

ABOUT DR. MARTIN ORAWU

Dr. Martin Orawu holds a PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics from the University of KwaZulu Natal, SouthAfrica. He is a senior plant breeder and genetics working at the National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI) in Serere, one of the 16 Public Agricultural Research Institutes (PARIs) of National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) in Uganda. He has developed and released nine cowpea varieties with resilient to climate change, major diseases and several desirables attributes preferred by farmers in Uganda. He has participated in project proposal write up and won grants for two consecutive times from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa which he successfully implemented and benefitted the farmers since 2007. He believes that African problems of lack of improved crop varieties, lack of access to quality seed, drought, diseases, pests, hunger, malnutrition and poverty need to work on African crops in order to boost their potential and productivity, consequently enhance farmers' livelihoods.

Currently, Martin is the Programme Leader for Cotton Research at the institute. He is jointly implementing a cotton project with his fellow scientists in the programme focussing on the *"Development of cotton varieties with long fibres, tolerant to drought, major insect pests and wilt diseases."* Jointly with his fellow cotton scientists, a cotton production manual entitled *"Increasing productivity and quality of cotton for improved livelihoods of farmers"* has been produced for distribution to stakeholders involved in the cotton value chain. He has presented his research work at international, regional and national conferences as well as at workshops. He has published several scientific papers in international in peer reviewed journals. He has also participated as external examiner for Master students' theses, and supervising MSc. Students from Makerere University. He is a member of International Cotton Researchers Association (ICRA).

He is interested in making linkages with other scientists in different fields all over the globe in the areas of molecular breeding and biotechnology that will ensure increased crop productivity, tolerance to biotic and a biotic stresses and sustenance of the ecosystem for humanity.