

## MOTIVATION LETTER

I am a well experienced economist and research analyst, with a blend from both the public and private sectors. Currently, I am working with The National Treasury of Kenya as an Economist attached to the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Department where recently I have been working with an Inter-agency team led by Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) on developing a Model Tariff and Pricing policy for the Kenya's County Governments to increase their own source revenue which further contributes to the Kenya's Post-Covid Economic Recovery Strategy. In the Inter-Agency team, I was involved in data collection and further tasked with data entry and analysis using SPSS and STATA and later on wrote a research report that was key in developing the situational analysis of the Model Tariff and Pricing Policy. More so, I am involved in monitoring payment plans for County pending bills using a monitoring tool developed in Microsoft Excel.

Prior to joining the National Treasury, I worked at International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) as a socio-economic research assistant. At ICIPE, I was tasked with modelling Covid-19 impacts on Food security and Education in Africa using Systems thinking and System Dynamics Approach in Vensim software. I wrote two scientific papers on "*Impacts of Covid-19 pandemic on food security in Eastern African Countries*" and "*Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF)*", both papers currently under internal review. More to that, I have also worked with International Potato Center (CIP) as a research assistant where I was majorly involved in data collection using ODK.

I hold a Collaborative Msc in Agricultural and Applied Economics from Egerton University and University of Pretoria, South Africa with a specialization in Agricultural Policy and Trade. I also hold a Bsc in Economics and Statistics (First class honors) from Egerton University. I have strong qualitative and quantitative analytical skills with proficiency in Excel, SPSS, STATA and Vensim Software for System Dynamics. In addition, I am a published author of a journal article with Taylor and Francis' Cogent Food and Agriculture Journal and a policy brief published on the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) newsletter.

Further, I am an excellent communicator having presented my research work at both local and international platforms including the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference in Washington

D.C 2020, Inaugural UN-Habitat Assembly 2019 in Kenya, International Poverty Reduction Center in China 2019 and 13th International Conference Egerton University. I have also won two agricultural research awards namely; CTA Call for Articles Award 2020 funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and SCARA-APPEAR Young Researchers Award 2018 funded by Austrian Development Corporation (ADC).

It is against this backdrop and my great passion for research that I express my strong interest in attending the Annual Conference of the Agricultural Economics Society that will be held at K U Leuven, Belgium 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 through your travel bursary. Attending this conference will give me the opportunity to interact with international researchers and agricultural economists where I will be able to market my research work and network with like-minded individuals with an aim of forging long-lasting collaborations for future research.

Being an international participant from a developing country in Africa, this bursary will enable me to meet some of the financial demands in regard to attending this conference.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,  
Sally Kimathi