICT to rural business and rural communities, and E-business in agribusinesses. Prior to joining University College Dublin, Dr. Wims worked in the Information Section of the Irish public agricultural extension service, on the development of a videotex service for Irish farmers.