# 2024 AGMCP MEMORABILIA

**ZIBLILA SAYIBU**

AGMCP COHORT-5 FELLOW

MASTERS CATEGORY

**Contents**

## 1. Introduction

The Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) is an interconnected community of mentors and mentees, derived by the Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative.

The goal of the Fellowship is to provide mentoring and guidance to various levels of graduate students; Master, Ph.D as well as post-doctoral candidates of 20, 30 40 years of age                                                                                                                          respectively.

Based on mentees career backgrounds and life aspirations, each successful African graduate student is assigned, a mentor and life coach who has similar background and goals. The programme focus on research and professional development.

The fellowship runs from January to December, annually, with theme; Developing Capacity for Assessing Sustainable African Food Systems and several subtopics that influence sustainability of African food systems.

The 5th cohort is made of 46 mentees from 15 African countries in the three fellowship levels: masters, Ph.D, and postdoctoral (*source: IMAGES-Initiative-Newsletter-Volume-1-Issue-1*).

## 2. Webinar Series
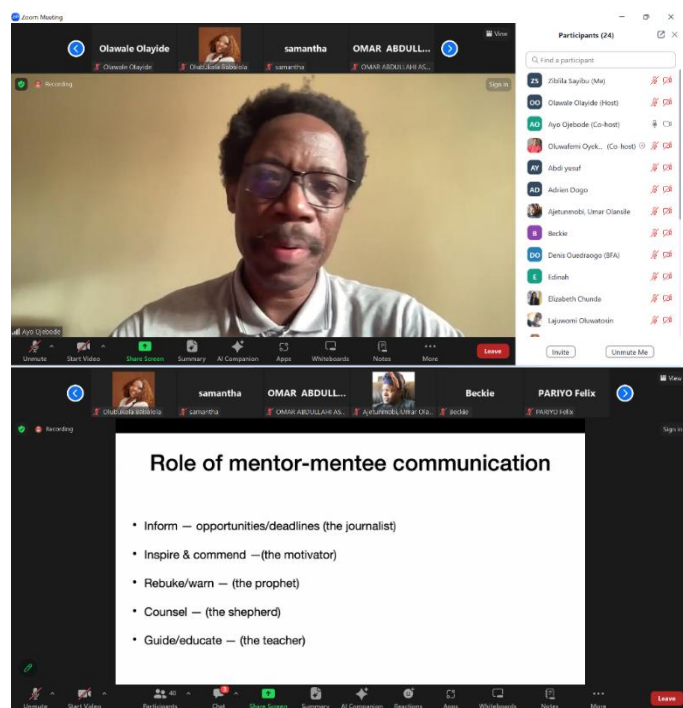


### 2.1. Effective Mentor-Mentee Communication

The speaker delivered a talk on the above topic, where he highlighted on what is expected of a mentee and mentor.

a. Mentees should ask questions
b. Update your mentor and provide feedbacks
c. Always be clear what you need and seek for clarification

The speaker stated clearly the different between mentor and supervisor. Subject for discussions in mentorship must not always and only work related.
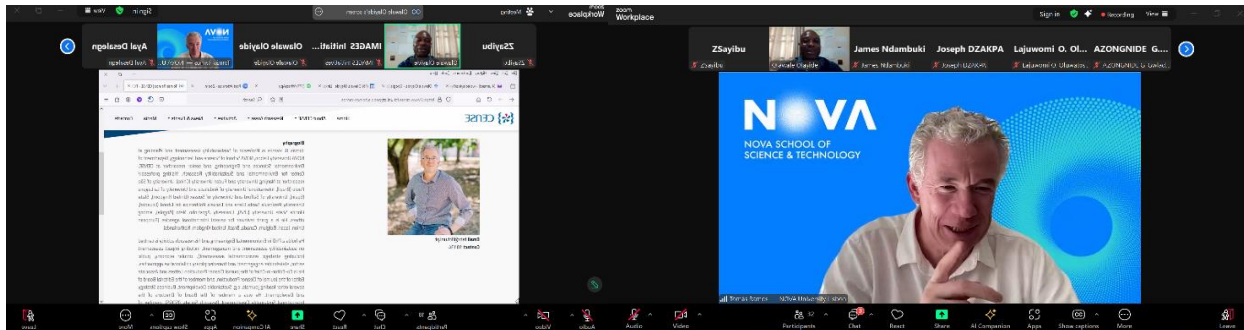
## 2.2. Scientific Publication

The speaker discussed how to write a strong manuscript and the process it will go through in peer review before publication

Manuscript types; conference papers, full article, short communications and review
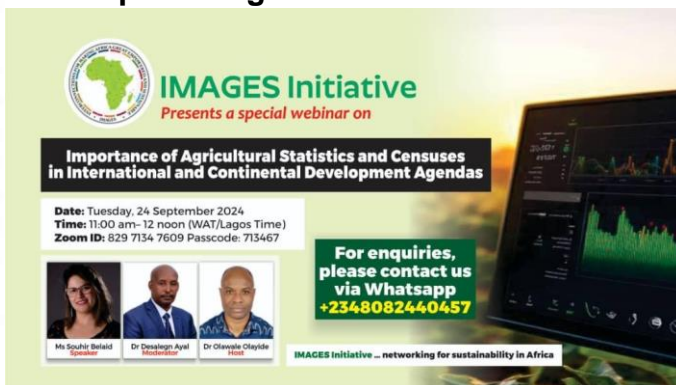


papers.

Factors that influence the decision of publishing, including; seeking for a Ph.D degree, promotion, and soliciting for funding.

Language and ethical factors were highlighted.
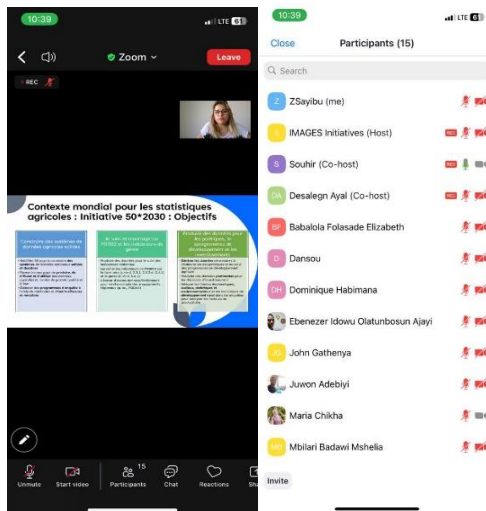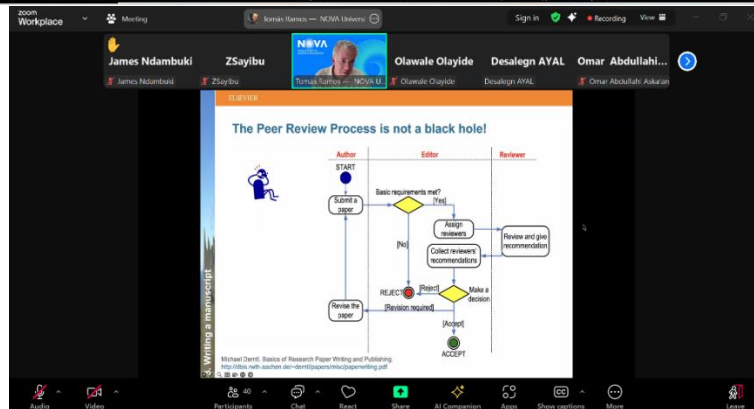


## 2.3. Importance of Agricultural Statistics and Censuses in International and Continental Development Agendas

The speaker spoke on how agricultural statistics provide essential data to guide decision making, target development actions, and ensure effective monitoring. Attendees gained insights into the global and continental contexts of agricultural development and the use of statistics, reinforcing the significance of accurate data in achieving sustainable development goals

## 2.4: Sustainable Food Supply Chain: From Nursery to Dining Table
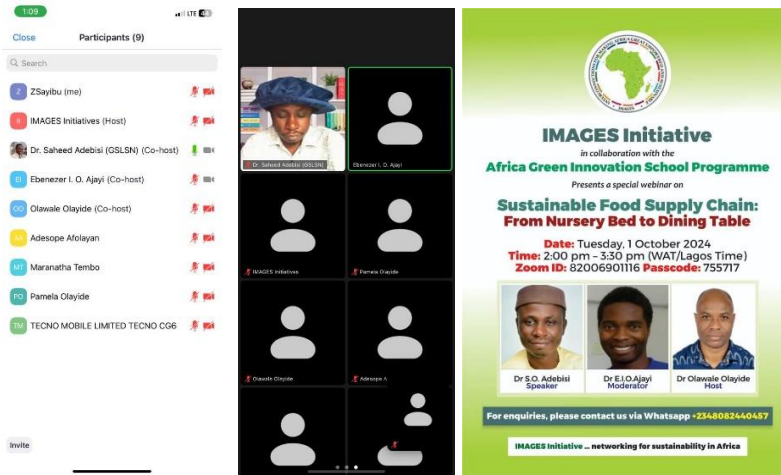


The webinar highlighted on Sustainable farming practices, processing and packaging, food wastage as well as encouraging sustainable food systems

The webinar impacted participants with knowledge on sustainable food supply chain practices and practical steps in achieving sustainability

## 2.5: Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future in Africa
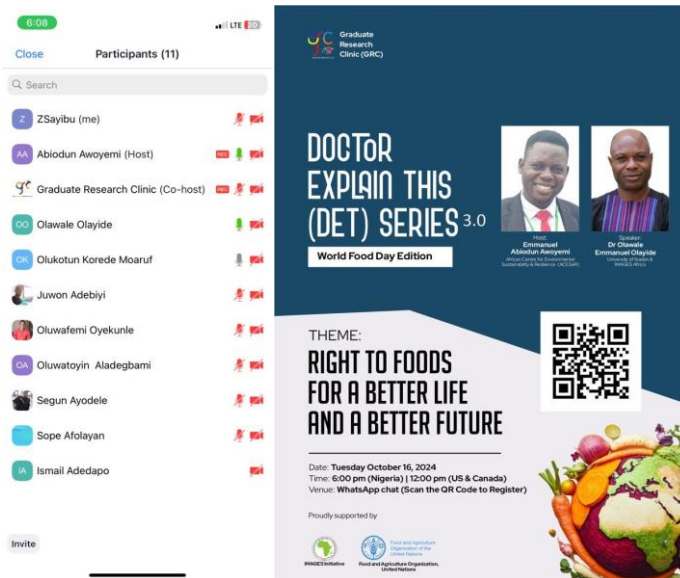


The dialogue centered on concerns that Africa confront as a result of food insecurity and climate change, including poverty, impaired growth in children due to malnutrition, and hunger.

The speaker highlighted measures to tackle with these issues for a more promising tomorrow. The significance of affordability, nutrition, and food security was underlined, as was the necessity of improved policies, infrastructure, and neighborhood projects to combat malnutrition and food poverty.

## 2.6: Training on Data Analytics
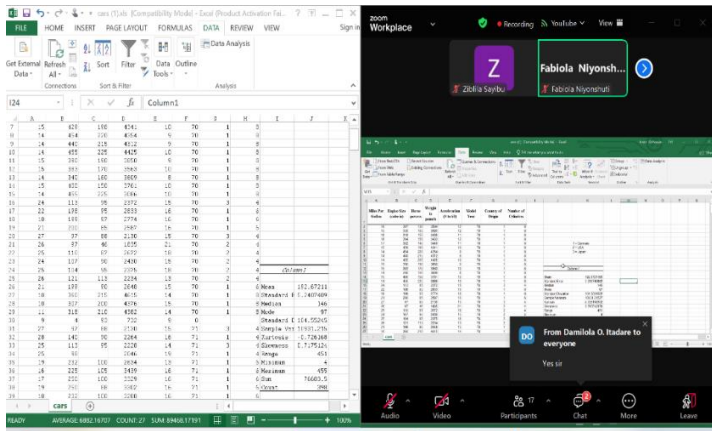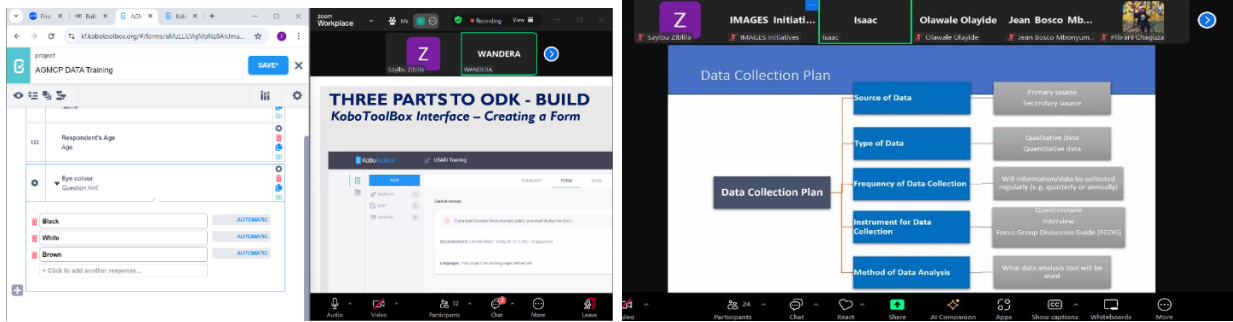




This webinar was a virtual hands-on training on the use of online data collection toolkit; Kobo collect for Data collection and afterwards analyzed Quantitative data using MS-Excel and SPSS.

I designed and deployed questionnaires using the Kobo collect and had 25 submissions.

Data analysis with MS-Excel and SPSS was an eye-opening session.
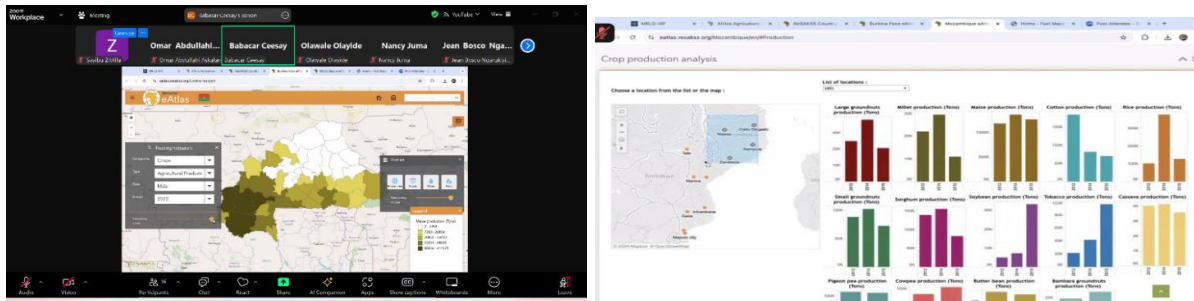
## 2.7: Training on Data Visualization

This webinar was a virtual hands-on training on the use of

The trainer explored with us the eAtlas online tool for mapping and plotting graphs.

Also, we were taken through the Fast mapping tool and the QGIS.

Trainees were tasked to get the population data of respective countries, Map the data using QGIS and Fast Mapping Tool.

**3: Conference Participation: The 5ᵗʰ Annual Circularity Africa Conference**

This was a four day conference organized by Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network (ACERPiN) under IMAGES Initiative with the theme: *Achieving environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste in Africa.*

The event featured several activities including the Carbon offset project launch, keynote speakers highlighting on chemicals management for sustainable development etc., paper presentations, exhibitions and some other important activities.

I had the opportunity to present my research findings at the conference and interact with mentors and colleague mentees.
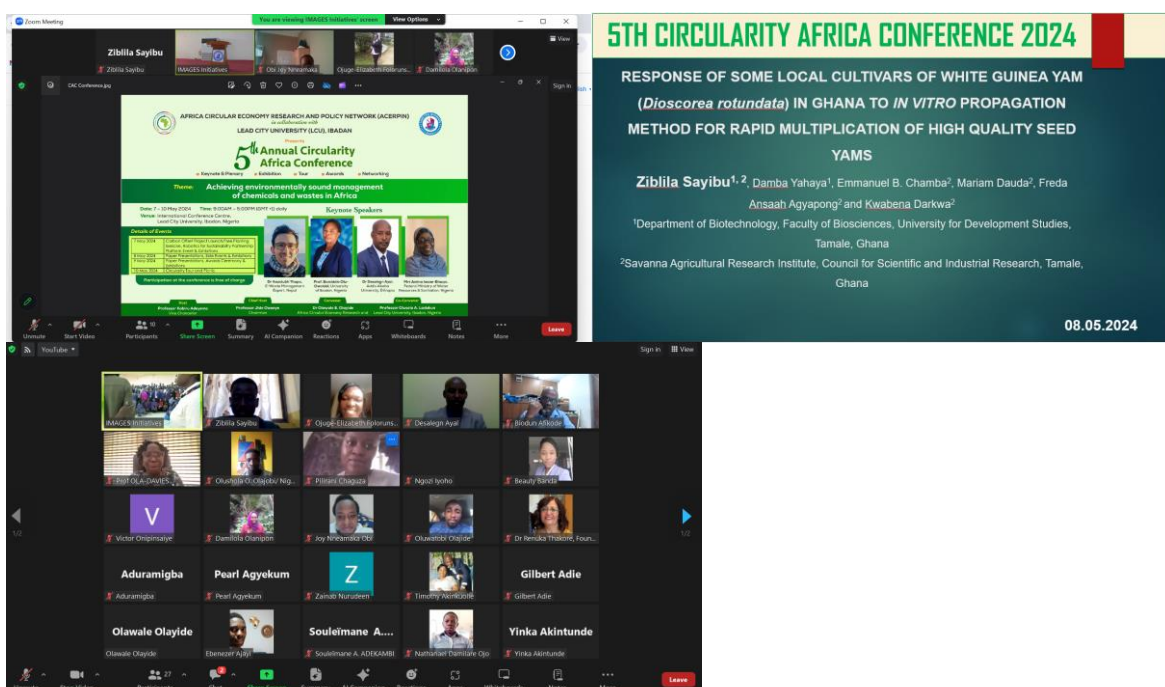


**4: Mentor-Mentees Interaction**

I had a virtual meeting with my mentor in January, 2024, together with my co-mentee; Andrew. We introduced ourselves and got to know more about one other. Our expectations, short and long-term goals were discussed and the approaches to achieve them under the AGMCP fellowship. We met each quarter with our mentor, Dr. Ebenezer Idowu Ajayi to discuss and review our progress.
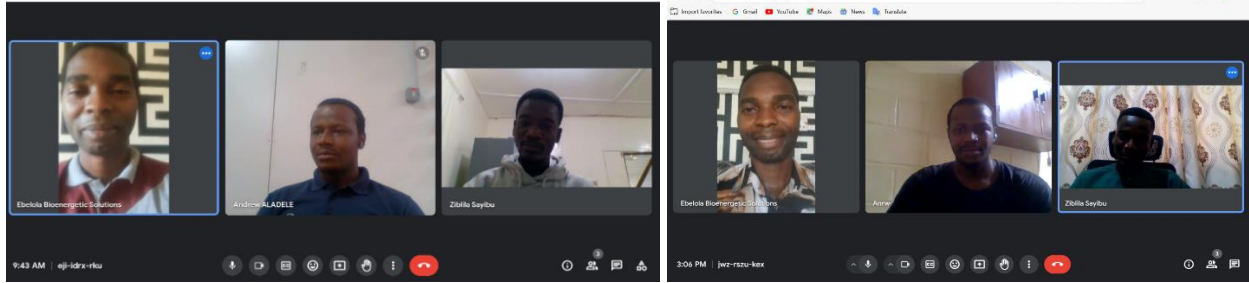
Through my mentor, I was linked with a professor in the University of Potsdam, Germany to enroll on a PhD program and carry out my research in his lab. Though there was no funding to sponsor my study. I had the most friendly mentorship experience from my mentor as he was always available for guide me. Dr. Ebenezer reviewed several Ph.D applications documents of mine, including my CVs, Cover letters, and emails to graduate school faculty professors and statement of purpose, as well as manuscript, abstract and power point presentations for conferences. I co-authored a book chapter with him which is currently under review.

### 5: Professional Achievements in the AGMCP Fellowship

1. Capacity building through the webinar series and trainings

2. Networking with mentors and colleague mentees, through webinars, conferences, and our quarterly mentor-mentee engagement. I had the opportunity to interact with Professor Fettke in Germany through my mentor.

3. Improvement in my scientific writing skills; my contribution in the book chapter I co-authored significantly impacted on my writing skills and confidence.

### 6: Suggestions for the Fellowship Management Team

1. AGMCP management team should include more hands-on trainings in the webinars with maximum time allocation. For instance, a week or two in a month can be dedicated to a data analysis with a particular tool.

2. Travel grants should be awarded to mentees who want to participate and present in conferences organized by the AGMCP management team.

## 7: Acknowledgement



My heartfelt gratitude to the IMAGES-Initiative and Dr. Ebenezer Idowu Ajayi for the invaluable opportunity to be part of the AGMCP fellowship. This journey has been transformative, offering me not only guidance but also encouraged me to move out of my comfort zone and embrace new challenges.



Dr. Ebenezer Idowu Ajayi
**(Mentor)**

## 8: Contact Details

Name: Ziblila Sayibu

Email: sayibuz@gmail.com

Phone: +233 242 541 963

Orcid: https://orcid.org/0009-0003-9237-3874

ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ziblila-Sayibu

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/ziblila-sayibu-468983251

## 9: Advertisement: Next AGMCP Cohort