

**AFRICA GRADUATE MENTORSHIP AND COACHING
PROGRAMME (AGMCP) MEMORABILIA FOR 2024
COHORT**

BY

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OUTLINE

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INTRODUCTION

- My name is Pilirani Lyana Chaguza, a Malawian citizen, an MSc student in Environmental Science at the University of Malawi and I have a degree in Animal Science obtained from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi.
- I have a passion for agricultural development and environmental sustainability in Africa.
- I am a cohort 5 mentee of AGCMP 2024 under the supervision and mentorship of Prof. Adebisi F. Agboola

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

- The Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) is a mentor-mentee network facilitated by the Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative.
- It is designed for mentoring and coaching graduate-level students (Masters and PhD) between 20 and 30 years of age in Africa in the areas of research and professional development.
- This document summarizes the experiences with AGMCP Programme Cohort 5.

PROGRAM'S CONTRIBUTION TO PERSONAL GROWTH

- Participation in the monthly webinar modules for the fellowship year which were very resourceful as they covered diverse areas.
- The program has improved my scientific research capacity, specifically how to write publications and it has also improved my communication skills with people from different backgrounds and nationality.
- I have gained confidence in research and presentation to an international audience especially from the 4th Circularity Africa Conference.
- I have established connections and broadened my network with fellow researchers and scholars from Sub-Saharan Africa

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The major challenge I faced during the program was that I wasn't able to attend all webinars and seminars due to work and network inconveniences
- I therefore recommend that the program should source support for mentees to attend conferences in person.
- It should also provide incentives to mentees to motivate and keep them engaged.
- Lastly, physical meetings for all mentors and mentees at least once during the fellowship year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- A hearty thanks to IMAGES initiative team for the opportunity to participate in the AGMCP cohort 5 fellowship which has greatly impacted my life.
- My heartfelt appreciation to the President, Dr Olawale Olayide for spearheading this thoughtful initiative meant to shape the lives of the upcoming generation.
- My deepest gratitude also goes to my great and amazing, humble mentor, Prof. Adebisi F. Agboola, who has not just been a mentor but also a mother and a friend whom I look up to. She has been very instrumental in making me a better person. It is so rare to find someone who is open-minded with genuine concern for one's growth. I hope to work with her on a more personal note someday.
- Lastly, I wish to appreciate my colleague Mary Muroki for outstanding support and team work throughout the journey.

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