Issaka Abdulai, Dr.
Year of Birth: 1985, Gender: Male, Nationality: Ghanaian

Department of Crop Sciences, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Curriculum Vitae

Academic Education

2014 – 2018 International PhD in Agricultural sciences (IPAG), Georg-August-University Göttingen, Thesis title: Productivity, water use and climate resilience of alternative cocoa cultivation systems

2011 – 2013 MSc Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology (Tropical and International Forestry), Georg-August-University Göttingen: DAAD scholarship

2005 – 2009 Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Kumasi, Ghana: District scholarship, Bachelor of Science (BSc. Hons) Natural Resources Management

2001 – 2004 Senior Secondary School (Presbyterian Secondary School Bechem - Brong Ahafo Region, Ghana): West African Senior Secondary School Certificate

Professional Career

Since 2017 Postdoctoral researcher, Tropical Plant Production and Agricultural Systems Modelling (TROPAGS), Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Georg-August-University Göttingen

2011 Field Officer in the Cocoa Livelihood program (CLP), Calli Ghana Company Ltd. And Technoserve Ghana (NGO)

2009 – 2010 Teaching and Research assistant, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources, Department of Silviculture and Forest Management, Kumasi (Ghana)

Research Interests

Tropical agroforestry systems; Crop production factors and yield gap dynamics in small scale farmers; Climate change adaptations of tropical small scale farmers; Water use efficiency and dynamics in cropping systems; Cocoa systems characterization along climate suitability gradient; Cocoa yield gap and production factors along climate suitability gradient; Cocoa agroforestry system functioning (water use and micro-climate variation) under contrasting weather conditions at the northern cocoa belt of Ghana; Seasonal variations in cocoa tree performance (flowering, vigour, pest and diseases), micro climate and management practices along climatic gradient in Ghana.

Research experience

Field survey and water use experiments in Ghana under BMZ funded project: “Trade-offs and synergies in climate change adaptation and mitigation in coffee and cocoa systems in Uganda and Ghana”. A collaborative project between Goettingen University and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Field visits for Coffee Arabica production regions in Mount Elgon, Uganda (2014 – 2016).

Morphological and genetic diversity of Vitelleria paradoxa as influenced by variations in ecological zone and land use systems across the savannah regions of Ghana: MSc. Thesis (2013).

Soil Description and Fertility Evaluation of Lowland Dipterocarp Forest in Barangay Puntana, Southern Leyte, Philippines TIF Student project (2012).

Publications and Posters

1. Abdulai, I., et al. (2018). Characterization of cocoa production, income diversification and shade tree management along a climate gradient in Ghana, PLoS ONE 13(4): e0195777. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0195777

2. **Abdulai, I.**, Krutovsky, K.V. & Finkeldey, R. (2017). Morphological and genetic diversity of shea tree (Vitellaria paradoxa) in the savannah regions of Ghana, Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution (64): 1253-1268. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10722-016-0434-8

3. **Abdulai, I.** et al. (2015). Evaluation of yield gap and production factors in cocoa systems along a climatic gradient in Ghana. Poster: Management of land use systems for enhanced food security: conflicts, controversies and resolutions. Humboldt-Universitat, 2015 Sept. 16-18; Berlin