



In partnership with



# 2022 Fellows

---

Mastercard Foundation – EARTH University Foundation  
Fellowship Program



In partnership with



## Armand Yambisa



- **Country:** Zambia
- **University:** EARTH University Class of 2020
- **Track:** Agricultural Innovation Through Science and Research
- **Host organization:** International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) – Zambia

### **Bio:**

Armand Yambisa graduated from EARTH University in 2020. While studying at EARTH, Armand completed an internship at the University of Florida where he researched the integrated pest management of strawberry pests. For his graduation project, Armand investigated how to increase crop yield through soil remineralization, which would help farmers adapt to climate change through requiring less fertilizers and increasing yields. After graduating, Armand interned at Mukuni Connect Limited. Through this role, Armand provides agricultural consultancy services in terms of corporate agricultural business expansion. Armand has developed an ability to analyze, interpret, and communicate scientific data through this role. His background and interests make him an excellent candidate for the Agricultural Innovation Through Science and Research Track.

Armand will complete his Fellowship at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in his home country of Zambia. He is looking forward to building a professional network and enriching his career. Armand also hopes to contribute to positive change in the agricultural sector in Zambia, supporting rural development and food security.



In partnership with



## Arnold Katende



- **Country:** Uganda
- **University:** EARTH University Class of 2021
- **Track:** Agricultural Entrepreneurship
- **Host organization:** Makerere Innovation Incubation Center (MIIC)

### **Bio:**

Arnold Katende graduated from EARTH University in 2021 where he gained a passion for entrepreneurship. Through working on an entrepreneurship project with his peers, Arnold gained valuable experience in business management, leadership, supervision, creativity, and decision-making. While studying at EARTH, Arnold was also selected as a Resolution Fellow in the Clinton Global Initiative Class of 2020. Additionally, he co-founded GenFarm Financial Enterprise, which empowers small-scale farmers in Uganda through financial literacy trainings and access to agricultural inputs and markets. These experiences make Arnold a great candidate for the Entrepreneurship Track, as he will scale his venture, Joint Organic Aquaponics, through being placed with Makerere Innovation Incubation Center in his home country of Uganda.

Joint Organic Aquaponics aims to produce fish and vegetables together in a constructed ecosystem using recycled materials and renewable energy. Arnold looks forward to expanding his venture and growing his professional network through the support of the Fellowship program. He is also excited to begin his career in agricultural entrepreneurship and begin to positively impact his community.



In partnership with



## David Ochieng Sande



- **Country:** Kenya
- **University:** EARTH University  
Class of 2021
- **Track:** Agricultural  
Employment
- **Host organization:** Rwanda  
Institute of Conservation  
Agriculture (RICA)

### **Bio:**

David Ochieng Sande recently graduated from EARTH University in 2021 where he acquired technical knowledge and skills through experiential learning. As a student, he carried out an agribusiness project with his peers where he served as the human resource manager, gaining important leadership skills. David further developed his leadership skills through serving as president of the EARTH University chapter of Net Impact, which guides young people in Central America and Africa in implementing different agricultural projects. Additionally, David worked in several different field projects including crops such as maize, papaya, watermelon, and pineapple from land preparation to harvest. These experiences make David a great candidate for the Fellowship Program. He will complete his Fellowship with Rwanda Institute of Conservation Agriculture (RICA) as a Fellow on the Agricultural Employment Track.

David is looking forward to giving back to his community while growing his professional network through participating in the Fellowship Program. He hopes to introduce additional precision agriculture techniques to help smallholder farmers increase yields, thus addressing food insecurity.



In partnership with



## Esnath Divasoni



- **Country:** Zimbabwe
- **University:** EARTH University  
Class of 2019
- **Track:** Agricultural  
Entrepreneurship
- **Host organization:** Udugu  
Institute Business Incubator  
Zimbabwe

### **Bio:**

Esnath Divasoni graduated from EARTH University in 2019. Since graduation, she has worked for CAMFED as a Core Trainer where she trains communities and families on climate smart agriculture and climate change resilience building. Esnath has also managed her venture, Jumping Protein. Jumping Protein empowers rural communities through insect production, horticulture, and poultry. Her venture has already started to produce insects and chickens and is beginning to produce horticultural crops as well. While the pandemic slowed down progress, Esnath continued to work on her business, and it continued to expand. She is working towards creating a demonstrative farm where communities will be trained in modern and sustainable agriculture practices, helping these communities eradicate poverty through increasing their crop yields.

Esnath has always been looking at ways that she can contribute to sustainable food production, and she has already implemented her graduation project on cricket production in her community in Zimbabwe. She has also trained 15 insect farmers and hopes to train more. As a Fellow on the Entrepreneurship Track with Udugu Institute Business Incubator in Zimbabwe, Esnath looks forward to scaling her business and growing her impact within her community and Zimbabwe.



In partnership with



## Grace Efua Amponsah



- **Country:** Ghana
- **University:** EARTH University  
Class of 2021
- **Track:** Agricultural Employment
- **Host organization:** Campaign for  
Female Education (CAMFED) -  
Ghana

### **Bio:**

Grace Efua Amponsah recently graduated from EARTH University in 2021 where she developed an interest in applied ecology, soil sciences, and climate-smart food production systems. During her studies at EARTH, Grace interned at Lakesyde Farms, an organization that educates farmers in the Volta region and greater Accra to sustainably grow crops year-round. She is currently employed as a CAMFED Agricultural Guide in her home country of Ghana where she trains local farmers on efficient farming techniques and practices to increase production and maintain soil fertility. Grace has shared these findings with farmers in her community to help them increase crop yields and implement sustainable agricultural practices. Her background and interests make her an excellent candidate for the Agricultural Employment Track, and Grace will complete her Fellowship with Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) in Ghana.

Grace is looking forward to strengthening her agricultural knowledge through participating in the Program. She is passionate about working with smallholder farmers and helping them increase their crop yields while implementing sustainable agricultural practices. Grace hopes that this opportunity will allow her to positively contribute to rural development in her home country while exposing her to important professional development opportunities.





In partnership with



## Hilarie Uwamahoro



- **Country:** Rwanda
- **University:** EARTH University  
Class of 2019
- **Track:** Agricultural Innovation  
Through Science and Research
- **Host organization:** Rwanda  
Agriculture Board

### **Bio:**

Hilarie Uwamahoro graduated from EARTH University in 2019. For her graduation project at EARTH, she developed a water filtration model system that could reduce settleable solids from the Nyabarongo River in Rwanda, where there is a shortage of rainfall that could be used in agriculture. After graduating, she began studying for her master's degree in agricultural and environment science with a focus on soil and plant science at Tuskegee University. As a master's student, she is conducting research on biogas production from cover crop residues as a technical and sustainable way of generating renewable energy and a solution to residues management. Hilarie's professional experiences and interests make her an excellent candidate for the Agricultural Innovation, Science and Research Track, and she will complete her Fellowship with the Rwanda Agriculture Board.

Hilarie believes that scientific research is the solution to many of the challenges facing the agricultural sector in Rwanda, and she looks forward to becoming part of that solution through the Fellowship Program. She looks forward to growing her professional network in her home country and contributing to development within the agricultural sector.



In partnership with



## Jane Kapenda



- **Country:** Zambia
- **University:** EARTH University  
Class of 2020
- **Track:** Agricultural Employment
- **Host organization:** Solidaridad Network - Zambia

### **Bio:**

Jane Kapenda graduated from EARTH University in 2020. While Jane was studying at EARTH, she was a student leader in the botanical garden at EARTH, which developed her leadership skills and gave her valuable work experience in agriculture. For her graduation project, she worked with women to assist them in finding a variety of agricultural practices that improve food availability in their area while also increasing their incomes. Since graduating, she has worked for CAMFED in her home country of Zambia as an intern. In her current role, she assists with monitoring and evaluation activities of different entrepreneurial ventures in Zambia, researches how many girls are in transient process for entrepreneurship, and participates on the agricultural review guard for the CAMFED agriculture project. These experiences make Jane an excellent candidate for the Fellowship program on the Agricultural Employment Track, and she will complete her Fellowship with Solidaridad Network – Zambia.

Jane is interested in agricultural employment as she sees it as a vehicle to develop her community, and she looks forward to growing as a professional through the Fellowship Program. Jane looks forward to growing her professional network while supporting sustainable development and reducing poverty throughout her career.





In partnership with



## Kondwani Kamsikiri



- **Country:** Malawi
- **University:** EARTH University  
Class of 2021
- **Track:** Agriculture Innovation  
Through Science and Research
- **Host organization:** Farming &  
Engineering Services (FES) -  
Malawi

### **Bio:**

A 2021 EARTH University graduate, Kondwani Kamsikiri understands the important role of scientific knowledge in agriculture. Kondwani grew up in a rural area in Malawi where he gained a first-hand understanding of challenges faced by smallholder farmers. Through working with these farmers, he has also seen how interventions made by other organizations have not succeeded in improving the agricultural sector. These experiences led Kondwani to believe that scientific research in agriculture is necessary to improve the agricultural sector and thus contribute to rural development. Kondwani also gained valuable research experience through analyzing the best ways to design drip irrigation systems through his graduation project and completing an internship on improving citrus production at the University of Florida.

Kondwani's background and interests make him an excellent candidate for the Fellowship on the Agricultural Innovation Through Science and Research Track. He will complete his Fellowship with Farming and Engineering Services (FES) Malawi and looks forward to giving back to his community while expanding his professional network through this role.



In partnership with



## Marie Claire Nyiribambe



- **Country:** Rwanda
- **University:** EARTH University  
Class of 2019
- **Track:** Agricultural Employment
- **Host organization:** Assistance in Sustainable Agriculture and Certification (ASAC) Rwanda

### **Bio:**

Marie Claire Nyiribambe graduated from EARTH University in 2019. While she studied at EARTH, she worked with a local women's group to give trainings and workshops on waste management and environmental awareness. After graduating, Marie Claire transitioned to her home country of Rwanda to work for Terova/Griffith Foods as an agricultural engineer. In this role, she trained farmers on organic farming practices, developed a package of growing organic chilies in Rwanda, and monitored farmer's progress in organic certification. These experiences motivated Marie Claire to apply to the Fellowship Program, as her academic background and experiences make her an excellent candidate for the Agricultural Employment Track.

Through participating in the Fellowship Program, Marie Claire hopes to positively contribute to the agricultural development of Rwanda. She will complete her Fellowship with Assistance in Sustainable Agriculture and Certification (ASAC) Rwanda. Marie Claire is excited about helping smallholder farmers implement sustainable agricultural practices, yet she also looks forward to learning from them as well. Marie Claire hopes that the Fellowship will increase her knowledge of agriculture while providing opportunities for her to put what she has learned at EARTH University into practice to contribute to rural development.



In partnership with



## Moreen Marie Ndagire



- **Country:** Uganda
- **University:** EARTH University Class of 2021
- **Track:** Agricultural Entrepreneurship
- **Host organization:** Starhub Africa – Uganda

### **Bio:**

Moreen Marie Ndagire recently graduated from EARTH University in 2021. Since arriving at EARTH, Moreen knew that she wanted to be an agent of change and positively impact her community. While she was studying at EARTH, she learned about issues affecting the agricultural value chain in Uganda through working with Restless Development and the Mastercard Foundation as a youth think tank researcher. These experiences motivated her to launch her social enterprise, Fastmere, that focuses on increasing the sustainable production and supply of fresh produce in her home country of Uganda. Moreen has continued to form her knowledge of agricultural entrepreneurship through interning for Starhub Africa in Uganda. These experiences make her an excellent candidate for the Fellowship Program on the Entrepreneurship Track.

Moreen will complete her Fellowship with Starhub Uganda to continue to grow her business. She plans to work with refugees and female farmers in rural areas to increase their access to microfinance and teach them vertical gardening techniques. Moreen is looking forward to having a positive impact within the agricultural sector in Uganda through operating and scaling her business while supporting vulnerable populations and helping them increase their incomes.



In partnership with



## Moses Ernest Chilenje



- **Country:** Malawi
- **University:** EARTH University  
Class of 2019
- **Track:** Agricultural  
Employment
- **Host organization:** Farming  
& Engineering Services (FES) -  
Malawi

### **Bio:**

Moses Ernest Chilenje graduated from EARTH University in 2019. Since graduation, he has worked as a research scholar in the Poultry Science Department at Auburn University and helped graduate students with their research projects while improving his data analysis skills. While Moses studied at EARTH, he discovered a passion for the use of technology in agriculture through taking a course on geospatial management where he used drone images to create soil nutrition maps and estimate harvest. His background in precision agriculture makes him an excellent candidate for the Fellowship program. Moses will join the Program as a Fellow on the Agricultural Employment Track and he will complete his Fellowship at Farming and Engineering Services (FES) in his home country of Malawi.

Through participating in the Fellowship program, Moses hopes to gain valuable professional experience and grow his network in Malawi. He is excited to begin his career in his home country and looks forward to making an impact in Malawi's agricultural sector.



In partnership with



## Tawonga Zakeyu



- **Country:** Malawi
- **University:** EARTH University  
Class of 2021
- **Track:** Agricultural Employment
- **Host organization:** Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) - Malawi

### **Bio:**

Tawonga Zakeyu recently graduated from EARTH University in 2021 where she studied agricultural sciences. While at EARTH, she gained an important academic background in agronomy, entrepreneurship, and sustainability. Tawonga also has experience working with local farmers in rural communities in her home country of Malawi, motivating her to apply to the Fellowship Program. She is adaptable with strong communication skills, leadership skills, and a great work ethic, making her a fantastic candidate for the Agricultural Employment Track.

Tawonga hopes to gain valuable experience in field extension and community development through working for Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) in Malawi. She is excited to learn more about agricultural practices and grow as a professional through expanding her professional network in her home country. Tawonga is looking forward to putting her knowledge gained at EARTH into practice and supporting smallholder farmers. She hopes to use this experience as an opportunity to begin her career in her home country and start to give back to her community through supporting rural development and the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices.





In partnership with



## Tseganesh Tegegne Sete



- **Country:** Ethiopia
- **University:** EARTH University Class of 2019
- **Track:** Agricultural Employment
- **Host organization:** Solidaridad Network – Ethiopia

### **Bio:**

Tseganesh Tegegne Sete graduated from EARTH University in 2019. Since graduating, she has volunteered at Ethiopian Education Foundation as a program manager in Addis Ababa. While Tseganesh studied at EARTH, she completed an internship in a soil laboratory and worked for soil science professionals. Through this experience, she learned technical skills related to soil analysis methods and further developed her leadership and communication skills. Tseganesh is especially interested in working in soil science, forestry, agricultural enterprises, food processing, and crop production. Her background and interests make her a great fit for the Agricultural Employment Track of the Fellowship. Tseganesh will complete her Fellowship with Solidaridad Network in her home country of Ethiopia.

Through participating in the Fellowship Program, Tseganesh is looking forward to growing her professional network in Ethiopia and entering the agricultural industry, as the job market has been difficult for recent graduates due to the pandemic. She is excited to use her education and this opportunity to give back to her community and hopes to contribute to the development of the agricultural sector in Ethiopia.





In partnership with



## Vestine Abera



- **Country:** Rwanda
- **University:** EARTH University Class of 2021
- **Track:** Agricultural Employment
- **Host organization:** Proxifresh Rwanda

### **Bio:**

Vestine Abera graduated from EARTH University in 2021 with a degree in agricultural sciences. Before arriving at EARTH, Vestine witnessed how her community in Rwanda was affected by cassava mosaic disease, as farmers saw large drops in cassava harvests, motivating her to study agriculture. During Vestine's time as an undergrad, she gained important work experience in the ethnobotanical garden where she taught students and visitors about the importance of medicinal plants and managed the garden. Vestine also completed an internship at San Francisco Bay Coffee Ltd Company in Rwanda where she learned about the coffee production process. As a fourth-year student, she researched new products that can be processed from sorghum to increase value-added options for sorghum farmers in Rwanda. Vestine's background and interests make her an excellent candidate for the Agricultural Employment Track of the Fellowship Program.

Vestine will complete her Fellowship at Proxifresh Rwanda to further her interest and knowledge of plant science. She is excited to learn more about Rwandan agriculture and interact with farmers while putting her knowledge into practice. Vestine is looking forward to growing her professional network while contributing to the development of the agricultural sector in her country.



In partnership with



## Yahaya Alhassan



- **Country:** Ghana
- **University:** EARTH University Class of 2020
- **Track:** Agricultural Education
- **Host organization:** Tamale Technical Institute (TATU) Ghana

### **Bio:**

Yahaya Alhassan graduated from EARTH University in 2020. While Yahaya was studying at EARTH, he developed a passion for teaching and instruction, and he has always enjoyed explaining concepts to his peers. Before exams at EARTH, he organized and ran study sessions for his peers to help them study and grasp complicated concepts in agriculture. He also taught classes to senior high students in Ghana after he graduated from senior high. Since graduation, he has started a vegetable and cattle farm in his home country of Ghana. Yahaya's interest in education within agriculture makes him a great candidate for the Fellowship Program and the Agricultural Education Track.

Yahaya will complete his Fellowship with the Tamale Technical Institute (TATU) in Ghana. Agricultural education in Ghana mainly focuses on theory and passing exams, yet Yahaya plans to incorporate the "learning by doing" ideology that guides the EARTH curriculum. He hopes to establish a demonstrative farm for practical lessons that would prepare graduates to handle agricultural activities. Yahaya is excited to launch his career in agriculture education through the Program and hopes to teach at a university in the future.