

Putso Nyathi (nee Maphosa)

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SUMMARY

I am a lady with 19 years of agricultural development experience in Africa. I have served with various institutions in different capacities. I am currently a Regional Agronomist for East and southern Africa for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Prior to joining IFAD, I was the Conservation Agriculture officer supporting Canadian Food Grains bank funded projects in southern Africa. My role is to provide technical support in program design, management and technical training on sustainable agriculture. Prior to my involvement with the Canadian Food Grains bank, I had served as a senior projects officer for a USAID funded project in Zimbabwe. I have also worked for the International Crops Research Institute for the semi-arid tropics (ICRISAT) for four years where I was involved in agricultural research. I have experience in research, program coordination, project proposal development, capacity building, creating networks and collaboration with stakeholders as well as monitoring and evaluation of projects. I am currently a member of the Southern Africa Regional conservation agriculture taskforce. I have clean class four driver's licence.

EDUCATION

▪ ACADEMIC EDUCATION

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| September 2020 | PhD in Rural Development. University of Pretoria, Department of Agriculture Economics, Extension and Rural Development |
| Oct 2008-Sep 2009 | MSc Agriculture and Development. (Merit)
School of Agriculture, Policy & Development, University of Reading, UK |
| Mar 2002-Aug 2003 | Post Graduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management
University Of Zimbabwe, Harare |
| Feb1996-June1999 | Bsc in Agriculture (Honours)
University Of Zimbabwe, Harare |

▪ PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NUST)
CNFA Business Management and Agricultural Technical Trainer
Gender In Agricultural Extension, AGRITEX and NORAD sponsor
Needs Based Agricultural Extension Development Course, AGRITEX. UZ and ZIMWESI
Documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems Using the Electronic and Print Media, FAO/AGRITEX,
Participatory Rural Appraisal Methods And Practice
Organic Nutrition Gardening
Participatory Extension Approaches, GTZ/AGRITEX partnership

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awarded best presenter of research results by a Scientific officer at ICRISAT Bulawayo, 2006

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Feb 2019 to date	Regional Agronomist for east and southern Africa-International Fund for Agriculture Development I(FAD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical lead to the design and supervision of IFAD funded loan and grant projects • Lead mission teams during regular IFAD monitoring visits • Support corporate activities • Contribute to the generation and dissemination of knowledge products and innovations related to crop production and extension services • Support partnerships initiatives and policy engagement
Key Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supported a knowledge harvesting event for IFAD funded projects in East and southern Arica ➤ Published a blog on maintaining extension services during the COVID-19 pandemic
Jan 2014 to Feb 2019	Conservation Agriculture Technical Advisor- Southern Africa with Mennonite Central Committee- member of CFGB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist partners in the design of CA programs (general proposal development, monitoring and evaluation, extension approach, budgeting,) • Provide technical direction and capacity building of partner staff • Strengthen the information sharing, exchanges and networking between Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB) staff/members/partners and regional CA networks (FAO, Regional and National CA Task Forces, Act, etc.). • Develop training materials, which will assist in strengthening the CA programming capacity of the network. • Facilitate exchange visits and linkages to markets for smallholder farmers to improve their participation in the value chain • Conduct regular field visits to implementing partners to ensure that the CA projects are implemented according to principles and standards of CA technology and propose managerial actions when necessary to improve implementation and ensures that actions are taken. • Manage a CA link/ blog on the CFGB website and update the webpage on a regular basis. • Represent the CFGB network at CA-related meetings, conferences and workshops. • Contribute to the CFGB network's organizational learning through publications and participation in relevant workshops. • Participate in program evaluations and produce periodic reports to CFGB
Key Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Successfully organized three CFGB partners workshops for networking in Zambia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe in order to improve partner programming ➤ Trained partner staff on Result based management and built their capacity to be able to meet CFGB reporting requirements ➤ Presented to the Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and development on the role of Conservation Agriculture as a Climate Smart technology and in various fora
Nov 2010 to Sept 2012:	CNFA Agro-dealer Strengthening Program (ASP-Z) Senior Agriculture Services Officer
Duties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate activities at the CNFA office in Bulawayo ▪ Conduct training in business management, output marketing of agricultural produce, writing business proposals, accessing credit and managing cash flow ▪ Monitor and evaluate programme activities ▪ Engage seed houses and other stakeholders in agriculture and rural development work to facilitate the participation of farmers in the value chain ▪ Facilitate activities that promote the development of local agrodealer associations. ▪ Represent ASP-Z at technical meetings, seminars, and workshops on Zimbabwe's agricultural development. Report on issues and follow-up actions.
Key Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ successfully developed a proposal for the second phase of the project funded by USAID ➤ Assisted Gwanda agrodealer association in conflict management ➤ Engaged input suppliers and successfully established more than 200 demonstration plots

Nov 2005- Sep 2008 and Nov 2009-to Oct 2010 **International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Bulawayo, Zimbabwe-Scientific Officer (Agronomy)**

- Duties**
- Implementation and monitoring of agricultural research projects
 - Promoting sustainable technologies to farmers (conservation agriculture, microdosing) with NGOs and Government extension personnel
 - Training of NGO and government agriculture extension staff on promotion of conservation agriculture and microdosing technologies.
 - Provide technical advice to extension, NGO personnel and farmers on issues pertaining to conservation agriculture
 - Conduct on-station and on-farm trials based on feedback from implementing partners about conservation agriculture and general agronomy
 - Produce and update extension materials on conservation agriculture and micro dosing
 - Liaison with NGOs, local government, other research organisations and agricultural projects involved in the rural development sector
 - Conducting evaluation surveys to measure project effectiveness
 - Internal and external reporting to the Protracted Relief Programme technical monitoring team

Key Achievements ➤ Awarded the best presenter of research results by a Scientific Officer by ICRISAT-Bulawayo 2006

Aug 2004- Jul 2005 **World Vision, Zimbabwe**
Food Security Officer (Agriculture and Livelihoods)

- Duties**
- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project aiming to ensure food security and improve livelihoods of vulnerable farmers
 - Selection of appropriate target populations to be recipients of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilisers)
 - Capacity building of community workers and farmers on sustainable agricultural practices relevant to the increased production of food
 - Regular follow-up and visit to target communities to promote agricultural practices relevant to increase food production
 - Participation in planning sessions and input in the development of new project proposals
 - Collaboration with local stakeholders, Government departments, Non Governmental organisations and local leadership in the development of appropriate strategies for targeted populations
 - Mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS into Agricultural Recovery program
 - Co ordination and networking with other agencies and stakeholders in the prevention and mitigation of the impact of HIV and AIDS in the agricultural sector.

Key Achievements

- Successfully implemented an FAO funded project that targeted HIV and AIDS infected and affected households by promoting high value crops through drip irrigation in Plumtree District
- Procured and delivered agricultural inputs to 1500 project beneficiaries
- Supervised the distribution of inputs and monitoring at district level
- Designed appropriate training methods and materials for use in local community development work
- Established nutrition gardens with HIV/AIDS affected and infected farmers
- Produced regular timely progress reports on projects' activities and achievements

Nov 1999 – Jun 2004 **Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe- Provincial Training Officer**

- Duties
- Training needs assessment for all extension staff throughout the Province.
 - Preparation of budget for training activities funded by GTZ in the province and monitoring of expenses
 - Participatory Development of training programmes on agricultural extension and participatory approaches and curriculum for extension staff and farmers.
 - Co-ordination and facilitation of training for both staff and communal farmers as determined by the training needs assessment.
 - Member of judging team in various competitions focused on Agricultural Extension and Rural Development.
 - Monitoring and Evaluation of projects that included the South East Dry Areas Project and Small Holder Dry Areas Resource Management Project.
 - Liaison with various local and international organizations involved in Agriculture and Rural Development (NGOs, Research centres, government departments and programmes).
- Key Achievements
- Successfully trained extension staff on gender issues in agriculture
 - Contributed to strengthening extension staff capacity in participatory extension approaches
 - Produced and disseminated technical and informative material (fact sheets and advisory notes) to both staff and farmers.
 - Conducted regular research to determine the effectiveness of the training provided.

Publications and Research

- **Nyathi, P.**, Moyo, T., Posthumus, H & Joe Stevens, J 2020 Impact of Social and Institutional Factors on the Uptake of Conservation Agriculture: A Case of Zambia and Zimbabwe Sustainable Agriculture Research; Vol. 9, No. 1 <https://doi.org/10.5539/sar.v9n1p67>
 - Mazvimavi, K., Ndlovu, P.V., **Nyathi, P.** and Minde I.J. 2010 Conservation agriculture practices and adoption in Zimbabwe (2010) presented as a poster at the Association of Agricultural Economists in Cape Town South Africa, September 2010.
 - Hove, L., Mashingaidze, N., Twomlow, S., **Nyathi, P.**, Moyo, M., Mupangwa, W. and Masvaya, E. 2008. Micro Doses, mega benefits- promoting fertilizer use in semi-arid Zimbabwe, Bulawayo, ICRISAT
 - Twomlow, S., Rohrbach, D., Dimes, J., Mupangwa, W., Ncube, B., Hove, L., Moyo, M., Mashingaidze, N. and **Maphosa P.**, 2008. Micro-dosing as a pathway to Africa's Green Revolution: evidence from broad-scale on-farm trial. *Nutrient Cycling in Agro ecosystems*, research article URL <http://www.springerlink.com/content/q8k24240980u7322/>
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- Submitted an abstract to the Regional Conservation Agriculture Symposium held in Johannesburg, South Africa in February 2011 entitled : Assessing the Feasibility of Mulching in Mixed-Crop Livestock Systems of Zimbabwe

OTHER SKILLS

- **LANGUAGES**
English- (Fluent both written and spoken)
Sotho- (Mother language) Ndebele, , Zulu, Shona- good spoken, Venda, Xhosa- understand
- **COMPUTER SKILLS**
Microsoft applications: Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Statistical Packages; Genstat, E-mail and Internet services

REFEREES

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