



Call for Applications: Course in Farming, Food Consumption, and Rural Development

How Histories, policies, and institutions matter

University of Rwanda (UR), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), and Lulea University of Technology in Sweden

23 – 27 June 2025

Hosted by the University of Rwanda, Busogo, Rwanda

Brief description of the Course Content

Farming systems have evolved especially during the post-colonial period as a result of various livelihood dynamics leading to new choices of food consumption vis-à-vis traditional farming and traditional market transitions. Furthermore, the rural-urban transition is increasingly affecting and shaping food habits, socio-cultural patterns, food safety, dietary transition, and shifting food preferences. This course is designed for PhD Students and early career academic and research staff from universities to increase their understanding on how food consumption is shaped by farming and health systems. Traditionally, food consumption has been viewed through the lens of supply and demand, but with time, food consumption has been linked to factors like affordability, accessibility, desirability, and cultural preferences. In this course, we enable the learner to apply systems thinking when addressing deficiencies and abundancies of food consumption in food systems transitions in Africa. The course draws more on theories and practices on farming systems, food consumption, health and nutrition. It applies methods from the fields of agriculture, agribusiness, demography, rural sociology, behavioural and environmental economics, institutional economics, political economy, rural development, globalization, health, nutrition, food safety legislation and land tenure.

Expected Participants to the Course

The training program targets PhD students and early career scholars and researchers who are actively engaged in academia and research in areas of food consumption, food systems, and health. The course will be facilitated through self and independent study combined with roundtable discussions. Hands-on structured lectures, case-studies, group discussions and field visits in areas designated for this course in the Northern and Western Provinces of Rwanda.

Learning expectations

After completion of the course, learners will be able to:

- Understand and analyse how food consumption is shaped and influenced by farming and health systems as determined by histories, policies, institutions, gender and emerging technologies.
- Understand and recognize the shifts in emerging scholarships in the field of decoloniality and food systems transformation in Africa.
- Understand and critically analyse food consumption beyond the lens of supply and demand and integrate a traditional African food system in the evolving food consumption discourse.
- Understand and critically apply systems thinking when contributing to policy decision-making regarding deficiencies and abundancies of food consumption in food systems transitions in Africa.
- Understand the current game changers of food systems transformation in African context supported with case-studies.

Course duration

The duration of this course is five days (**23-27 June, 2025**) with intensive face-to-face lectures, facilitated group discussions and round tables, and individual writings of policy briefs informed by the field work. The course will take place at the College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine (CAVM), Busogo Campus, in Musanze District, Northern Province, Rwanda.

Applications must include:

- A brief Bio of 50 words;
- Motivational letter expressing why you wish to participate in the course **Maximum one A4 page**
- Support letter from the Dean or Head of School/ Main Supervisor for Doctoral candidates
- The course is **NOT open** to MSc candidates
- A maximum of **20 Participants** will be accepted to the training course.
- A total number of credits is expected with a support Certificate

Please send completed applications by email with subject heading “Farming, Food Consumption, and Health” to:

Dr. Alphonsine Mukamuhirwa
Deputy Dean and CO-PI ENTRUST Sub-Programme
College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (CAVM)
University of Rwanda
E-mail to both: a.mukamuhirwa@ur.ac.rw

Deadline for applications: 20th June, 2025 Only fully completed applications will warrant a response 21st June, 2025.



Core Faculty and Programme Leaders

Alfred R. BIZOZA is a PhD holder and a Professor of Agricultural Economics from the University of Rwanda (UR). He is an influential academician and policy analyst and an inspirational speaker. He has published several impactful papers and significant contribution to the drafting of various policies, strategies, national reports in Rwanda and elsewhere in Africa. Furthermore, Bizoza serves in different research networks, boards, projects and platforms as a member, chair, principal investigator or team leader. He is the Team leader of the ENTRUST-UR-SIDA sub-program, INGSAs Africa Hub- Rwanda, the Co-chair of the Third US-Africa Frontiers of Science, Engineering, and Medicine

Symposium (2025), the Chair of UR committee on Research and Innovation Agenda, Chair of the Scientific Committee for the World Congress on Agroforestry, 2025, he serves on the Advisory Board of Africa Food Fellowship Program, Mentor and Coach of the AGRA's CALA program, Chair of Board of the Authentic Word Ministries in Rwanda, and Founder and President of the Highlands Centre of Leadership for Development (HLC-L4D), a Policy Research and Mentorship Centre. Previously, Alfred R. BIZOZA is a PhD holder and a Professor of Agricultural Economics from the University of Rwanda (UR). He is an influential academician and policy analyst and an inspirational speaker. He has published several impactful papers and significant contribution to the drafting of various policies, strategies, national reports in Rwanda and elsewhere in Africa. Furthermore, Bizoza serves in different research networks, boards, projects and platforms as a member, chair, principal investigator or team leader. He is the Team leader of the ENTRUST-UR-SIDA sub-program, INGSAs Africa Hub- Rwanda, the Co-chair of the Third US-Africa Frontiers of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Symposium (2025), the Chair of UR committee on Research and Innovation Agenda, Chair of the Scientific Committee for the World Congress on Agroforestry, 2025, he serves on the Advisory Board of Africa Food Fellowship Program, Mentor and Coach of the AGRA's CALA program, Chair of Board of the Authentic Word Ministries in Rwanda, and Founder and President of the Highlands Centre of Leadership for Development (HLC-L4D), a Policy Research and Mentorship Centre. Previously, Bizoza served as an Economist Board Member of the National Bank of Rwanda upon appointment by Rwanda's Government Cabinet during 2013-2018.



Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah is an economist specializing in environmental and natural resource economics, agricultural and food policy, and development economics. He is currently an Associate Professor at Luleå University of Technology (Sweden) and a senior researcher with the Environment for Development (EfD) Initiative at the University of Gothenburg. His research explores the intersections of climate change, energy policy, food security, and poverty reduction, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Franklin has published extensively in leading journals such as Energy Economics, Applied Energy, and Food Policy. He has over 2,000 citations on Google Scholar and is

widely recognized for his contributions to sustainable development policy and evaluation. He plays a central role in research capacity building across Africa through Sida-supported bilateral PhD programs with universities in Rwanda, Ethiopia and Tanzania. He managed the EfD network's research fund (with an annual budget of \$1 million USD), coordinates annual conferences, and serves as a mentor to PhD and master's students across multiple institutions. Franklin holds a PhD in Economics from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), and degrees from the University of Ghana. His work has been funded by Sida, IDRC, UNICEF, the European Investment Bank, and several global research foundations. Franklin is a frequent advisor and external evaluator for academic institutions, journals, and international development programs, and is passionate about applying rigorous economic analysis to drive evidence-based policymaking for sustainable and inclusive growth.



Linley Chiwona-Karlton is currently serving as an Associate Professor and research fellow in the Rural Development Division at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Linley has served as a scientific coordinator and trainer with the International Foundation for Science (IFS). While at IFS, she brought together a cadre of African professionals and together conducted workshops and trained mentees and mentors for the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) programme. For the past three decades, she has conducted research with particular interest on Africa and the African Diaspora. She has published extensively on women, science as well as on issues pertaining to food systems viz. food preferences, food security and traditional foods. She heads two bilateral research and capacity building programmes ENGAGE at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and ENTRUST at the

University of Rwanda. Linley has served on various national and global boards and is a Board Trustee of the African Nutrition Society (ANS); Alliance of Africa Partnership (AAP); and a Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry. In 2022, she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for championing women and economic empowerment in Malawi. She is a recipient of national and global awards in recognition of her contributions in academia and society, notably the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in 2022 for *Les Delices de Mikese –Insect Delicacies* in collaboration with women from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Linley is passionate about higher education, capacity and skills building of the next generation of Africans and African Diaspora scholars. Linley co-published the book (2016): *Unstoppable Women: does education matter – chronicles of three African women migrants in Sweden*.



Dr. Didace Ndahimana is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Rwanda, where he teaches at the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Science (CAFF) and the College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS). He holds a PhD Degree in Food and Nutrition from Gangneung-Wonju National University in South Korea (2018), a MSc Degree in Nutrition Policy from Senghor University in Egypt (2009), and a BSc Degree in Dairy Science and Technology from Alexandria University in Egypt (2007). Dr. Didace has been teaching different courses in the area of human nutrition, such as “Nutrition Through Lifespan”, “Community Nutrition”, “Nutrition Counselling and

Education” as well as “Food Technology and Hygiene”. He is experienced in academic leadership with 5 years served as Head of Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of Rwanda. His research interests include the determination of nutrients and energy requirements for different categories of the population, and the contribution to nutrition and food security through nutrient rich food formulation to address malnutrition and reduce postharvest losses. Notably, Dr. Didace collaborated with the team to develop a nutrient-rich instant porridge flour which obtained a patent for intellectual property. He is currently supervising 3 PhD students at the University of Rwanda and has previously supervised three MSc students. He has authored thirteen articles in peer-reviewed journals and he is actively involved in national and regional multi-institutional research projects. He is currently a Principal Investigator in two research projects and a team member in four others.



Professor Jonathan Rigg is Chair in Human Geography at the University of Bristol. He is a geographer interested in processes of human transformation in Asia. Since the early 1980s he has worked on migration and mobility, rural-urban relations, livelihoods, coping and resilience, hazards and disasters and, more broadly, rural development. This began with work in Thailand and Laos, but has since extended to Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Tentative Schedule Farming, Food Consumption, and Rural Transformation 23 – 27 June, 2025

PhD Course 5 HEC credits

Subject: Rural Development & Agricultural Economics

University of Rwanda, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences & Luleå

University of Technology (Sweden); Nordic Africa Institute

College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (CAVM)

Venue: Busogo Campus

Hour	Mon 23/06	Tue 24/06	Wed 25/07	Thu 26/06	Fri 27/06
09:00 – 12:00	<p><i>Lecture 1</i> Introduction and Programme Overview History of Farming in Rural Africa and Rwanda</p> <p>Alfred Bizoza Fidele Nyitanga</p>	<p><i>Lecture 3</i> Food Systems transformation – an African rural perspective Game Changers & Transitions in Agriculture in Africa – Case Studies</p> <p>Alfred Bizoza Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah Alphonsine Mukamuhirwa</p>	<p><i>Lecture 5</i> Food consumption: patterns, and dietary transition</p> <p>Didace Linley Chiwona-Karlton</p> <p>Assem Abu Hatab</p>	<p><i>Seminar 1:</i> Fieldwork Preparations: Understanding farming, food consumption and wellbeing in the rural – the case of Musanze District</p> <p>Alfred Bizoza Franklin Linley Didace</p>	<p>Fieldwork Continued</p>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30 – 16:00	<p><i>Lecture 2</i> Land and Gendered dimensions</p> <p>Alfred Bizoza Linley Chiwona-Karlton</p>	<p><i>Lecture 4</i> Policies, Institutions & Institutional Change</p> <p>Alfred Bizoza Assem Abu Hatab</p>	<p><i>Lecture 6</i> Food Security Trends and Concerns</p> <p>Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah</p>	<p>Fieldwork</p>	<p>¹Fieldwork Continued</p>

¹ Students have the possibility to continue with their fieldwork over the weekend

