AGMCP Experience Memorabilia

Alinaitwe Ochan Herbert MSc. Crop Science (MCRP) Makerere University Kampala – Uganda 5th 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 5th 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.:
 I- 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





- 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

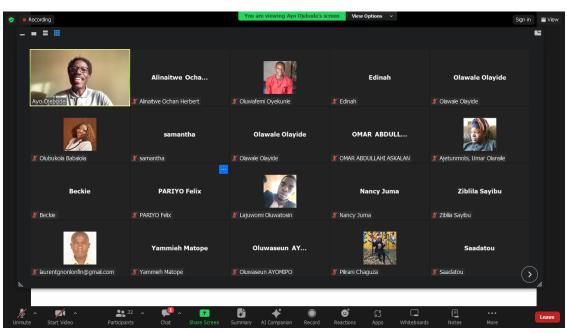
- Connection is a great key to success. I would highly encourage AGMCP to source some bit of funding that can facilitate physical meetings between mentor-mentee even if once or twice a year. This can be inform of an organized conference. It will surely add onto the hybrid meetings as well as building 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

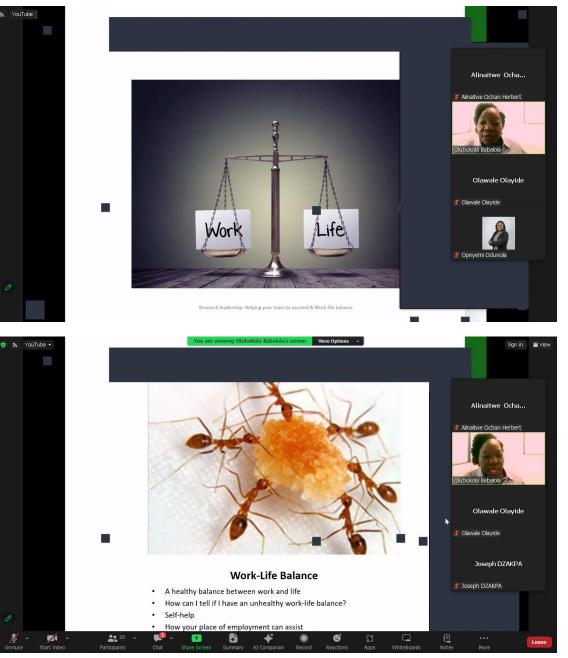
Acknowledgement

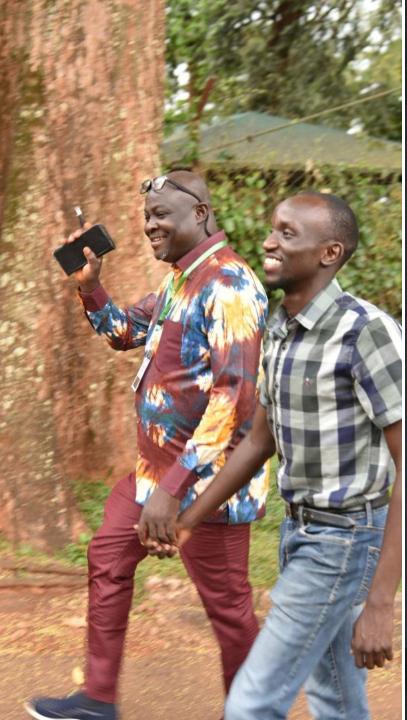
- I am so grateful for the fellowship opportunity granted to me by IMAGES initiative to participate in the AGMCP 5th Cohort (2024) which added a plus to my career growth.
- Special thanks to the president of this great initiative, Dr. Olawale Olayide for championing such a great program, and this will 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









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2	Search				blast disease in Uganda. Former choirmaster for the Catholic team at Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute.
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	IMAGES	Initiatives (Host		<i>§</i> 🛤	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.
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Prosper Tonderai

Mataruse President





Pearl Agyekum Vice President



Alinaitwe Ochan Herber Treasurer/Financial Secretary



Oluwatosin Owolabi Lajuwomi Director of Communications

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"Discipline and Patience drive it all"