

Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship

Fellow Profile

**Position**

Senior Lecturer

Institution

Makerere University

Country

Uganda

Education

PhD, Agriculture, Environment,
and Development Economics,
Ohio State University (USA),
2015

Mentor

Prof. Bernard Bashaasha,
Professor of Agricultural and
Development Economics,
College of Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences,
Makerere University

Area of Interest

Inclusive and gender-responsive
financial policies to provide
women with the credit they
need to boost their productivity

Rosemary Isoto Emegu 2022 AWARD Policy Fellow

"I particularly like working with young people because they are the new face and leaders of my country. If I can change the mindset of any of them, I will have changed a whole nation for so many years ahead."

Growing up and watching her parents use only indigenous knowledge to farm and provide for the family, Rosemary Isoto Emegu knew that agriculture was something she always wanted to do – and to learn how it could be done differently. She enjoyed studying sciences at high school and in 2001, Rosemary was awarded a government scholarship to study a BSc in Agriculture at Makerere University. While waiting for her degree results, she began working as a Finance Assistant at Stanhope Finance Company. However, after she was awarded a first-class degree, Makerere University offered her a Research Assistant post, which she readily accepted.

After only six months, Rosemary was promoted to a Teaching Assistant position and began studying for a Master's in Agriculture Economics in 2006. In 2010, Rosemary moved to the US, where she worked as a Teaching Associate while completing a PhD in Agriculture, Environment, and Development Economics at Ohio State University. Upon finishing

her PhD in 2015, she moved back to Uganda and took up a post as a Lecturer at Makerere University's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. In 2022, she was promoted to Senior Lecturer.

The highlight of Rosemary's career has been imparting her knowledge to the young people she teaches, from undergraduate to Master's level. "I particularly like working with young people because they are the new face and leaders of my country. If I can change the mindset of any of them, I will have changed a whole nation for so many years ahead."

Her research and recommendations have informed policy-related work on agricultural productivity, food security, and nutrition. "Recently, I did work exploring how egg processing can add value for poultry farmers in Uganda. I was contacted by Dr. Monica Musenero, Uganda's Minister for Science and Technology, who was interested in the policy implications of my work. I was asked to prepare a

cabinet paper that the Minister was to present to parliament,” Rosemary adds.

Rosemary learned of AWARD’s GRASP Fellowship after two friends forwarded her the callout. “I am hoping that I will be able to gain more confidence and experience working with my Mentor, Professor Bernard Bashaasha, who has expertise in agricultural productivity research, resource economics, food security, and nutrition, to be able to produce policies that will improve financial inclusion for women in Uganda,” she explains. Rosemary is also looking forward to networking with other GRASP mentees. Later on, as a mentor, she says, “I am looking forward to also sharing my experience, expertise, and knowledge with young people and women through mentorship.”

“I am very optimistic and hopeful that whatever knowledge I will gain from the two-year Fellowship will be translated into something tangible for my career and for the institution I work for – and that I will be able to confidently contribute through policy-relevant research, debate, and discourse on issues that affect women financial inclusion and other livelihood-enhancing ventures,” Rosemary says happily.

Rosemary Isoto Emegu is among a growing number of women selected for the Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship. GRASP Fellowship is a career development program growing a pool of confident, capable, African women to lead the design and implementation of gender-responsive policies in Africa. The Fellowship is an initiative of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).