

Dr Getachew M. Mulualem



My name is **Getachew M. Mulualem**, I'm originally from Ethiopia.

Currently, I'm doing postdoctoral research at the University of Southampton in the UK. I came to know about the EO Africa Research and Development Facility...due to ESA announcements and professional networks that focus on earth observation science and sustainable developments in Africa.

So, basically, what drew my attention to this call...was because it's collaborative research between European institution and African institution in capacity building and translating geo-science into local impact. That's why I am interested in it.

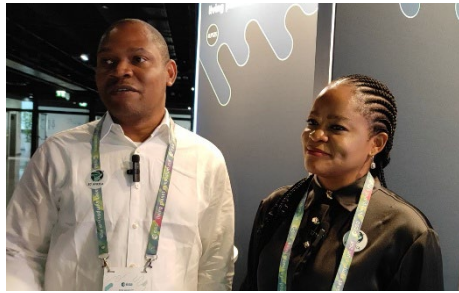
Currently I am attending the LPS in Vienna where I have met our previous EO partners and other colleagues from ITC. So the EO Africa has created a strong link with African institutions and European partners...where we share experience, knowledge in managing projects as well as continuing collaboration in EO based research.

In terms of benefits, EO Africa was...a turning point in my professional journey because this is the first time where I call it a project between multinational institutions and the countries where you work in different time zones with different institutions, by co-leading this project I gained experience in managing projects, as well as scientific communications... also this gives me a strong foundation in leading larger Earth observation projects. Currently, I'm working on validation of Earth observation for projects at Southampton...

With regard to the future... -in future, we are beyond research, we are continuously in connection with my European partners where we think of...helping sustainable EO-research in Africa in terms of creating workshops, creating symposiums, webinars, and also we are thinking of also supervising PhD students and opening other Earth observation collaboration programs, especially in Ethiopia where future emerging young scientists.. we try to push them, give them guidance, and mentor them to become emergent scientists...in the field.

So that's how we see the impact...of our collaboration

Dr Chiamaka Ehiemereyu and Dr. Nnamdi Ehiemere



My name is **Chamaka EHEMELE** from the University of Nigeria Nsukka, and I'm the PI of an EOAFRICA led project initiative, and I'm at the Living Planet Symposium that is currently happening at Vienna, Austria.

So how did I learn about the grant? I learned about the grant during a Google search on the Internet when I was looking for course materials that will help me develop and empower myself. OK?

So what motivated me, when I looked through the website and I saw past grant projects, I knew that this was an opportunity for me to learn from the best, to learn from the technologically advanced Europeans, and also to learn how to be able to manage projects.

What benefits have I gotten from this project career wise?

Oh, it's been life changing. It's been fantastic. My credibility, my authenticity...self belief and scientific knowledge has been improved. I also have been able to acquire relevant skills. And, also, I've been able to transfer all the knowledge I acquired to my undergraduates and my professors at the university. And, also, the results from our project; my country can benefit from the results of our project when they are able to implement solutions that we've identified through the optimum communication means to the smallholder: rice farmers.

What do I think about the future potential of our project?

For that, I'd like to invite my colleague, **Dr. Nnamdi Ehiemere**. He's a member of the MOFODRONI team (our EOAFRICA project). We're currently working on monitoring and forecasting of agricultural drought in rain fed rice fields.

So what do you think so far about your experience with regards to the grant?

Nnamdi: Um, the grant has been very good! Both for our research work and for academics working at the university, lecturing, and also as researchers in the field of space technology and, -you know-, using EO data and satellite imagery to work in the agricultural sector.

It has been quite enriching. It has given us the opportunity to go to communities we would never have visited, and that has also helped us in a lot of ways to understand...the agricultural space with regards to rice in Nigeria.

Chiamaka: Also, we've also spoken to our partners from VITO... on how we want to take this project further by actually implementing solutions -Nature Based Solutions, to the problems that we identified in the field in order to help our smallholder rice farmers.