

# **AGMCP Experience Memorabilia**

**Alinaitwe Ochan Herbert**  
**MSc. Crop Science (MCRP)**  
**Makerere University**  
**Kampala – Uganda**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Cohort (2024)**



# Introduction

- AGMCP is a graduate coaching and mentoring program in Africa that connects post-graduate students(Mentees) to different other students and mentors all over Africa, for a career-developing journey of one year.
- I got to know about this fellowship program through the alumni that is Unzimai Innocent and Malala Alex who are my close friends and encouraged me to apply.
- AGMCP has emerged as a powerful platform for African students providing mentorship and space for interaction between students and their mentors.
- The program has produced different cohorts of students since 2020. Through my application, I was selected for the AGMCP 5<sup>th</sup> cohort 2024, which journey I went through as an active participant. I am so glad to share my experience

# Experience, Activities, and Lessons

- I felt part of the fellowship initially upon receiving the mail notifying me of my being selected to participate in the mentorship program for the 2024 cohort. It was an exciting moment to connect with other scholars all over Africa as well as with my mentor.
- A WhatsApp platform was created for the students and mentors who were to participate in that intake.
- I was also very excited to be attached to Prof. Wole Fatunbi as my mentor for that cohort but at the same time I was very nervous given the fact that I had never met or even interacted with him before.
- I enjoyed the interaction in our WhatsApp group because we were always updated and kept posted about the agenda of the program.

# Experience cont...

- I was excited to connect with fellow students who were undertaking their studies in the different fields and I wanted to know more about what each student was doing.
- The monthly trainings on different topics were just awesome and well packaged and these would benefit mentees from all different aspects of life.
- Some of these pieces of training added to my knowledge, especially on skills of scientific writing, abstract writing, and journal publications, how to report research findings, and other life aspects such as balancing life with education.
- Towards the end of the program, I got elected as the treasurer/financial secretary of the alumni group (AGMCPAA). This truly made me feel at home and great thanks to all the voters for entrusting me with the position.

# Experience with my mentor

- I was attached to Prof. Wole Fatunbi (FARA) as my mentor through the program.
- He was and still is a great mentor in my life, a parent, a guardian, and a great teacher.
- I have a very great relationship with him in that we shall forever remain friends even after the coaching program and I give credit to AGMCP for achieving such a goal.
- I have shared great moments with him including conferences and pieces of training.
- I was so excited when my mentor visited me in Kampala and gave me some great tips of life, i.e.:  
1- Social media presence, 2-honesty in science, 3- Getting a PhD outside Africa, 4-You either publish or perish!!!

**Photo: Prof's visit to Kampala @RUFORUM**



# Outputs

- There was a successful mentor-mentee and mentee-mentee interactions.
- Improvement in the scientific writing skills. This has been in the aspects of abstract writing for conferences, principles of referencing, literature review, as well as writing manuscripts, and data analysis tools.
- The program also improved my life by guiding me through the aspects of balancing life and academic/career pursuits.
- Meeting of great professionals in fields of research, mentorship, etc. For example, I had a hybrid meeting with Dr. Olawale Olayide when he paid a visit to Kampala at Speke Resort Hotel. It was a great moment to interact with him and I learned a lot.
- Leadership skills and roles. At the end of the program, I got elected as the treasurer or financial secretary of the Alumnus (AGMCPAA)

# Recommendations

- Connection is a great key to success. I would highly encourage AGMCP to source some bit of funding that can facilitate physical meetings between mentor-mentee even if once or twice a year. This can be inform of an organized conference. It will surely add onto the hybrid meetings as well as building more interactions.
- AGMCP could also think of chipping in guest speakers from different disciplines such as crop science, plant breeding and genetics, soil science, agricultural extension, and others to help foster crop research and guide mentees in a similar line of path
- An alumnus WhatsApp platform should be created where all alumni of different cohorts gather.
- More social media platforms such as twitter(X) should be adopted and used frequently

# Acknowledgement

- I am so grateful for the fellowship opportunity granted to me by IMAGES initiative to participate in the AGMCP 5<sup>th</sup> Cohort (2024) which added a plus to my career growth.
- Special thanks to the president of this great initiative, Dr. Olawale Olayide for championing such a great program, and this will continue empowering more African graduate students with skills towards their career growth
- Great thanks to Prof. Wole Fatunbi, FARA, who accepted to be a mentor and nurtured me through my career growth. He has been a great pillar in my mentorship journey with selfless support to make me a better person.
- Great thanks to all the other mentees. Congratulations to you all upon successful completion of the program



# Appendix

Google Meet interface showing a video call with three participants: Olawale Olayide, Malaala Alex, and Alinaitwe Ochan Herbert. The interface includes a 'People' sidebar with a search bar and a list of contributors.

YouTube video titled "Work-Life Balance" featuring a scale of justice with "Work" and "Life" on the pans. The video is being viewed by Olubukola Babalola. The participant list on the right includes Alinaitwe Ochan Herbert, Olubukola Babalola, Olawale Olayide, and Opeyemi Odunola.

Zoom meeting grid showing 16 participants in a gallery view. The participants include Alinaitwe Ochan Herbert, Edinah, Olawale Olayide, Ayo Ojebode, Olubukola Babalola, samantha, Olawale Olayide, OMAR ABDULLAHI ASKALAN, Beckie, PARIYO Felix, Lajuwomi Oluwatosin, Nancy Juma, Zibila Sayibu, Yammieh Matope, Oluwaseun AYOMIPO, and Saadatou.

YouTube video titled "Work-Life Balance" featuring a close-up of ants carrying a large piece of food. The video is being viewed by Olubukola Babalola. The participant list on the right includes Alinaitwe Ochan Herbert, Olubukola Babalola, Olawale Olayide, and Joseph DZAKPA.



2:20 PM

Close Participants (14)

Search

- OO Olawale Olayide (Co-host, me)
- II IMAGES Initiatives (Host)
- Olubukola Babalola (Co-host)
- AO Alinaitwe Ochan Herbert
- FA Foye Aduramigba-Modupe
- j James Ndambuki
- JD Joseph DZAKPA
- NJ Nancy Juma
- OO Obisesan Omobolaji
- OO Olawale Olayide
- OA Omar Abdullahi Askalan
- Opeyemi Odunola
- PM Prosper Mataruse
- RN Rebecca Nassuna

Invite Mute all

**Alinaitwe Ochan Herber**  
Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Completing a master's degree in crop science at Makerere University. Eight years of experience in agriculture with a focus on climate-smart solutions for finger millet blast disease in Uganda. Former choirmaster for the Catholic team at Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute.

Alinaitwe is committed to ensuring transparent financial management for AGMCPAA. He believes his dedication to accountability aligns with AGMCPAA's goals and is eager to contribute to the association's growth through responsible fund management.

alochahn@gmail.com

# AGMCPAA New Executives

**Prosper Tonderai Mataruse**  
President

**Pearl Agyekum**  
Vice President

**Achiri Herman Fombu**  
Secretary

**Alinaitwe Ochan Herber**  
Treasurer/Financial Secretary

**Oluwatosin Owolabi Lajuwomi**  
Director of Communications

# About me:

1. Name: Alinaitwe Ochan Herbert
2. Citizenship: Ugandan
3. E-mail: [alochan@gmail.com](mailto:alochan@gmail.com)
4. Telephone: +256 703793795 (WhatsApp), +256 788928141
5. E-mail: [alochahn@gmail.com](mailto:alochahn@gmail.com)
6. Orcid ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-7001-4677>
7. LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alinaitwe-ochan-herbert-b0776a143/>
8. ResearchGate  
Profile: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Alinaitwe\\_Ochan\\_Herbert](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Alinaitwe_Ochan_Herbert)

**"Discipline and Patience drive it all"**