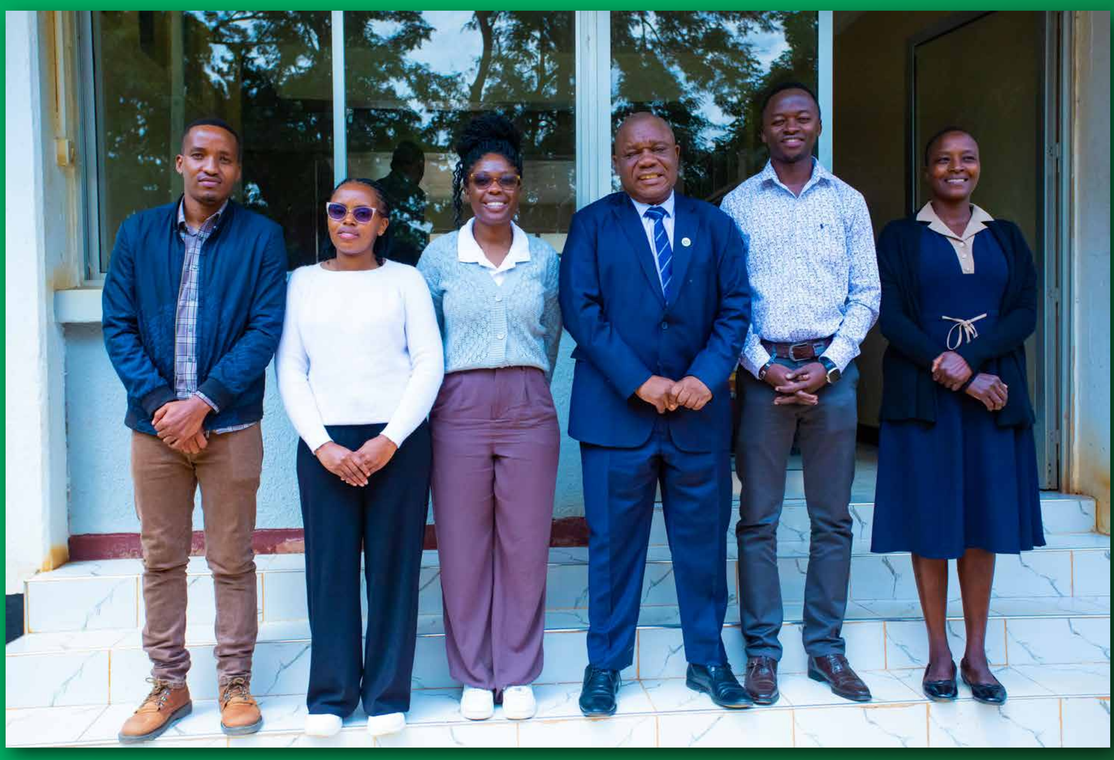
SOKOINE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE
INTERACT-AFRICA PROJECT

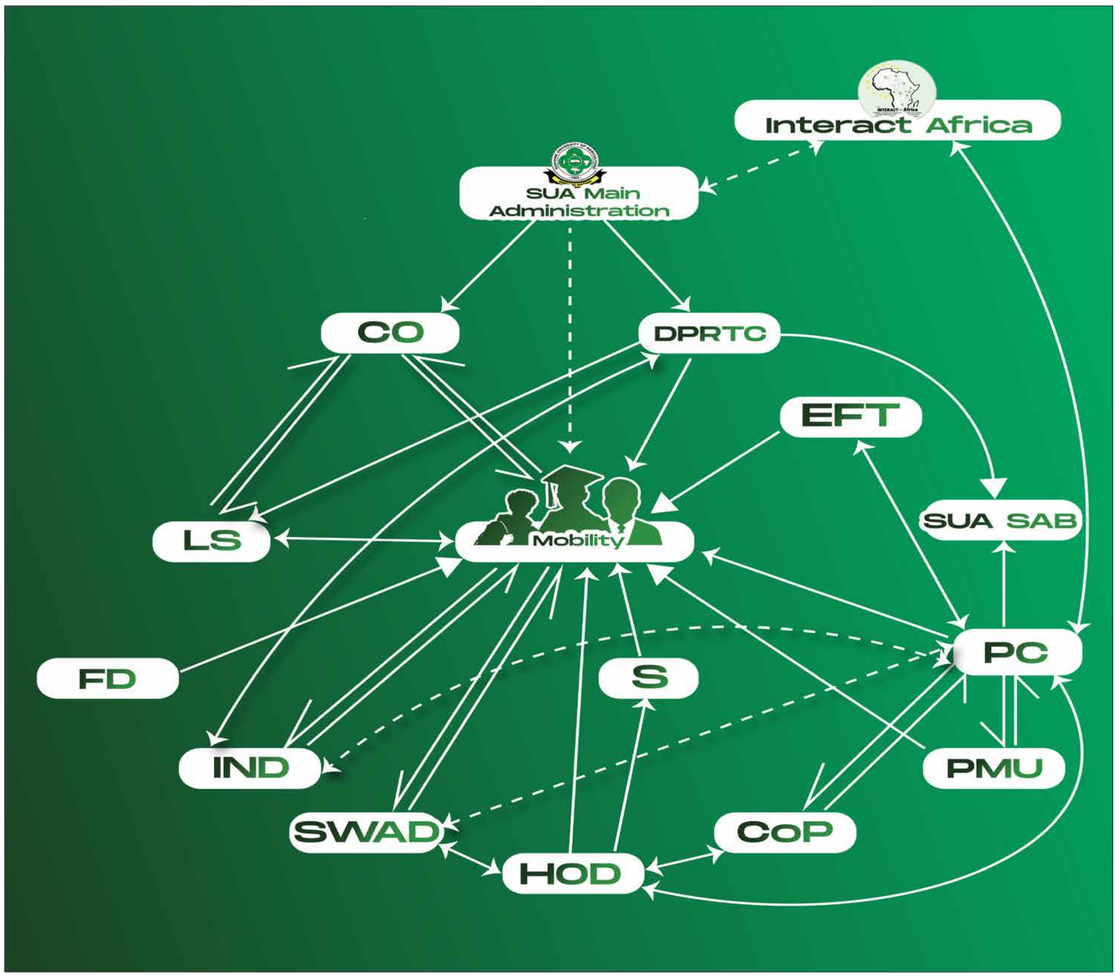


A group photo of mobility students and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Ac) Professor Maulid W.Mwatawala, third from right

Mobility in Innovative Green Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Bioeconomy. (INTERACT-Africa) is an Intra-Africa Academic mobility project funded by the European Union (EU). Implemented by five African higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that include Moi University (Kenya), Mbarara University of Science and Technology (Uganda), Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), and Ifa Yangambi University (Democratic Republic of Congo) while Mendel University in Brno (Czech Republic) serves as EU technical partner; The project aims at promoting inclusive learning mobility opportunities by enhancing capacity building on training and education in green Chemistry, and Biology, fostering entrepreneurship and supporting the establishment of green technology businesses, and facilitating networking and knowledge sharing among businesses thus promoting innovation and sustainable economic growth.

Sokoine University of Agriculture as part of the consortium, launched the project on 26 th April 2024 by creating awareness among all University stakeholders necessary for the smooth implementation, ensuring project sustainability after completion. SUA is a beneficiary of 14 out of 60 incoming mobilities, of which 7 are MSc, 4 are PhD, 2 are trainees, and 1 staff member, within the four years of project implementation. To date, 9 outgoing mobilities, including staff and students from SUA, have been implemented with the consortium of universities. SUA research focus is the development of a cost-effective, eco-friendly innovation for the management of soilborne plant diseases and soil fertility. The project is expected to find green solutions to crop diseases as a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy. It contributes to the internationalisation of the University through student and staff mobility. The industrial linkages developed contribute to skills development and the quality of research. SUA has expanded South-South and South-North collaboration through participating in the Project Consortium and the recruitment of students of other countries.

SUA IMPLEMENTATION INTERACTION FRAMEWORK FOR MOBILITIES



Key

Administrate — Provide — Link — Interact — Partially related

SUA-Sokoine University of Agriculture CO-Convocation Officer LS-Local Student
DROTC-Directorate of Postgraduate Research, Technology and Consultanc
FD-Finance Department IND-Industry CoP-College Principal S-Supervisor
SWAD-Student Welfare Administration Department
PMU-Procurement Management Unit HOD-Head Of Department
SAB-Students Accomodation Bureau
Mobility-Students, Staff and Trainee

Pursuing my master's degree in chemistry at Sokoine University of Agriculture has been one of the most transformative experiences of my academic journey. Studying in a neighboring country has broadened my perspective, allowing me to appreciate the richness, diversity, and kindness of people beyond my borders. I have come to understand that education extends far beyond the classroom; it is shaped through the exchange of ideas, cultures, and everyday human interactions. Beyond academics, I have gained a deep appreciation for the warmth of the people, their traditions, and their hospitality, which have greatly enriched my overall experience.

Joyce Nyambura, Kenya.

Through my research focused on textile industrial waste valorization and resource recovery, I have strengthened my expertise in green chemistry and sustainable scientific solutions. This work has enabled me to actively contribute to addressing environmental and climate challenges through practical, research-driven approaches. The skills, experiences, and professional networks gained through this mobility program will play a critical role in advancing my future career and enhancing my contribution to scientific innovation and sustainable development.

Textile Sludge Sampling at 21st Textile Industry in Morogoro, Tanzania

Photo session after an impactful writeshop by the EU patner, held at SUA

Course completion on climate finance and nature-based solutions

I am genuinely grateful to INTERACT-AFRICA for believing in my potential and investing in my education. This scholarship has not only opened academic opportunities for me but has also broadened my worldview. I look forward to carrying on the values of learning, collaboration, and sustainability that this experience has inspired in me.

TESTIMONIALS

Hileni Lumbu, Namibia

My experience in Tanzania as part of the Interact-Africa Mobility Scheme has been both transformative and enriching. Coming from Namibia, I was excited but also challenged by the opportunity to engage in a new academic and cultural environment. Immersing myself in a new environment came with its challenges, particularly language barriers and culture shock, but these experiences became valuable lessons in adaptability, resilience, intercultural understanding, and appreciation for diversity.

Academically, I conducted research on natural products and nanotechnology. This experience introduced me to sustainable and innovative green technologies that integrate biology and chemistry to solve real-world problems. I am returning to Namibia with exposure to these advanced, eco-friendly approaches and have deepened my understanding of how natural resources can be harnessed to address practical issues in an environmentally sustainable manner. Beyond the laboratory, the experience of cultural exchange was equally impactful. Interacting with people from diverse backgrounds broadened my perspective and strengthened my ability to collaborate across cultures.

Certification after an NMR workshop in Kenya

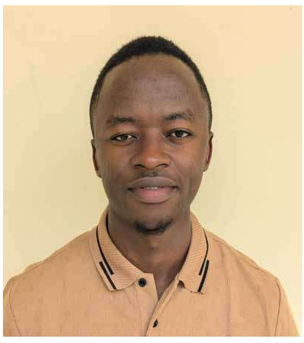
Mikumi national

Collecting samples at Uluguru Mountain for research

Conducting an experiment for the isolation of compoundsOOO

The rewards from this experience will be significant in the future. Not only have I gained specialized technical skills that enhance my employability, but I have also built connections with friends and mentors across Africa. Through this journey, I have expanded my perspective on emerging opportunities, which has motivated me to be part of a generation dedicated to driving change through collaboration and innovation.

TESTIMONIALS



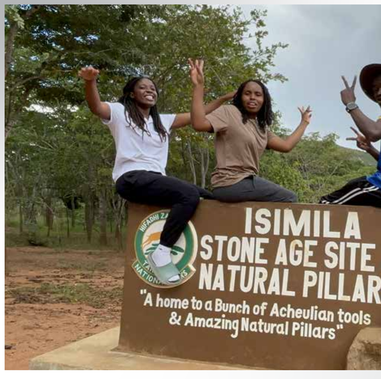
Dramani Dieumerci, DRC

Growing up in a country where agriculture is vital for livelihoods, I developed a passion for improving crop productivity and sustainability. With climate change as a backdrop, I have broadened my knowledge in plant pathology, biological control, and climate-resilient farming methods. Currently, I research eco-friendly approaches to managing plant diseases, particularly using beneficialmicroorganisms such as Trichoderma to combat soil-borne pathogens affecting crops like tomatoes.

Beyond academics, this experience has had a profound personal and social impact on me.Studying in Tanzania has allowed me to connect with people from diverse cultural backgrounds, including local Tanzanians, and to learn Swahili. I have developed meaningful relationships with fellow international students and taken active roles in student life, serving as the General Secretary of international students and as a class representative at Sokoine University of Agriculture, which has enhanced my leadership and communication skills. Additionally, this experience has enabled me to explore Tanzania's natural wealth, highlighted by an inspiring trip to Mikumi National Park that broadened my understanding of biodiversity conservation in the context of climate change.

park cultural exchange acivity

Observation of spores under microscope



Isimila cultural exchange acivity

After earning my Master's degree, I plan to return to the Democratic Republic of Congo to apply my skills practically by working closely with farmers and agricultural organisations. My goal is to develop and promote biological control methods, especially local production and application of Trichoderma, to decrease crop losses from soil-borne diseases. I also plan to organise training sessions for farmers and students on sustainable, climate-resilient farming practices and collaborate with research institutions to tailor these solutions to local conditions. Through these efforts, I aim to improve crop yields, reduce reliance on chemical pesticides, and enhance food security in my country. I am sincerely thankful to the European Union for supporting my education and enabling me to be a positive influence.

TESTIMONIALS

Linnah Bittok, Kenya

Researching Trichoderma was very intriguing. Initially, I didn't expect a fungus to influence my thinking. When I first encountered it, it appeared as a fast-growing, green, mould-like filamentous fungi. To me, it was raw data waiting to be collected, but phytochemistry compelled me to look deeper. The turning point was analysing its volatilomes and questioning why certain compounds were detected, under what conditions they are produced and detected most, and which species and strains are most effective. This shift towards enquiry transformed my approach to experiments. ,,

Working with Trichoderma enhanced my analytical discipline. I became more rigorous, sceptical of spectra, and appreciative of complexity. I also learned that natural systems respond dynamically to environmental factors and stress. More importantly, it changed my perspective on application: simply isolating, purifying, and characterising compounds in the lab isn't enough. I questioned whether they can survive, deliver yield, and address real-world issues.

Coming from a country where agriculture is central to everything, I see the use of synthetic agrochemicals as harmful, leading to resistance and being costly. Trichoderma offers an eco-friendly, sustainable alternative.

Poster presentation at the interactive fest of a general meeting held at SUA

Working in an experimental laboratory

My approach now is more personal. When I return to Kenya, I won't just carry techniques but also a framework for integrating chemistry, biology, and real-world conditions. Success depends on formulation stability, environmental factors, farmer accessibility, and cost; without these, science remains irrelevant.

Trichoderma didn't just teach me phytochemistry. It taught me restraint, rigour, and responsibility. When I go back, I don't plan to merely apply what I know. I aim to test it under practical conditions and amid the challenges faced in agriculture and medicine. If it fails, I will adapt; if it succeeds, I will refine, because the goal is to produce useful and applicable science.

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