

Mirabelle MIKPASSO

Agronomist | Plant Breeding Researcher
MSc Plant Breeding & Biotechnology Research
Assistant, GBioS Unit, UAC

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Cotonou, Republic of Benin
Nationality: Beninese

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dedicated agronomist and plant breeding researcher with a Master's degree in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, and over four years of hands-on experience in genetics, participatory varietal evaluation, and gene bank management. Experienced in molecular techniques and agro-morphological data collection. Committed to promoting food security and sustainable agriculture in West Africa through science-based innovation and community engagement.

Key Areas of Expertise: Plant Breeding, Genomics and Bioinformatics, Participatory Research, Gene Bank Management, Seed Sciences, Field Trials, Data Analysis, Agro-morphology

EDUCATION

MSc in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, Oct 2020 – Dec 2022

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC), Benin

Thesis: On-farm participatory evaluation of aromatic rice lines in the Couffo Department

Bachelor's Degree in Crop Production, Oct 2016 – Dec 2019

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC), Benin

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Dec 2022 – Dec 2024

Unit of Bioechnology and Seed Sciences (GBioS), University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

- Contributed to rice improvement under the TAERA project through field experiments and participatory varietal evaluation.
- Assessed mung bean and Mucuna intercropping effects on rice yield and soil nutrient status.
- Collected agro-morphological data and monitored multi-site field trials.
- Organized focus group discussions with farmers to identify selection criteria.
- Coordinated rice variety production across three sites under the BIOVALOR project.

Seed Production Assistant

Sep 2022 – Jul 2024

Seed Service, GBioS Unit, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

- Conducted seed extraction, treatment, and conservation for key vegetable species (*Solanum macrocarpon*, *Abelmoschus esculentus*, *Capsicum annuum*, and others).
- Performed germination tests to assess seed quality and viability.
- Served as commercial agent for seed distribution and sales.

Gene Bank Assistant

Sep 2020 – Jul 2022

GBioS Unit, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

- Processed, dried, packed, labelled, and stored seed accessions, and maintained database records.
- Conducted viability tests and participated in seed regeneration activities.

Research Assistant (Training)

May 2020 – Jul 2022

GBioS Unit, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

- Collected agro-morphological data on rice and Kersting's groundnut, conducted germination and moisture content tests.
- Participated in floral biology and seed improvement studies.

TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

Statistical Data Analysis & ML

27th Oct – 13th Nov 2025

NEXTGEN SOLUTIONS

NGS Data Analysis & Machine Learning (ML)

5th Aug – 21th Oct 2025

NEXTGEN SOLUTIONS

Quality Management System (QMS) & Genetic Resources Conservation

May 2025

GBioS Unit, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

- FAO Gene Bank Standards SOPs, quality control, risk assessment, and safety duplication strategies.
- Introduction to the TRICOT approach for participatory variety evaluation.

Regional Training in Genomics and Plant Breeding,

Nov 2024

GBioS Unit, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

- Advanced molecular genomics, genome analysis, bioinformatics applications, and classical breeding principles

Introduction to Graphic Design & Adobe Illustrator

Jul 2024

NGO Conscience Féminine & Olorun ArtStudio

QGIS Mapping Software

Jan 2019

GBioS Unit, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

- Vector and raster data visualization, map creation using vector datasets.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical Analysis: R, SPSS, Microsoft Excel
Bioinformatics: Genome analysis, sequence tools

Scientific Writing: Zotero, EndNote, Mendeley
Design: Adobe Illustrator

Curriculum Vitae | Mirabelle MIKPASSO
March 2026

GIS & Mapping: QGIS

Field Data Collection: Kobo Toolbox

Office Suite: Word, PowerPoint, Excel

Languages: French (native), English (proficient)

HONOURS & AWARDS

December 2023: Certificate of Recognition, Director of the Unit of Genetics, Biotechnology and Seed Sciences, UAC

VOLUNTERING EXPERIENCE

NGO NABEN (October 2017 – Present)

- Head of Sustainable Agriculture: leading agricultural awareness and development initiatives.
- General Treasurer, Board of Directors, financial oversight and governance.
- Commercial Agent: product distribution and community outreach

I certify that all the information provided is true and accurate



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