
Curriculum Vitae for Obert Maminimini

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1 PERSONAL DETAILS

a. Surname:	MAMINIMINI
b. First Names:	OBERT
c. Date of Birth:	6 th December 1961
d. Nationality:	Zimbabwean
e. Marital Status:	Married

1. KEY QUALIFICATIONS

1984 – 1989	Kuban Institute of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture, Russia.
Qualification	Master of Science degree in Agriculture majoring in Agronomy
1994 – 1994	University of Zimbabwe, P. O. Box MP 167, Mt. Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe
Qualification	Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Engineering Systems Analysis
2000 - 2004	Zimbabwe Open University, P. O. Box MP 1119, Mt. Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe
Qualification	Masters in Business Administration (MBA) degree

2. KEY COMPETENCIES

- Understanding the characteristics of smallholder farmers and how to enhance agricultural productivity
- Excellent communication (oral and written) skills
- Application of participatory extension approaches, among them the Farmer Field School Approach
- Ability to initiate, build and maintain effective partnerships with Government, Private Sector, NGO Partners and farmer organisations
- Demonstrated ability to develop training materials and guides (manuals, pamphlets, factsheets, podcasts) on various crop value chains for use by extension personnel and farmers
- Ability to design and implement climate smart projects and interventions that emphasise on sustainable agricultural systems built around agroecology
- Ability to lead, formulate, implement and monitor projects
- Ability to work under pressure, working beyond regular time when the situation so requires
- Ability to think outside the box and take initiatives,
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment and multi-disciplinary team
- Very effective trainer for extension personnel and farmers, based on many years of hands on experience in the agricultural field
- Ability and willingness to learn and adapt to new environments
- Good command of English language (written and oral) and good computer skills (Word, Excel, email, Power Point).

3. SUMMARY OF EXPERTISE

- Close to 30 years of experience working in the agricultural sector ranging from government (agricultural extension), private sector, farmers unions/associations, NGO sector and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- Providing technical expertise to farmers on crop production (dryland and irrigated), promoting Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)
- Training of Trainers (ToT) on various technical aspects of crop production as well as farmer training
- Providing lobby and advocacy services to Farmers and Commodity Associations
- Initiating and implementing contract growing schemes for farmer groups
- Participating in the development of new smallholder irrigation schemes
- Providing agribusiness advice to farmers and training them on farming as a business
- Providing agricultural policy guidance relating to agricultural production, marketing, irrigation development, rural credit systems and agricultural value chain addition
- Project planning and writing of project proposals

- Implementation and management of funded projects
- Use of participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools in rural development work
- Use of Farmer Field School approach on Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM) as well as facilitator training. Trained facilitators who ran FFSs that looked into sustainable management of Fall Armyworm (FAW) using home grown solutions
- Member of the FFS Technical Network for Southern Africa whose objective is to provide coordination and technical support on FFS and exchange of relevant information, lessons learned and expertise in the sub-region.
- Development of training and reference materials for use by extension personnel and farmers.

4. CARRIER HIGHLIGHTS

January 2013 to date: National Crops Officer: FAO Zimbabwe

My major responsibilities are:

Coordinating the Zimbabwe Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSPZim) Agricultural Productivity and Nutrition (APN) Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) activities, supporting crop production to enhance agricultural productivity, participatory extension, climate smart agriculture and innovative agricultural systems. Offer crop production technical guidance to the LFSP Implementing Partners (IPs) through:

1. Provide leadership and guidance in the promotion and uptake by farmers of sustainable low input climate smart agricultural practices modelled around agroecology in collaboration with key programme stakeholders (government, implementing partners and expert institutions)
2. Take a leading role in the production and distribution of relevant crop extension materials for the identified enterprises in the target districts.
3. Supervise and support the IPs in the delivery of crop extension training to stakeholders and ensure training is relevant and meets quality standards.
4. Provide regular field extension technical backup to identify technical gaps and ensure technical compliance
5. Crop Value Chain identification, analysis, development and facilitation
6. Producing regular project implementation progress reports, development of information products to support decision making and contribute advocacy materials and policy briefs.

June 2011 to December 2012: Assistant Head of Crops Unit: FAO Zimbabwe

My major responsibilities were: –

1. Assist the Head of Unit (Crop Production, Protection and Irrigation) in serving as focal point for ongoing and new project activities of FAO Zimbabwe in crop production in Zimbabwe, as well as undertake the duties of the Head of Unit (Crop Production, Protection and Irrigation) in his absence.
2. Provide guidance and support in activities on commercialization of agriculture such as contract farming/market linkages, pro-poor public private community (PPPPC) partnerships, institutional support/capacity development of farmer groups, value chain analysis and application (seed security, input support, production, transformation & processing, value addition, output marketing)
3. Provide guidance and support in promoting climate smart agricultural interventions
4. Participate in the identification of project implementing partners and assist in management and follow up of contracts/Letters of Agreement (LoAs)
5. Undertake regular field visits to monitor project implementation and provide technical backstopping and training
6. Develop and produce technical literature and share these with stakeholders.
7. Conduct any other duties assigned.

January 2010 to May 2011: Project Agronomist/Marketing Specialist: Care International in Zimbabwe

Responsible for building on existing Conservation Farming (CF) base by supporting trained CF farmers and adopters to expand the scale of their CF activities, train new farmers in CF techniques to increase the coverage of CF at ward level and expand the scope of CF approaches beyond field crops into horticultural production to increase the productivity of existing gardens.

Assisting rural farmers increase income through:

- Access to markets and value addition by engaging farmers in participatory market analysis,
- Facilitating commercial market linkages for available produce and non-timber forest products,
- Identifying similar market opportunities for new crops,
- Establishing new and supporting existing internal savings and loan groups and clusters to generate savings and disburse loans through income generating activities.

April 2009 to December 2009: Tobacco Commodity Specialist: Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers Union

The main purpose of the job was to provide advice on tobacco production and marketing to the Union in addition to facilitating the establishment and maintenance of effective Tobacco Associations in the country. The main duties and responsibilities were to:

- Provide technical advice on the production, marketing and processing of the tobacco crop,
- Develop tobacco budgets in consultation with stakeholders,
- Design, print and distribute leaflets, newsletters and bulletins on tobacco production and marketing for use by farmers and the general public ,
- Design and carry out tobacco training programs for farmers,
- Plan and carry out research on technical and socio-economic matters related to the production, processing and marketing of the tobacco crop

June 2007 to December 2008: Operations Manager: Limpopo Cotton (Pvt) Ltd

The responsibilities of the job were to ensure cotton production through the coordination of out-grower schemes and credit facilities administered by depots nationwide, seed cotton intake (incorporating loan recovery) and processing of the seed cotton. The main tasks involved were:

- Strategic planning,
- Operations management,
- Resource and financial management,
- Marketing and public relations.

March 2005 to May 2007: Agriculture Business Development Manager: SFG Insurance Company (Pvt) Ltd.

The mandate of the job was to spearhead the development, promotion and provision of specialized agricultural insurance products and services to the farming community. The main tasks were:

- Strategy formulation and implementation,
- Agriculture insurance product development
- Operations management,
- Resources (assets, finance, human) management,
- Marketing and public relations.

October 2002 to February 2005: Out-grower Scheme Regional Manager FSI Agricom Holdings (Pvt) Ltd

Responsible for managing the tobacco/paprika contract farming schemes in the northern regions so

that they perform profitably. The main tasks were:

- Assessment and contracting of beneficiary farmers,
- Procurement and disbursement of scheme inputs,
- Resources (assets, finance, human) management,
- Marketing and public relations.

February 1990 to September 2002: Agricultural Extension Officer rising to Principal/District Agricultural Extension Officer: Department of AGRITEX

As principal/district agricultural extension officer I was responsible for the management of a team of agricultural extension personnel (officers, supervisors, specialists and administration staff) in the provision of technical, extension and advisory, liaison and regulatory services to stakeholders in the farming sector. Implemented a Farmer Field School on Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM) for cotton in Shamva district of Mashonaland Central Province.

The responsibilities of the agricultural extension officer were:

- The provision of agricultural technical, extension and regulatory services to the farming community,
- Facilitation of market linkages for smallholder farmers,
- In-house training of agricultural extension personnel,
- Conducting trials and demonstrations in collaboration with government research services and the private sector,
- Land use planning
- Preparation of project/enterprise budgets for use by farmers and extension personnel,
- Farmer training.

5. COMPUTER LITERACY

I have considerable experience working with Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher as well as Email and Internet facilities.

6. DRIVER'S LICENCE

I have a valid, clean class 4 drivers' licence

7. MAJOR TASKS UNDERTAKEN

1998 to 2000: Chihota Soil Fertility Project, Marondera, Zimbabwe. Undertook participatory soil fertility assessments with rural communities and implemented soil fertility enhancement agronomic practices with local communities.

1997 to 1998: District Environmental Action Programme. Marondera District team member under the UNDP funded project. Involved in the participatory assessment of the status (wellbeing) of the environment (natural resources) and the people and drew up of participatory community action plans for the sustainable management of the environment.

October-December 1995: Communication for Development in Southern Africa: The Action Program for Communication Skills Development. The FAO project/course sought to improve people's participation in field projects through communication (using participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methodologies).

1992 to 1993: Improving the Post Harvest Practices of Smallholder Farmers (FAO/UNDP/Agritex Project). The extension personnel/farmer training project culminated in the production of a manual on *Food Grain Post Production Practices for Smallholders in Zimbabwe*. In September 1993 I represented Zimbabwe at a post harvest workshop in Kampala where a paper I co-authored titled *The Status of Post Harvest Practices in Zimbabwe* was presented.

1991 to 2001: Smallholder Irrigation Development. I participated in the development of new smallholder irrigation schemes in Marondera, Shamva and Bindura districts. I also developed the capacities of the beneficiary farmers on leadership and governance, agronomy, farm management, irrigation scheduling and marketing.

2002 & 2007: FSI Agricom & Limpopo Cotton (respectively). At FSI Agricom I set up the Northern Region Tobacco/Paprika contract farming depot in Bindura. At Limpopo Cotton I set up 4 cotton depots in Mt. Darwin, Rushinga, Chinhoyi and Kadoma.

8. REFEREES

1. Ali Said

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PUBLICATIONS

1. Maminimini, O. 2004. *Marketing Strategies for Smallholder Horticultural Producers in Zimbabwe: A case study of Bindura and Shamva Districts*. Zimbabwe Open University, Harare. Masters in Business Administration Thesis.
2. Bellon, M. R., P. Gambara, T. Gatsi, T. E. Machemedze, O. Maminimini, S. R. Waddington. 1999. *Farmers' Taxonomies as a Participatory Diagnostic Tool: Soil Fertility Management in Chihota, Zimbabwe*. CIMMYT Economics Working Paper No. 99-13. Mexico, D. F.: CIMMYT.
3. Maminimini, O. 1996. *Prospects of Basal Fertiliser application after emergence in maize crop*. News and Views No. 66 July-Sept 1996. Agritex Training Branch. Harare.
4. Maminimini, O. 1989. *Micronutrients boron, cobalt and molybdenum in soils and the effect of micronutrient fertilizers in the production of leguminous crops*. Kuban Agricultural Institute, Krasnodar, USSR. Master of Science in Agriculture Thesis.