



13th African Crop Science Society Conference



Building Africa's Future

Crop Research and Innovation for Agricultural Transformation, Resilience, and Inclusion



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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ORAL PRESENTATION SESSIONS

TIME	THEME: INCLUSION <i>Session 7 – Knowledge Systems</i> Room: CPI 1501 Chair: Prof. Eunice Cavane and Dr. Arsénio Jorge		
11:00			
11:05	07 - 01	Arsénio Jorge, L. Artur and A. Pinto	Sharing Information And Knowledge With Urban Farmers To Build Agricultural Practices: The Case Of The Infulene Valley, Mozambique
11:20	07 - 02	Meshack Oriama	Investigation Of Information Assymetry In Agricultural Extension Services In The Wake Of Agriculture Digitization In Kenya: Case Study Of Kirinyaga County
11:35	07 - 03	Martin P. Moyo, A. Magaisa and F. Dube	Assessing The Differential Impact Of Conservation Agriculture Techniques On Crop Productivity, Adoption Levels And Farmer Preferences
11:50	07 - 04	João Bila, C. Mucumule, A. Bombe, M. I. Ribeiro, A. Venâncio, S. Afonso and P. Rodrigues	Assessment Of Farmer's Knowledge About Fungi And Mycotoxin In Southern Mozambique

12:05	07 - 05	Mathews L. Kambani, Christopher O. Gor and Monica A. Ayieko	Traditional Knowledge, Beliefs And Practices On Collection Of Lake Flies (<i>Chaoborus sp.</i> And <i>Chironomus sp.</i>) And Their Implications On Food Security
12:20	07 - 06	Wafula Carolyne Khalayi, L. E. Chimoita, J. M. Kinama, P. M. Nyangweso and S. Gudu	Evaluation Of Sorghum Seed Systems And Sources Of Agricultural Knowledge In Farmer Research Networks In Homabay And Tharaka Nithi Counties, Kenya Counties, Kenya
12:35	07 - 07	Amade Muitia, M. J. Mopecane and V. Salegua	Understanding Bambara Groundnut (<i>Vigna subterranean</i> Verdc) Crop In The Northern Region Of Mozambique: Production, Uses And Myths

ASSESSMENT OF FARMER'S KNOWLEDGE ABOUT FUNGI AND MYCOTOXIN IN SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

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Mycotoxins find their way into the human and animal body through the consumption of mycotoxin contaminated foods, which may result in acute or chronic intoxication. This study aimed to assess knowledge about fungi and mycotoxins among farmers in the provinces of Gaza and Inhambane, in southern Mozambique. Data were collected using quantitative study based on non-probabilistic questionnaire, covering 180 farmers from Gaza (90) and Inhambane (90) Provinces, from October to November 2022. Data were subjected to descriptive and statistical analysis. The majority of farmers were aged 36 or over (75.0%), were female (75.2%), had no education or only had primary education (80.6%) and had been a farmer for longer 15 years old (64.4%). The level of knowledge about fungi and mycotoxins is mainly explained by the province of residence, followed by the level of education, age and gender, with producers with higher levels of education and of male gender recording a higher level of knowledge. Regarding mycotoxins, most farmers have never heard about these toxic compounds. Likewise, regardless of the province, a significant number of farmers did not know or have never accounted

for production losses or income losses due to fungal and mycotoxin contamination. The number of farmers who knew the consequences of consuming food contaminated by mycotoxins is residual. Hence, there is a significant proportion of farmers who use contaminated products for animal feed. Concerning knowledge about the conditions that promote fungal contamination after harvest, 33.3% and 23.3% of farmers in Gaza and Inhambane respectively, reported that did not know. However, the majority assumes that they knew, pointing out as the main causes are humidity, storage of harvest with high moisture content or recently harvested for long periods, existence of insects, rodents and birds, and the lack of ventilation in the storage area. Sociodemographic and geographic variables were predictors of the level of knowledge about fungi and mycotoxins. The low level of knowledge about fungi and mycotoxins, including the consequences of consuming mycotoxin-contaminated food to human and animal reported, increase the vulnerability and risk-exposure of producers and consumers for mycotoxin intoxication, which call for increased awareness campaigns.

Keywords: Fungi, farmers, farmer's Knowledge, mycotoxins.