



# UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



## SARE Urban Food Producers Spring Orientation and Workshop 2015

Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education



Yao Afantchao  
Extension Agent/Community Educator,  
Ethnic and Specialty Crops Program  
Email: [yafantchao@udc.edu](mailto:yafantchao@udc.edu)

Yao Afantchao works as the Ethnic and Specialty Crops Development Program Specialist, at the college of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences, (CAUSES), at the University of the District of Columbia. He is also the current Washington, DC state Coordinator for the North East Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education, (NESARE), a division of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, (NIFA). He is also a member of the Advisory Council for the Northeast International Pest Management Center of Cornell University.

# Schedule of Events

9:45-10:00

## **Registration**

10:00-10:15

## **Yao Afantchao**

Welcome and Introduction

10:15-10:30

## **Oluwakemi (Kemi) Adeola**

Her research and experiences with the Ethnic and Specialty Crop Program

10:30-10:45

## **Lorraine Weller Clarke**

The Benefits of Community Gardens

10:45-11:00

## **Michael Harman**

Soil Preparation: Understanding and Improving Soil Health and Productivity.

11:00-11:15

## **John Manirakiza**

Immigrant and Refugee Farmers

11:15-11:30

## **Christopher Mapondera**

The role of vegetable production in family sustainability in Africa

11:30-11:45

## **Dave Wilson**

His experiences with ethnic and specialty crops in Malawi and Angola

11:45-12:00

## **Closing remarks**

followed by refreshments

# Guest Speaker Biographies

**Oluwakemi (Kemi) Adeola** is a graduate student in Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of the District of Columbia. She is a graduate assistance and has been involved in a couple of research. The title of her current research is “The Nutrients and Phytochemical composition in selected West African Vegetables”. Kemi is the Vice President of the Student Dietetic Association, a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and a member of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. Kemi has a passion for farming and agriculture. She has a certificate of completion in Urban Food Producers Training and a Food Handler certificate. Her goal is to improve public health by addressing the problem facing the local food systems, which requires being knowledgeable in all the processes involved from “Farm to Plate”.

**Lorraine Weller Clarke, Ph.D.** is a Project Specialist in Urban Agriculture in the Center for Urban Agriculture in CAUSES at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). She received her Ph.D. in Plant Biology from the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Clarke has a long history of working with low-income, low opportunity groups in urban regions. She worked as a graduate research assistant at the University of California, Riverside for 6 years. Her research focused on biodiversity in urban gardens and ecosystem services (benefits people receive from the environment) that are produced in community and home gardens, particularly those grown by low-income, immigrant gardeners. As a project specialist in urban agriculture, she is working with both the extension, promoting public education, citizen science, and food sources, and on the academic side, seeking out grants and pursuing research on food production, biodiversity, and heavy metal proliferation in D.C.

# Guest Speaker Biographies

**Michael Harman** holds degrees in Agricultural Technology, Animal and Veterinary Science, Agronomy, and Public Administration. He is a contributing author at OnPasture and has published in Soil Science, Soil Horizons, and The Journal of Extension. As the county agricultural and natural resource faculty with West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service he serves as a local resource to assist in the identification and resolution of any agricultural and natural resources issues in Jefferson County, WV. In his position he develops agricultural and natural resources related programming to support the people of the county, the state, and the nation. Collaboratively he assists local, regional, and national agricultural and natural resource producers to efficiently and effectively generate food fiber and energy using environmentally sound practices. He has worked collaboratively with other conservation professionals from across the region and proudly serves on the executive council of the West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists. His current research interests include nutrient management, organic phosphorus movement, GIS modeling, soil testing, precision agriculture, urban agriculture and local foods.

**John Manirakiza** is a Burundian-American Community leader who through cultural, economic and civic engagements facilitates the Burundian and East African immigrants in integration in the American society as full citizens. With a passion for advocacy on behalf of refugees, he works in collaboration with federal, state, local stakeholders to assist less privileged communities, especially refugees, to enjoy and pursue their version of the American dream. For example, through farming, he established an incubator project for Burundian farmers in Fredericksburg, Virginia and plan to engage more Africans into sustainable agriculture in the USA

# Guest Speaker Biographies

**Christopher Mapondera** was born in Zimbabwe and came to the United States in 1965 to pursue his education. He returned back to Zimbabwe after the country gained its independence from Britain. He later worked in private sector and government organizations both in the USA and Africa and held senior positions in industry and government. Over the years he has been involved in business development in Africa, China and USA and has worked with communities to develop sustainable income generating projects for villagers by assisting them with finding markets for their produce. He currently owns a 500 acre farm and is involved in mixed farming (ie. Poultry, Goat raising, Horticulture and commercial crops.) He has a long history with DC since he became a student at Howard University and during the civil rights period where he interacted with some of the civil rights advocates in DC and New York. He has been a resident of DC since 2002 and is married with three grown children who also reside in DC.

**Dave Wilson** received his Bachelor's of Science in Agronomy from the University of Maryland and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guinea, West Africa. While there he taught botany, soils, and farm mechanics and managed the production of corn rice and peanuts. He has worked for the USDA as a Soil Conservationist and served in the Army during the Vietnam War by providing hamlets and villages with seeds from USAID and teaching farming techniques. He is currently the Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator at the USDA and enjoys composting, deer hunting, archery, reading, and gardening.



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