

## **Abdou TENKOUANO**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Current Position: Director General and Chief Executive Officer, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)

Work Address: icipe, Duduville Campus, Kasarani, Nairobi. P.O. Box 30772-00100 Nairobi, Kenya  
Phone: +254 (20) 8632108 ; Mobile: +254 (795) 797037  
E-Mail: [a.tenkouano@icipe.org](mailto:a.tenkouano@icipe.org)

Private Email: [atenkouano@gmail.com](mailto:atenkouano@gmail.com)

---

### **I. PERSONALITY & CAREER DRIVERS**

---

- Excellent communication skills, well-developed interpersonal skills and ability to identify with mixture of cultures, traditions, faith and diversity while influencing at every level by practicing integrity, building trust, commanding professional and personal respect, and delivering results.
- Decisive and dependable leadership with strong operational management skills founded on intuitive and analytical thinking; pleasure in working with energetic, clever, and questioning staff; ability to evaluate and monitor success parameters in a complex organizational and international context.

---

### **II. BACKGROUND**

---

- About 30 years post-doctorate experience in agricultural research covering genetics (quantitative, molecular, cytogenetics), breeding (ploidy and genome manipulation), biotechnology (tissue culture, genetic engineering), pathology (host plant resistance, pathogen population management), agronomy, and postharvest (ripening and value addition) in support of extension and development thrusts on several crop species including sorghum, millet, maize, cassava, yam, banana and plantain - supported and evidenced by more than 260 publications
- Experience in research management, multidisciplinary research team coordination, proposal development and fund raising, and collaboration with scientists at national, regional and international institutes, and at advanced laboratories for knowledge generation and technology development and dissemination, with good proposal development and fund-raising record (some 40 funded proposals)
- Experience in degree-oriented (more than 20 students supervised for Ph.D., MSc. and B.Sc. thesis research) and non-degree training for individuals and small groups.
- Extensive travel experience, particularly in Africa, with participation in national, regional, and international conferences and workshops.
- Residential experience in Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and United States of America (besides native Burkina Faso)
- Proficiency (reading, written and oral) in French and English, basic knowledge (reading) of German and Spanish. Spoken African languages: Gulimancema, Dioula, Mooré.

---

### **III. UNIVERSITY EDUCATION**

---

- Ph.D. (1993), Genetics, Texas A&M University, Department of Soil & Crop Sciences, College Station, Texas 77843-2474, U.S.A. [Phone:+1-979-845-2151, Fax:+1-979-845-0456].
- M.Sc. (1990), Plant Breeding, Texas A&M University, Department of Soil & Crop Sciences, College Station, Texas 77843-2474, U.S.A. [Phone:+1-979-845-2151, Fax:+1-979-845-0456].
- Ingénieur Agronome (1985), Rural Development (Agricultural Planning & Resource Management), University of Ouagadougou, 03 B.P. 7021 Ouagadougou 03, Burkina Faso. [Phone: +226-50 30 71 59, Fax:+226-50 30 72 42].

---

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE EDUCATION**

---

- Performance Measurement for Effective Management of Non-Profit Organizations – 31 May-3 June 2011, Harvard Business School, Boston, U.S.A.
- Leadership and Management Training – 6-10 October 2008, conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Bangkok, Thailand

---

#### **V. POSITIONS HELD**

---

May 2016 to December 2023	Executive Director, West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (Duty Post: Dakar, Senegal)
January 2014 to April 2016	Regional Director, West and Central Africa, Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center) and Member of Institutional Management and Research Committees (Duty Post: Bamako, Mali)
March 2008 to December 2013	Director, Regional Center for Africa, Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center) and Member of Institutional Management and Research Committees (Duty Post: Arusha, Tanzania)
September 2001 to March 2008.	Starchy Crops Scientist (Genetics and Breeding of Plantain and Banana, Cassava and Yams), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Humid Forest Ecoregional Center (Duty Posts: Yaoundé, Cameroon; Accra, Ghana)  Appointed as Member, Research for Development Council (RDC), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) - January 2006 to March 2008  Appointed as Program Leader, Diversification of Agricultural Systems in Humid and Sub-Humid Agro-ecologies, IITA - December 2002 to December 2004
July 1996 to August 2001.	Associate Scientist and Scientist - from August 2018 (Genetics and Breeding), Plantain and Banana Improvement Program, Crop Improvement Division, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, (Duty Post: Onne High Rainfall Station, near Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria).  Appointed Research Team Coordinator, Plantain and Banana Research, Genetic Improvement Group, IITA – from March 1997 to August 2001  Appointed Program Coordinator, Plantain and Banana Research, IITA – from February 2000
October 1994 to June 1996.	Coordinator, West and Central Africa Sorghum Research Network, International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Bamako, Mali and Visiting Lecturer in Genetics and Plant Breeding, Université de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
July 1993 to October 1994.	Lecturer in Genetics and Plant Breeding, Université de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
January 1988 - May 1993.	Graduate Assistant, Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University, Texas, U.S.A.), and Visiting Scholar, Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology, Purdue University, Indiana (U.S.A.).
July 1985 - December 1987.	Research Associate, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) West African Sorghum Improvement Program (Striga Research), Burkina Faso.
May 1984 - April 1985.	Internship in sorghum breeding, ICRISAT, Kamboinsé, Burkina Faso.
May - September 1983.	Internship in soil fertilization research, Projet Phosphate, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

May - September 1982.

Internship in agricultural extension, ex-O.R.D (Organisme Regional de Développement). Haut-Bassins, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso.

---

## **VI. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

---

Successfully raised around USD 110 Million to develop multiple stakeholder partnerships around agricultural research and development programs, consisting of about:

- 7 Large grants (5,000,000 USD or more)
- 15 Medium size grants (At least 1,000,000 USD but less than 5,000,000 USD)
- 23 Small grants (At least 100,000 USD but less than 1,000,000 USD)
- 14 Seed grants (less than 100,000 USD)

---

## **VII. PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

---

- More than 260 publications consisting of 3 theses and dissertations; 142 peer-reviewed journal articles; 32 books, book chapters and edited proceedings; 38 conference papers; 3 registrations of gene and plant products; and 51 abstracts, newsletters, and technical manuals.
- Twenty-one student theses supervised (6 Ph.D., 12 M.Sc., and 3 B.Sc.)
- External examiner for PhD theses submitted to the University of Adelaide (Australia), University of KwaZulu Natal (South Africa), University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).
- Visiting Professor at University of Ghana at Legon's West Africa Center for Crop Improvement (Ghana), Covenant University (Nigeria), University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), and KULeuven (Belgium).
- Professional membership: American Society of Agronomy (from 1988); Crop Science Society of America (from 1988); African Crop Science Society (from 1996); American Society of Horticultural Science (from 1997); International Society of Horticultural Science (from 2001); African Seed Trade Association (from 2008)
- Other professional affiliations: Advisor, International Foundation of Science, Stockholm, Sweden; Member, Program Steering Committee, TeebAgriFood, UNEP, Switzerland; Ex-Member, Steering Committee, Global Program for Improvement of Banana and plantain (ProMusa, also served as Chair, Genetic Improvement Working Group of ProMusa, INIBAP, Montpellier, France); Ex-Member, Steering Committee, Musa Network for West and Central Africa, INIBAP, Douala, Cameroon; Ex-Member, Editorial Board, MusAfrica, IITA/CARPAP/INIBAP, Douala, Cameroon; Ex-Member, Taxonomy Advisory Group, Global Musa Conservation Scheme, Coordinated by INIBAP, Montpellier, France;
- Professional Recognitions: IITA Nominee for CGIAR Outstanding Scientist of the Years 2003 and 2004; CGIAR Science Award for Outstanding Partnership – 2009 (AVRDC and ICRISAT)
- International Evaluator for Arab Gulf Fund's [Prince Talal International Prize for Human Development](#) – 2021 Edition
- Member (Judge), [Rockefeller Foundation 2050 Food System Vision Prize](#) Community

---

## **VIII. ADVISORY BOARDS**

---

- Member, Steering Committee (regional representative Africa Group-II), Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), World Bank, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (from February 2023 to present)
- Member, Board of Directors (chair, Programme Committee), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Accra, Ghana (from June 2016 to present)
- Member, Board of Directors, ECOBasic Seed Company Limited, Suite 1, First Floor, NNDC Mall, Muhammad Buhari Way, City Center- Kaduna, Kaduna State, Nigeria (from October 2021 to present).
- Member, Board of Trustees (chair, Governance Committee), WorldFish, Penang, Malaysia (from July 2017 to December 2021)
- Member, Regional Steering Committee, West Africa Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP), Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) (from February 2022 to present)

- Chair, International Scientific Advisory Panel, Biorisk Management Facility (BIMAF), Cotonou, Benin (From October 2016 to present)
- Member, Food Crisis Prevention Network, Sahel and West Africa Club, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris (from 2016 to present).
- Member, Program Steering Committee, Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), African Development Bank/International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Cotonou, Benin (from March 2018 to June 2020)
- Member, Regional Steering Committee, West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP), Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) (from May 2016 to December 2019)
- Member, International Science Advisory Board, West Africa Center for Crop Improvement (WACCI), University of Ghana Legon, Accra, Ghana (From August 2016 to December 2018)
- Member, International Advisory Board, ILRI-BecA Hub, International Livestock Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya (from October 2017 to October 2020)
- Member, Steering Committee, Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (from February 2017 to December 2020)
- Participated (often as Keynote or Panelist) in several high-level consultations convened by African Union, ECOWAS, African Development Bank, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), etc...

---

## **VIII. COUNTRIES RESIDED IN (\*) OR VISITED ON DUTY**

---

- 1. Africa:** Benin, Burkina Faso\*, Cameroon\*, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana\*, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali\*, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria\*, Rwanda, Senegal\*, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania\*, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe
- 2. Americas:** Colombia, Ecuador, Guadeloupe, Honduras, Mexico, United States of America\*
- 3. Europe:** Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom
- 4. Asia/Pacific:** Australia, Bangladesh, China (Taiwan), India, Malaysia, The Philippines, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates