African Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (2024) Memorabilia

By
Jean Bosco Ngarukiyimana (Mentee)



1. Introduction

As a mentee in the **African Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme** (2024), this transformative experience marked a pivotal chapter in my academic and professional journey. It was a year of inspiration, growth, and the forging of invaluable connections.

2. Guidance and Support from Exceptional Mentor

- I had the privilege of being mentored by accomplished professional Dr Ayal Desalegn who shared his insights, experiences, and advice tailored to my unique academic path and career aspirations.
- > The mentorship I received empowered me to refine my focus on **agroecology**, **environmental sustainability**, **and soil science**, aligning my skills and expertise with impactful solutions for Sub-Saharan Africa.

3. Leadership and Personal Development

- > Through the program, I gained confidence in my leadership abilities and enhanced my communication, decision making, and problem solving skills.
- ➤ I learnt strategies for managing challenges in academia and practical solutions for translating research into real world impact.

4. Career Advancement Opportunities

- The program exposed me to various career pathways in research, policy, and sustainable development. I received actionable advice on networking, job applications, and career transitions.
- > As part of this journey, I expanded my understanding of how to apply my research to address pressing challenges such as **climate change mitigation** and **soil fertility management**.

5. Building a Lifelong Network

- > I connected with a diverse cohort of graduate mentees across Africa who share a passion for advancing the continent through innovative research and leadership.
- > These relationships formed a foundation for future collaborations in agroecology and environmental protection initiatives.

6. Bridging Academia and Impact

- > I also increased my ability to integrate **theoretical knowledge** with practical applications to foster **sustainable development in agriculture and environmental management.**
- > The mentorship and coaching deepened my understanding of effective scientific communication (Figure 1).







Certificate of Participation

Presented to

JEAN BOSCO NGARUKIYIMANA

For participating at the 5th Circularity Africa Conference organised by the Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network (ACERPIN) in collaboration with the Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria during 7 – 10 May 2024. The theme for the conference was: Achieving

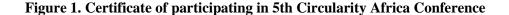
Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes in Africa

Dr Olawale Olayide

Convener & President Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network 8

Professor Olusola Ladokun

Co-Convener & Deputy Vice Chancellor Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria



7. Reflections and Achievements

Being part of the **African Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme** was an extraordinary opportunity that helped shape my vision for the future. It strengthened my capacity to:

- > Advance environmental sustainability through research and practical solutions.
- > Mentor and inspire upcoming researchers, replicating the guidance I received.
- > Contribute to Africa's progress through innovations in soil science, agroecology, and sustainable agriculture.

This program was not merely a stepping stone; it was a cornerstone for realizing my potential and preparing for greater responsibilities in academia, environmental advocacy, and leadership.

8. Challenges

i. **Time management:** Balancing the demanding workload of my PhD with the additional time commitments required for the mentorship and coaching program.

9. Appreciation

I am deeply grateful to the program organizers, mentors, and fellow mentees for creating a collaborative and enriching environment. The lessons I learnt and the relationships I built will remain a source of strength and inspiration throughout my career.

"Through mentorship, I discovered not only my strengths but also my responsibility to contribute to a sustainable future for Africa."

10. Contact information

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