Building the Capacity of Communities in Natural Resource Management and Entrepreneurship

Copso

Community Oriented Project Support Organization

Capability Statement

Community Oriented Project Support Organisation (COPSO), Ministry of Energy-Renewable Energy Resource Centre, Jamhuri Park,
P.O. Box 72387,00200, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel/Fax: 020-890732, Cell: 0710-230616
E-mail: info@copso.org

COPSO

Community Oriented Project Support Organization

Building the Capacity of Communities in Natural Resource Management and Entrepreneurship

Vision:

To be a leading non-governmental organization in natural resource management through the promotion of conservation agriculture for sustainable agricultural practices.

Mission:

To promote conservation agriculture through the application of natural resource management techniques such as conservation tillage technology, subsoiling, and ripping planting lines. We are committed to improving soil fertility, reducing production costs, conserving water, and increasing crop yields for sustainable agriculture and improved livelihoods.

Objectives:

- To spread the benefits of conservation tillage technology to farmers through education, training, and practical application.
- To promote the adoption of conservation agriculture practices such as minimum soil disturbance, crop rotation, and maximum soil cover for improved soil health, reduced production costs, and increased crop yields.
- To provide Soil Specific Nutrition Management services to farmers to ensure balanced nutrition for the crop in question, addressing the right type and amount of nutrient required at the right time and applied using the right method for improved nutrient use efficiency
- To collaborate with government agencies, research institutions, and other stakeholders in the agricultural industry to promote sustainable agricultural practices.
- To continuously improve and innovate our natural resource management techniques for better conservation agriculture practices.

COPSO VALUES

COPSO operates on the following values:

1. Sustainability: COPSO is committed to promoting sustainable agriculture practices. They recognize that conservation agriculture is a way to achieve sustainable agriculture and improve livelihoods.

Community Oriented Project Support Organisation (COPSO), Ministry of Energy-Renewable Energy Resource Centre, Jamhuri Park,
P.O. Box 72387,00200, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel/Fax: 020-890732, Cell: 0710-230616
E-mail: info@copso.org

2. Conservation: COPSO is a specialized company that focuses on natural resource management in the application to agriculture. They promote conservation agriculture principles such as minimum soil disturbance, crop rotation, and maximum soil cover.

3. Innovation: COPSO continuously improves and innovates their natural resource management techniques for better conservation agriculture practices. They collaborate with government agencies, research institutions, and other stakeholders in the agricultural industry to promote sustainable agricultural practices.

4. Agronomy: COPSO's approach to natural resource management facilitates good agronomy, such as timely operations, and improves overall land husbandry for rain-fed and irrigated production.

5. Education: COPSO is dedicated to spreading the benefits of conservation tillage technology. They promote subsoiling and ripping planting lines that make it possible to plant directly into the soil. They also offer Soil Specific Nutrition Management service to ensure balanced nutrition for the crop in question.

6. Collaboration: COPSO collaborates with government agencies, research institutions, and other stakeholders in the agricultural industry to promote sustainable agricultural practices. They recognize that collaboration is essential for achieving sustainable agriculture and improving livelihoods

COPSO is a specialized organisation that focuses on natural resource management in the application to agriculture. We are the leading promoter of conservation agriculture, dedicated to spreading the benefits of conservation tillage technology. Our approach to natural resource management facilitates good agronomy, such as timely operations, and improves overall land husbandry for rain-fed and irrigated production. Conservation agriculture is a way to achieve sustainable agriculture and improve livelihoods. We provide on field services, training, project management, and [project evaluations among other similar services.

The basic principles of conservation agriculture are minimum soil disturbance, crop rotation, and maximum soil cover. At COPSO, we promote subsoiling and ripping planting lines that make it possible to plant directly into the soil. Our Soil Specific Nutrition Management service ensures balanced nutrition for the crop in question, addressing the right type and amount of nutrient required at the right time and applied using the right method for improved nutrient use efficiency.

We are committed to the promotion of conservation agriculture and helping farmers achieve sustainable agriculture while improving their livelihoods. We collaborate with government agencies, research institutions, and other stakeholders in the agricultural industry to promote sustainable agricultural practices. At COPSO, we continuously improve and innovate our natural resource management techniques for better conservation agriculture practices.

Eng. Gichuki Muchiri
Department of Environmental & Biosystems Engineering
University of Nairobi
P.O. Box 30197
00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Telephone (Office): +254-20-318262 Ext 28452
Mobile: +254733877815 E-Mail:
gichukimuchiri@yahoo.co.uk

PERSONAL INFORMATION.

DATE OF BIRTH: APRIL 1940

NATIONALITYI AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER.

KEY QUALIFICATIONS

Since 1966 when he graduated from Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Engineer Gichuki Muchiri has gained wide experience in teaching, research, institution development, project management and administration and on the job training of graduate engineers as wel! as in planning, design and construction of Agricultural Engineering Projects. He was the founding Chairman of Agricultural Engineering Department of the
University of Nairobi, Chairman Kenya Pipeline company with profit before tax of over
Shs,206 million, Chief Engineer, Agricultural Development Corporation, Chief Engineer Ministry of Agriculture. He has acted as principal Consultant for Agricultural mechanisation, post harvest processing, preservation and storage. Later he was the project Consultant / co-ordinator for the UNDP / AGROTEC/ Ministry of Agriculture on Agricultural Mechanisation Strategy Formulation.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

1962 - 1966 BSc Agric. Eng. Israel Institute of Technology

1967 - 1969 MSc Agric. Eng. Iowa State University

1970 Associate Member ASAH.
1975 Member Kenya Society of Agricultural Engineers.
1979 Member Institution of Engineers ot" Kenya.
1979 Registered Engineer (R. Eng.) Kenya.

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

1. 1994 to Date Senior Lecturer Agricultural Engineering Department, University of Nairobi.
2. 1988 - 1993 Deputy Director / Chief Engineer Ministry of Agriculture.
3. 1974 - 1987 Lecturer / Senior Lecturer and Chairman Agricultural Engineering Department University of Nairobi.
4. 1970 - 1974 Development Officer (Engineering, Agricultural Development Corporation.).
5. 1969 Lecturer University of Nairobi.
6. 1966 Assistant Lecturer University of Nairobi.

EXPERIENCE RECORD

Teaching and Research

Since graduating with BSc in Agricultural Engineering at the Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa in 1966, Engineer Muchiri was appointed Assistant Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering Department of the University of Nairobi. After completing MSc in Agricultural Engineering (crop processing) at Iowa Slate University in 1969 on UNESCO Scholarship, he was appointed Lecturer in Agricultural Engineering in the University of Nairobi. Since then, though not continuously he has gained 25 years of experience in teaching and research namely;

- Crop processing, preservation and storage.
- Agricultural Mechanization
- Rural Structures.

He has also carried out research on Farm Equipment Development for small-holder semi-arid Agriculture. Some of the papers and reports were:

1. Gichuki Muchiri. 1969. Resistance to airflow through shelled corn. Unpublished MSc Theses. Iowa State University.
2. Gichuki Muchiri. 1981. Farm Machinery Manufacture and use in Kenya. United Nations
   a. Industrial Development Organization , Kenya Position paper.
3. Gichuki Muchiri et al, 1985. Animal Drawn Equipment Development in Kenya. In
   a. Agricultural

b. Machinery Manufacturing Excess capacity in Kenya by IFTIKHAR ARMED and Bill Kinsey, International Labour Office, Geneve.

4. Ministry of Agriculture. 1994. National Agricultural Mechanization Strategy Formulation for Kenya. Project Coordinator and author of the summary document.

5. Gichuki Muchiri. 1985. Chapter three of the book: Farm equipment Development torSmall Holders in Semiarid Areas of Southeastern and Central Africa. Edited by Iftikhar Ahmed and Bill Kinsey. Gower Publishers.

6. Gichuki Muchiri et al. 1994. Methodological Guidelines for Agricultural mechanisation strategy formulation , AGROTEC and FAO.

7. Gichuki Muchiri. 2004Conservation Tillage and Food production in Semiarid Tropics of Africa:
   a. Kenyan case study. Paper presented in the annual meeting, of American Society of
   b. Agronomy, SEATTLE
      U.S.A.

8. Gichuki Muchiri. 2004. Conservation tillage Equipment productivity quantified. A casestudy ir semiarid smallholder Agriculture in Eastern Kenya. Unpublished PhD Thesis submitted for examination. University of Nairobi.

Engineering practical Experience

As Development Officer (Engineering) for the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), a Large Parastatal Farming Organization, he was in charge of: election, Operation and maintenance of all ADC farm machinery and post harvest processing facilities in over ten large scale farms in Rift Valley and Nyanza Provinces. Design and Construction of farm water supplies, grain processing, storage facilities and livestock housing.

As Chief Engineer Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing, (six years full time) he was responsible for the supervision, direction and guidance of the 500 technical personnel of various technical categories in the Engineering Division of the Ministry of which 100 were professional engineers. 1'he works in progress comprised:

- Rural technology development for small farms, • Coffee factory construction and process engineering.
- Water harvesting and soil conversation engineering.
- Irrigation and drainage engineering (six years full time).
- Training of graduate engineers, technicians and craftsmen.

As the Project Liason Engineer for the South West Kano Irrigation Scheme, he was involved in the contract Management and liased closely with consulting engineers involved in the project who were Euroconsult and later Wanjohi Consulting Engineers who supervised the construction carried out by M/s Broadway Construction Company contractors on a project sum of Kshs. 30,000,000.
Working part time, he also undertook the following consultancy assignments:

- Principal Consultant, Mwenge International Associates. Client Ministry of Agriculture / World
- Bank. Agricultural Mechanisation Study for Narok, Kenya (6 months full time).
- Senior Consultant, FAO / Ministry of Agriculture. Soil and Water Conservation Research Priorities for Semi-arid Kenya (3 weeks full time).

- Project Consultant / Co-ordinator. UNDP / AGROTEC / Ministry of Agriculture, National Agricultural Mechanisation Formulation tor Kenya (3 years part time).
- Principal Resource Person; National Workshop on Agricultural Mechanisation Strategy Formulation for Uganda (10 days).

LANGUAGES	SPEAKING	READING	WRITING
ENGLISH	EXCELLENT GOOD	EXCELLENT GOOD	EXCELLENT
K1SWAH1L1			FAIR.

Public Service

1978-1982 Member Board of Governors Egerton College.
1980- 1990 Member Agricultural Sciences Specialist Committee National Council for Science and Technology Kenya.
1979- 1981 Member FAO Panel of Experts on Agricultural Mechanisation
1980- 1986 Chairman Kenya Pipeline Company
1983 - 1995 Member Institution of Engineers of Kenya Council.

HOBBY:

BIBLE STUDY AND FARMING.