



PROFILE: DR EUSEBIUS JUMA MUKHWANA

Dr. Eusebius Juma Mukhwana was born on 1st August, 1965 in Kibabii village, Kanduyi Division, Bungoma District, Western Kenya. He is the 8th born child of the late Thomas Mukhwana Wanyonyi and Annah Namarome. His siblings include Jordina Mutori (teacher), the late William Simiyu (teacher), Mary Nyongesa (Development Worker) Eng. John Situma (Engineer), Matthew Murunga (teacher) the late Euphrasia Nyongesa, Alice Wafula (Accountant), Ignatius Wangila (teacher), Mariam Yusuf (Secretary), Videlis Nangekhe (Secretary), Isaac Opicho (Accountant), among others. Mzee Thomas Mukhwana had 5 wives with 30 children.

Dr. Mukhwana went to Kibabii village school from 1973 to 1980 where he sat for the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE), which he passed very well with 33 points out of the possible 36. He then joined Kibabii High School for his secondary school education between 1981 and 1984 when he sat for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) which he passed with distinction (division one). While in Secondary School, he loved Basketball, Wildlife Conservation and Agriculture. He was a school prefect from form one to form four. He also grew his own food crops at school and at home as was expected of agriculture students.



Dr Mukhwana at a maize research station at the Sacred Africa Campus in Bungoma (part of Moi University which he started)

During the school holidays, Dr. Mukhwana spend much of his time working on his father's numerous farms (ploughing, weeding, harvesting) and looking after cattle. He had a very keen interest in Animal Health from a very early age. After his 'O' levels, he remained in Kibabii High School to pursue his Advanced Level studies (KACE) in Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry between 1985 and 1986. He got 3 principals in all the subjects and a Subsidiary in General Paper. In his academic work, Dr. Mukhwana was greatly influenced by the earlier success of his elder brothers especially John and Matthew who had proceeded to university to study Engineering and Education respectively, after their secondary level studies. In 1986, he underwent a 3 months' training at the National Youth Service College at Gilgil where he learnt among other skills, physical fitness, military drills, discipline, National Development and Combat. While at the University, he served as the Chairman of the Bungoma University Students Association (BUSA).

He later proceeded to the University of Nairobi's College of Agriculture and Veterinary

Sciences to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Veterinary Medicine between 1987 and 1991. He graduated in 1991 with a distinction in Veterinary Medicine (BVM) and was immediately enrolled into a Master's Degree program in Pharmacology and Toxicology in the same university.

In 1993, he graduated with a Distinction in the Master's Degree (MSc) in Pharmacology and Toxicology. After graduating, he was employed as a Veterinary Officer with the Food and Agricultural Research Management (FARM-Africa), a British Charity in Samburu and Marsabit districts of Northern Kenya. While there, he developed a keen interest in helping poor people in vulnerable circumstances owing to the difficult nature of the arid environment in Northern Kenya. He learnt that if pastoral communities living in the arid and barren areas of Kenya can survive and fend for themselves, then his own people of Western Kenya with fertile land and abundant rainfall should be living a rich life - since it was some kind of heaven compared to the latter. But this had never been the case for a long time. The people of Western Kenya were wallowing in poverty with rampant food insecurity and high levels of malnutrition. About 60% of the people lived below the poverty line (earn one dollar per day). The work in Northern Kenya opened his eyes to the plight of his own people – high levels of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and exploitation by middlemen in the market place.

In 1995, he left FARM-Africa and joined the Manor House Agricultural Centre in Kitale as its Executive Director. Manor House trains farmers and School leavers on how to use Sustainable Organic Agriculture to improve farm productivity. In 1997, Dr. Mukhwana joined Moi University as a Lecturer in Pharmacology and Toxicology in the faculty of Health Sciences, but his heart was not here, it was with the farmers. In 1998, he decamped from the white lab coats and Ivory Tower of the university to go back to where he always belonged – the farm lands. A year earlier in 1997, he had helped found the Sustainable Agriculture Centre for Research, Extension and Development in Africa (SACRED-Africa), whose main purpose was to work with farmers to improve their agricultural productivity, food security and income. Dr. Mukhwana is the founder Director of SACRED-Africa.

In the next 8 years, he steered SACRED-Africa into a reputable and formidable agricultural NGO in Western Kenya, employing more than 30 people and had developed its own training, research and demonstration facilities on the outskirts of Bungoma town. SACRED-Africa has been in the fore front of championing the rights of small-scale farmers especially policies that hinder their growth and development. It has also helped them to adopt new soil fertility improving technologies and improvement of the marketing of their produce while protecting and enhancing the environment.

During his career, Dr. Mukhwana has published over 30 papers in reputable journals and written many books in the area of helping small scale farmers to improve their lives. In 2003, he was declared "Man of the Year" by the American Biographical Institute for his outstanding contribution to the development of humanity. In 2004, he received a Head of State Commendation (HSC) from His Excellency Hon. Mwai Kibaki the president of Kenya for his "distinguished role of championing the course of poor small scale farmers in Kenya". Dr. Mukhwana is currently the chairman of the African Agricultural NGOs Network with its headquarters in Ghana. He is also the chairman of Nzoia Water Services Co. Ltd. (a giant company that treats and supplies water and sanitation services) to four towns in Western Kenya namely: Kitale,

Bungoma, Webuye and Kimilili, all with a total population of 600,000 people. He is a member of trustees of Sang'alo Institute of Science & Technology, the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, Kimukung'i, Bukembe and Khachonge secondary schools.

Dr. Mukhwana is married to Lucia Jemutai, a daughter of a prominent farmer from Uasin Gishu district near Eldoret (Mzee arap Sang' (Kendelo). They have four children: Ian Wafula, Tony Wekesa, Pauline Naliaka and Alex Wanyonyi. In 1993, Dr. Mukhwana started Nomadic Veterinary Services in Bungoma and Ngong towns. This was his way of practicing what he preaches – that the people of Western Kenya can establish and manage profitable business enterprises.

Dr. Mukhwana has had a distinguished career in the rural areas using his vast knowledge and skills to help small scale farmers to improve their lives. In his own words, "His role has been that of waking up his people to grab opportunities that have helped them to improve their own lives". These efforts have yielded extraordinary results and have made Dr. Mukhwana one of the most influential people in the region in the recent times. In 2006 he started SACRED Training Institute which teamed up with Moi University to bring the first ever University campus to Bungoma District. He has dedicated much of his work to his parents, the late Mzee Thomas Mukhwana and Mama Annah Namarome for their foresightedness in education, success and achievements, a thing that has been a source of great inspiration to their children and the Basakali clan (to which Dr Mukhwana belongs) over the years.

Source: <http://www.sacredafrica.org/mukhwana-profile.php>