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AJFAND and ROA Associate and Doctoral student wins an International travel Grant to USA

AJFAND and The Rural Outreach Africa wish to congratulate Mr. Duke Gekonge, a Ph.D student at the University of Nairobi who is among 20 competitively selected international student travel grant winners, awarded to attend this years' International Association of Food Protection (IAFP) Conference in Cleaveland, Ohio - United States of America (<https://www.foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/>).



The IAFP annual event recognizes and awards plaques and travel scholarship awards to exceptional students in the field of food sciences and food safety from across the world as well as capacity building through the organization's Professional Development Group. Mr. Duke's research is on naturalized guava value addition as the crop is a neglected and an underutilized species with extremely high annual losses in Kenya. Duke started as an intern at Rural Outreach Africa and has been AJFAND's reviewer since 2017. Currently he also serves as a field research assistant in the rural outreach programs and has been actively involved in the organization's sensitization and promotion of the school food security and nutritional programs in western Kenya through the school and home gardening projects and the coffee farmer household nutrition programs in Central Kenya through the kitchen gardening projects. To date, he has been a team leader in promoting ROA's Kitchen gardening concept for the rural households' food and nutrition security empowerments and has also been involved in the monitoring and evaluation of adoption and implementation of the kitchen gardens projects within ROA's outreach areas. Duke is currently in charge of Communications, Food Science and Technology Platform of Kenya (FoSTeP -K) a registered organization association that brings together professionals in food science and technology, nutrition and related disciplines in Kenya. FoSTeP-K is housed within ROA offices and the Patron is Prof. Ruth Oniang'o - AJFAND's Editor-in-chief. ROA is proud of this achievement and applauds Duke for this award.

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Daisy Lanoi C. Lelgut

We are proud to present Daisy Lanoi who has served as an intern in AJFAND and Rural Outreach Africa for the past 2 years, and until she attained her second degree. We are very proud of Daisy. She is brilliant, sociable and a team worker. We wish her a bright future. Cheers Daisy.

Prof Ruth Oniang'o
Founder AJFAND and ROA

Daisy Lanoi C. Lelgut, a Food Technologist, is a recent graduate from Egerton University, Kenya; holding a Master's Degree in Food Science. Her research work has been on the preservation of whole mangoes (*Mangifera indica*) through coating with edible gum arabic and using canning technology to preserve mango chunks in Kenya. She has been involved in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in her work especially among Mango farmers in Makueni County of Kenya, to promote production and preservation of the fruit by the farmers; and has assessed and trained farmers on the need for sustainable production and consumption by ensuring good agricultural practices on their farms. This has been under the facilitation by German Academic Exchange Service DAAD Exceed/International Centre for Development and Decent Work (ICDD).

Miss Daisy takes keen considerations on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focusing on Food Security and Nutrition. Focus on this has been in Western Kenya where she has worked with the community and primary schools around Kakamega County of Kenya. Activities therein involved assessing and training farmers on the need for sustainable production and consumption of nutritious foods by ensuring good agricultural practices on their farms; providing orange-fleshed sweet potato vines and indigenous vegetable seeds for them to plant and consume the products obtained from them. This has been under the facilitation of University of California Los Angeles through Rural Outreach Africa (ROA), an NGO based in Kenya and whose activities are also aimed at empowering communities.

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Daisy is the organizing secretary to the Food Science and Technology Platform of Kenya (FOSTEP-K), an adhering body to the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST); and has been actively involved in the preparations of trainings, symposiums and conferences among other activities of the platform within the country and abroad. She is currently an assistant administrator for the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) Task Force on Food Systems and COVID-19, based in Canada.

She is a member of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) and has contributed to a book chapter as a co-author on matters of food safety legislation in some developing countries.

She has participated as an editorial assistant to the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND), where she has been involved with reviewing of manuscripts as a junior reviewer and also cross-checking papers meant for publishing, in accordance to other reviewers' comments and also, in accordance to the Journal's requirements for publishing, prior to publishing.

She is a technical committee member at the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS/TC Horticultural Fresh Produce Technical Committee), a government agency tasked with the provision of Standards, Metrology and Conformity Assessment (SMCA) services (This is on contract basis).

Miss Daisy has participated in the Emerging Leaders Network (ELN) programme. A yearly programme offered by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), based in Chicago, USA.

Daisy is self-driven for scaling heights in science and technology, especially the involvement of women in science and technology. She likes handling different challenges because they help in sharpening her skills both in the academic and the professional world. She works well under minimum supervision to obtain maximum possible results in order to realize organizational and personal goals, while maintaining high standards of professionalism, integrity and ethics in her profession. Her career objective is to exploit her skills, energy and experience in the field of Food Science and Technology with high levels of competence and integrity for the betterment of the world.

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CONGRATULATIONS DR. MARGUERITE NIYIBITURONSA!!



**Dr. Marguerite
Niyibituronsa**

Mentorship is at the heart of AJFAND. Dr. Marguerite Niyibituronsa successfully defended her PhD thesis at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in August 2020. She credited the journal and Prof. Ruth Oniang'o for contributing to her success, particularly in publishing her research.

Some of Dr. Niyibituronsa's publications carried in AJFAND include:

1. Niyibituronsa M, Kyallo F, Mugo C and S Gaidashova Improving the nutritional status of malnourished children using soybean products in Rwanda, [AJFAND, Vol.14, No4, July 2014](#)
2. Niyibituronsa M, Kyallo F, Mugo C and S Gaidashova. The effect of household food practices and disease prevalence on nutrition status of under five children in ruhango district, Rwanda. [AJFAND, Vol.15, No1, January 2015](#)
3. Niyibituronsa M, Onyango AN, Gaidashova S, Imathiu S, Uwizerwa M, Wanjuki I, Nganga F, Muhutu JC, Birungi J, Ghimire S, Raes K, De Boevre M, De Saeger S and J Harvey (2018). Evaluation of mycotoxin content in soybean (*Glycine max L.*) grown in Rwanda. *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*, 18(3): 13808-13824. DOI: [10.18697/ajfand.83.17710](https://doi.org/10.18697/ajfand.83.17710)

In this issue:

4. Niyibituronsa M, *et al.* (2020) Assessment of aflatoxin and fumonisin contamination levels in maize and mycotoxins awareness and risk factors in Rwanda. *Afr. J. Food Agric. Nutr. Dev.* 2020; 20(5): 16420-16446