

# Curriculum Vitae

## A. Personal Information

**Name:** Alex Wekesa Nabiswa  
**Address:** P.O. Box 42777-00100, Nairobi, Kenya.  
**Mobile Telephone:** +254-724944645  
**E-mail:** anabiswa@gmail.com  
**Nationality:** Kenyan  
**Birthday:** 21 December 1979  
**Gender:** Male

## B. Skills and Competency

My academic training is in the area of Genetics and Plant breeding, with practical experience in the collection, maintenance, and evaluation of genetic diversity in biofuel plants, especially the application of molecular genetic tools for evaluation of diversity.

Specific skills include:

- Experimental design
- Experimental field trials
- All the main molecular biology techniques
- Data analysis (Ms Windows, Genemaker, Powermarker, DARwin, IMAS, and Genstat)
- Report writing
- Independence and self-management abilities gained while running research projects simultaneously
- Capability to adapt to multicultural environments
- Ability to work in groups, highlighted during work experience in tight-knit research groups
- Public speaking ability gained while teaching, training, and presenting in workshops and live radio talk (Kenya Broadcasting Corporation).

## C. Education and training

|    | <b>Year</b>    | <b>Qualification</b>                      | <b>Institution</b>             |
|----|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. | 2009- Present  | MSc ( Genetics and Plant breeding) degree | University of Nairobi.         |
| 2. | December 2009  | Marker assisted breeding                  | ICRISAT, Nairobi.              |
| 3. | September 2009 | Oleochemistry and biodiesel production    | Solarix, Netherlands.          |
| 5. | 2000 - 2005    | BSc ( Agriculture) honors degree          | University of Nairobi.         |
| 6. | 1995 -1998     | Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education  | ST John's High School, Kitale. |

## **D. Professional Experiences**

### **1. 2009 TO PRESENT TIME**

Thesis

Advisor: Kahiu Ngugi , PhD

Plant Science & Crop Protection department.

**University of Nairobi.**

For my MSc thesis work, I seek to investigate the genetic diversity of wild and cultivated *Jatropha curcas L.* This is accomplished by systematically evaluating varied accessions of *Jatropha* using both morphological and molecular tools. By identifying and banking rare provenances within the species, this work serves to locate potential traits of interest for future production and conservation needs.

### **2. 2009 – Present Time**

Multi-locational Field Trial in East Africa

**DEG *Jatropha* Support Programme** ([www.degisp.com](http://www.degisp.com))

As project agronomist, I'm running one of the largest multilocal field trial of *Jatropha curcas L.* in East Africa. *Jatropha* is a potential biofuel plant found growing in tropics and subtropical regions of the world but is only recently domesticated. My work seeks to answer the question: **Is it economically viable to grow *Jatropha* for biofuel production in East Africa?** The research project entails: provenance, agronomy (spacing & pruning), agronomy (micronutrient), pest & diseases and economic trials. This is a public-private partnership research programme covering nine trial sites spread over diverse agro-ecological conditions in East Africa. It is hoped the results will guide investors, farmers, financiers and scientists on the true potential of *Jatropha curcas L.* for biodiesel production in this region.

### **3. Nov 2007 – April 2008**

Vegetable Production, distribution and marketing in East Africa

**Wageningen University and Research –LEI**

- I conducted baseline survey and wrote a report on tomato production, distribution and marketing in Kirinyaga, Kenya.
- I analyzed the high segment market for tomato in Kenya.

#### 4. 2006 - 2007

##### **African Biotechnology Stakeholders Forum (ABSF)**

As associate project officer, I was involved in creating biotechnology awareness in Kenya through training workshops and seminars. I also participated in the drafting of Kenya Biotechnology strategy 2007 – 2012 as well representing my organization on National Biosafety Committee under the National council of Science and Technology.

#### 5. July 2003 -2004

##### World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

- I conducted a rapid survey of fruit demand in Kenya

#### E. Workshop Presentation

1. An example of private-public partnership in conducting *Jatropha curcas L* multilocational field trial in East Africa; **Presented** during biofuel meeting held at World Agroforestry Centre, October 2009, Nairobi, Kenya.
2. DEG *Jatropha* Support Programme progress report; **Presented** during annual meeting, June 2009, Nairobi, Kenya.
3. Cultural practices in tissue culture banana farming; **Presented** during Training of Trainers Seminar held on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007 at KARI- Thika, Kenya.
4. Current biotechnology applications in Kenya (tissue culture technology); **Presented** during biotechnology workshop held on 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007, Kakamega, Kenya.

#### F. Reports and Publications

1. *Research on fruit demand in Kenya*: A. Nabiswa, A. Aithal and W. Odongo: **TREES AND MARKETS ON-LINE, Vol 1, No 3**, January, 2004.
2. **Rapid survey of Nairobi wholesale fruit markets**: A, Nabiswa and A, Aithal: **Eastern and Central Africa Regional Programme (ICRAF-ECA), World Agroforestry Centre**, Page 30, Annual report 2004.
3. *Baseline survey for tomato production, distribution and marketing in Kirinyaga, Kenya*; Report for **Wageningen University LEI**, 2007/2008.
4. *Analysis of the high segment market for tomato in Kenya*; Report for **Wageningen University LEI**, 2007/2008.

5. *Feasibility study report for the establishment of bamboo plantation as raw material for paper manufacturing; Pegant Ltd, 2008.*
6. *Feasibility study report for the establishment of eucalyptus tree plantation as raw material for industrial fuel wood; Pegant Ltd, 2008.*
7. *Feasibility study report for commercial production of large-scale cotton as raw material for paper manufacturing in Kenya; Pegant Ltd, 2008.*
8. *Feasibility study report for establishment of Jatropha curcas L plantation for biodiesel in Kenya; Kifaru Ltd.*
9. *Feasibility study report and design of algae production system for biodiesel in Kenya; Kifaru Ltd.*
10. *Feasibility study report for use of coconut for biodiesel production in Kenyan Coast; Kifaru Ltd.*

**G. Honours**

- Science Congress Award, Lions Club 1997.

**H. Hobbies**

Reading scientific journals, business magazines, world trends in politics etc

**I. Referee**

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| <p><b>1. Kahiu Ngugi, PhD</b><br/> Molecular geneticist and cytogenetist<br/> Dept of Plant Science &amp; Crop Protection<br/> University of Nairobi.<br/> P.O. Box 29053<br/> Nairobi, Kenya.<br/> Tel ; +254-20-318262</p> | <p><b>2. Solomon Shibairo, PhD</b><br/> Chairman<br/> Dept of Plant Science &amp; Crop Protection<br/> University of Nairobi.<br/> P.O. Box 29053<br/> Nairobi, Kenya.<br/> Tel ; +254-20-318262</p> |
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