

Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) 2024

Memorabilia



Mentee: James Ndambuki Musyoka (MSc)

1. Introduction

The Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) 2024, facilitated by the Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative, was a transformative experience that nurtured my professional and personal development as a graduate student. Designed to mentor and coach Master's and PhD students aged 20 to 30 across Africa, the program focused on research excellence, work-life balance, and career advancement. Through engaging with a diverse cohort of scholars, industry leaders, and mentors, I gained invaluable insights and practical skills that enhanced my capacity for innovation, employability, and academic growth. This enriching journey not only strengthened my professional capabilities but also inspired a broader perspective on impactful research and sustainable career pathways in Africa.

2. Experiences, Activities, and Outputs of the Fellowship Year

During the AGMCP fellowship year, I participated in a range of activities and experiences that significantly enriched my personal and professional development:

- ❖ Inspirational talks delivered by leaders in academia explored critical issues such as sustainable development, leadership, and technology-driven solutions.
- ❖ This included training on effective mentor-mentee communication, equipping participants with skills to build strong, productive relationships. The program emphasized harnessing AI to enhance agricultural productivity, advanced research methodologies, and grant writing, alongside strategies for establishing and leveraging professional networks. It also covered the intricacies of writing high-quality articles and research papers, manuscript preparation, and achieving impactful publications. Additionally, I gained valuable skills in data visualization, research leadership, and balancing professional and personal life, fostering a holistic approach to career and personal development.

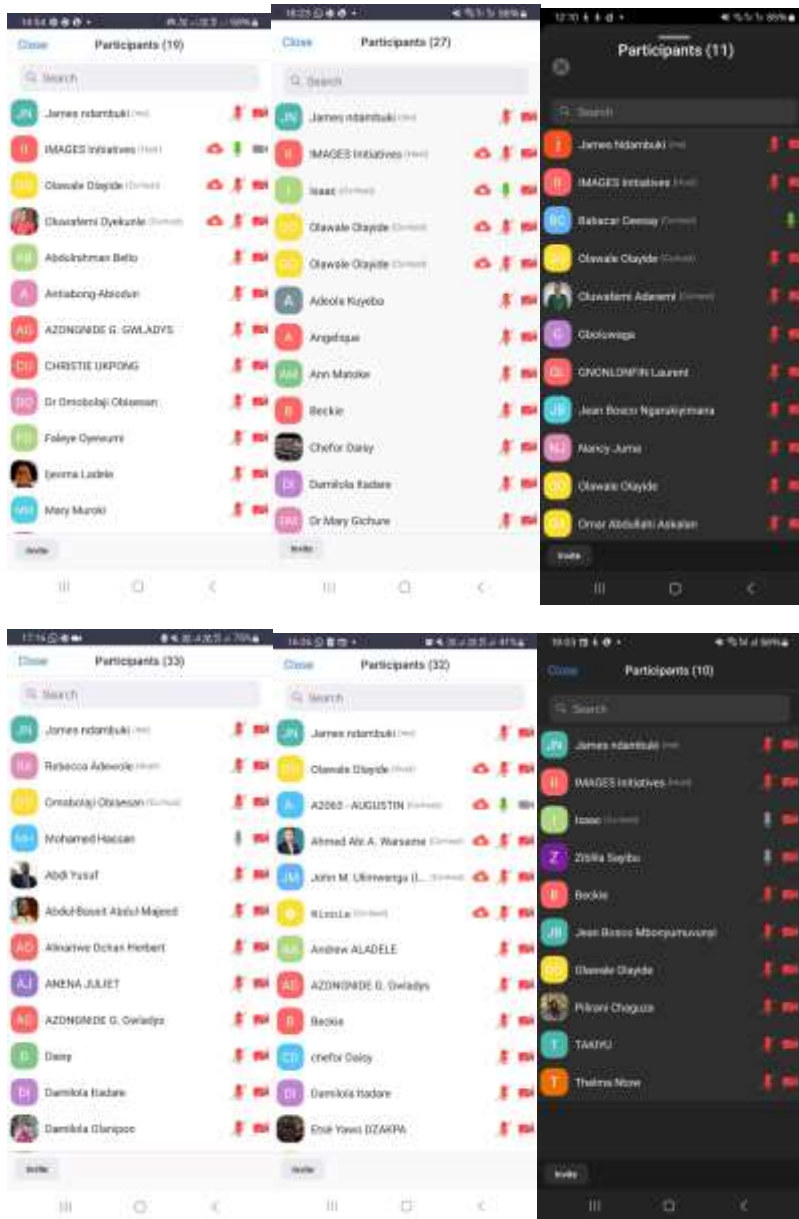


Figure 1: Screenshot of some of the trainings attended

- ❖ One-on-one mentoring sessions provided tailored guidance and support, enabling me to refine my career goals and research pursuits.
- ❖ Regular interactions with peers and mentors allowed me to form valuable connections and explore potential collaborations.

Outputs

- One review paper draft for publishing before year ends

3. Most Significant Contributions of the Fellowship to My Professional Career

The AGMCP 2024 programme made profound contributions to my career trajectory:

Through the Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) 2024, I significantly enhanced my capacities in scientific writing, learning to effectively communicate research findings and craft high-quality manuscripts. The program provided invaluable opportunities for networking with peers and mentors, fostering collaborations and professional relationships that will undoubtedly support my career trajectory. My competence improved across various dimensions, enabling me to confidently participate in conferences and write impactful articles. Additionally, I gained a deeper understanding of work-life balance, embracing strategies for healthy living and sustainable lifestyles. The program also empowered me to improve my personal branding and skill marketing on platforms such as LinkedIn, ResearchGate and ORCID, ensuring that my professional profile is well-positioned to attract opportunities in academia and beyond. These experiences have collectively prepared me to make meaningful contributions to research and innovation while advancing my career goals.

4. Suggestions for the AGMCP Management Team

To further enhance the programme's impact, I propose the following suggestions:

- ❖ Introduce a structured alumni network to facilitate ongoing learning, collaboration, and mentorship.
- ❖ Have a curriculum for modules to be covered for the whole year
- ❖ Be given a platform to write proposal and get small grant

5. Acknowledgements

I am deeply grateful to the AGMCP management team for organizing this transformative programme. Special thanks to my mentor Ms. Clare Kyomuhendo for her unwavering support and invaluable advice. Many thanks to the founder AGMCP founder of AGMCP; Prof. Wale Olayide. I also extend my gratitude to the facilitators, sponsors, and fellow participants, whose insights enriched the fellowship experience.

The AGMCP 2024 has been a pivotal chapter in my professional journey, and I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills acquired to contribute meaningfully to my field and community.

Contact Details

Email: jamesndambuki95@gmail.com

- ❖ Telephone: + 254 798 640 534
- ❖ Orchid: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8553-1198>
- ❖ Research gate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/James-Ndambuki>
- ❖ LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/james-ndambuki-294489150