

Shitta Ndenum Suzzy

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Education:

PhD in-view, Jimma University (Plant Breeding)

- Research interest: Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS) for seedcoat hardness in African yam bean (*Sphenostylis stenocarpa*)

Master of Science, University of Ibadan, (Genetics/ molecular biology).

Class of degree: PhD grade CGPA 5.7

- Thesis title- Transferability of Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) SSR markers in African yam bean (*Sphenostylis stenocarpa*) and their application in genetic diversity studies.

Research Experience:

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, (Bioscience Unit) Genetic Resources Center - Research Supervisor 2014 - January 2018.

Activities:

- Optimized and implemented standardize protocols for leaf tissue collection, nucleic acid extraction and high throughput genotyping.
- Conducted analysis of DNA marker data, tracked samples from field/ screen house to the laboratory.
- Trained new hires and graduate student on basic molecular biology techniques.
- Prepared reports for scientists and performed other duties assign to me by my supervisor.
- Conducted true to type verification of In-vitro and field materials for cryopreservation.
- Carried out hybrid verification in cowpea.
- Drafted manuscript for publication.

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, (Bioscience Unit) Genetic Resources Center- Visiting Research Fellow 2012- 2013.

Activities:

- Tested the amplification ability of thirty-six cowpea SSR markers across eighty genomic DNA extracted from African yam bean.
- Carried out genetic diversity within sixty-seven African yam bean accessions using transferable cowpea SSR markers.
- Prepared and maintained centralized laboratory reagents and buffers for nucleic acid isolation.
- Conducted regular molecular biology work (Plant DAN/RNA isolation, DNA /RNA quality and quantity analysis, PCR, Gel electrophoresis and fragment analysis.
- Kept up to date record of laboratory supplies.
- Kept laboratory benches and equipment in good working condition.
- Submitted report on regular basis.
- Maintained accurate data records and laboratory notebooks and computer records that are easily accessed on demand by my supervisor.

Experimental Skills:

- Experience in basic Molecular Biology techniques such as polymerase chain reaction, plant nucleic acid extraction and quantification using different protocols, agarose gel electrophoresis, fragment analysis and primer design.
- Experience in molecular/ statistical data analysis using GeneMapper, NTSYS, PowerMarker, DARwin, SAS, R, GenAIEx
- Experience in using molecular markers to ascertain genetic diversity within germplasm.
- Experience in preparation of plant samples for Genotyping by Sequencing (GBS).
- Experience in PowerPoint presentation.
- Experience in sequence and codon alignment.
- Experience in observing laboratory safety and precautionary measures.

Communication Skills:

- **Oral-** Well-developed oral communication skills developed through PowerPoint presentation at University of Maiduguri, University of Ibadan and working in International Institute of Tropical Agriculture.
- **Written-** Excellent writing skills gained from writing Bachelor projects, Master's thesis and manuscript of research paper.

Other Experience:

- **2008- 2011 Mutual Benefits Assurance, Lagos, Nigeria.**
Provided information to customers on frequently asked questions about Mutual Benefits insurance policies, sold insurance policy, collected cheques and drafted memos on behalf of the company.
- **2006- 2007 Parks and garden unit, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Jos, Nigeria.**
Supervised field staffs, introduced the “Know your plant scientifically scheme”, raised nursery beds for ornamental and horticultural crops, provided regular feedback to head of unit.

Conferences/symposium Attended (Academic):

- UK Science and Innovation Network
Theme: Bioinformatics and Wheat Genomic Workshop
Venue: Worcester, South Africa
Date: 4-12 February, 2019.
- Genetic Resources Center
Theme: Symposium on African yam bean
Venue: Conference center, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria
Date: 18-19 October, 2016.

- International Association of Research Scholars and Fellows (IARSAF).
Theme: Agricultural transformation agenda prospects for the African youth.
Venue: Conference center, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria
Date: May, 2014.
- International Association of Research Scholars and Fellows (IARSAF).
Theme: Exposing the potentials of innovative agriculture for food security in sub-Saharan Africa.
Venue: Conference center, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria
Date: March, 2013.

Courses Attended:

- qPCR/phylogenetics course organized by Inqaba biotec in collaboration with Bioscience center International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, 5-9 May 2014
- Geographical Information Training organized by the training and capacity development unit, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, 9-13 December 2013.
- Statistical Analysis with SAS organized by International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, 2-6 September, 2013.

Publications:

- Shitta N.S, Ndlovu N, Gebreselassie W, Tesfaya A and Oselebe H (2019) Phenotypic Characterization of African Yam Bean (*Sphenostylis stenocarpa*) Accessions in Ethiopia. Poster Presentation at African Plant Breeders Association (APBA) Conference, held at Accra, Ghana, October 23-25.
- Ndenum S. Shitta, Michael T. Abberton, Adenubi I. Adesoye, Daniel B. Adewale and Olaniyi Oyatomi (2015) Analysis of genetic diversity of African yam bean using SSR markers derived from cowpea. *Plant Genetics Resources: Characterization and utilization* 14: 1- 50-56.
- Ndenum S. Shitta (2016) Amplification of African yam bean Genomic DNA using Cowpea SSR markers. Oral Presentation at African yam bean symposium held in IITA Ibadan, 18-19 October.
- Olaniyi Oyatomi, Micheal Abberton, Christian Fatokun, Ousmane Boukar, Christopher Illori and Ndenum S. Shitta (2016) Interspecific hybridization of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp) and wild *Vigna* species. Oral presentation at Pan-African Grain Legume and World cowpea conference held at Zambia, 27 February- 4th March.

Referees:

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Soybean programme

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