

Stephen C. Mukembo

Stephen Mukembo is the new County Engagement Specialist in Community and Economic Development for Johnson County. He is a Ford Foundation International Alumnus and completed his Ph.D. in Agricultural Education at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in 2017 with a concentration on agricultural entrepreneurship (agripreneurship). His doctoral research focused on the integration of agricultural and entrepreneurship education to improve livelihoods in communities through project-based learning and Youth-Adult Partnerships. He also holds a graduate certificate in entrepreneurship from Spears School of Business (OSU); a master's degree in international agriculture from OSU; and a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Kyambogo University, Uganda.

Stephen has more than 10 years of teaching and mentoring students, both at the high school and university level; more than seven years of community engagement experience, working with people from diverse backgrounds on entrepreneurship and agriculturally related ventures, including small business management from Uganda. Prior to coming to the United States, he taught high school agriculture in Uganda for seven years and was the patron (advisor) of the Young Farmers Club, similar to the 4-H model in the United States. Stephen is passionate about community economic development, agroforestry, food security, program development and impact evaluation, youth and agripreneurship development, and youth-adult partnerships.

Stephen's scholarly accomplishments and recognitions include 17 conference presentations at regional, national, and international levels, as well as peer-refereed journal publications (five papers and seven abstracts). Three of these journal articles were recognized as outstanding by the Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education (2) and Career and Technical Education Research (1). In 2017, he was selected as one of the Future Leaders in international agriculture by the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD). He is a member of the AIARD, Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE), and Young Professional for Agricultural Development (YPARD).

Before joining MU extension, Stephen was an instructor at Oklahoma State University in the international agriculture program where he taught a course in agriculture entrepreneurship. Also, as a doctoral student, he was a co-instructor for international programs in agricultural education and extension in the AGED department and a teaching associate for social entrepreneurship and project planning in the Spears business school. Stephen is excited to join the MU Extension team to learn and contribute to improving the livelihoods of all Missourians and the nation.