

## **From Decision to Distinction: My Exceptional PhD Journey**

Embarking on my PhD journey was a decision fueled by passion, curiosity, and a relentless pursuit of knowledge. Little did I know that this decision would evolve into a record-breaking achievement, thanks to God and the exceptional support of my family, supervisors, mentors, and most importantly friends and colleagues who encouraged me to take up this challenge.

Even though the journey began with a blurry vision and so many uncertainties, I was determined to navigate the challenging terrain of doctoral studies and come out with flying colours. Fueling my drive were visionary mentors and supervisors whose guidance transformed hurdles into stepping stones. Their mentorship was more than just academic guidance; it was a catalyst for rapid success, making my research goals a reality.

A major success factor was building a supportive network that went beyond the usual limits. Collaborating with mentors and colleagues who had different viewpoints and skills injected energy into my research. Their valuable advice helped me in framing my research questions and pushing my work ahead with new ideas and accuracy. With their support, I met and exceeded milestones.

As I stand at the threshold of this achievement, I extend my profound gratitude to my sponsors – the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD; German: Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), my supervisors, mentors, and colleagues for being the wind beneath my wings. I owe a significant part of my journey to the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Dr. Sanginga Nteranya, and Prof. John Mburu. Their trust in my abilities and the opportunity they provided me to showcase my skills are truly invaluable. Additionally, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nairobi for their unwavering administrative support and valuable feedback on my research.

This journey is a testament to the transformative power of decision, dedication, and collaborative mentorship. From the moment I decided to pursue a PhD to achieving it in record time, this is not just my story; it's a celebration of the impact that God's help, dedication, and mentorship can have on academic success.

As I take the next leap in my academic and professional pursuits, I carry forward the invaluable lessons learned and relationships formed during this whirlwind PhD experience. I hope that my story serves as an inspiration for other Ph.D. candidates, encouraging them to dream big and believe that there are no limits to what they can achieve.

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