

## BIODATA

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Lusike Wasilwa holds a post-doctorate in Plant Pathology from Rutgers University, New Jersey, PhD in Plant Science and a MSc in Horticulture from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and, a BSc degree in Agriculture from University of Eastern Africa, Baraton. Dr Wasilwa has authored/co-authored scientific and technical papers in plant pathology, fruit, nut, oil crops & vegetable research; pollinators, mainstreaming biodiversity for food, nutrition and agro-ecology. Her current research focuses on mainstreaming biodiversity to contribute to food, nutrition and income security and issues pertaining to sustaining agro-ecologies. Dr Wasilwa advocates commercialization of underutilized and indigenous fruits, use of precision agriculture for increased production and productivity with special emphasis in reduction of losses attributed to pests and diseases, pre-and-postharvest losses, and advancing best production practices. She is the Director of Crops Systems of Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization where she provides leadership in integrated horticulture, staple, and industrial crops product value chains for increased commercialisation and competitiveness. Dr Wasilwa serves as the Governing Board Member of the East African Science & Technology Commission (EASTECO); Advisory Board of PICO-EA; Advisory Committees of Horticulture Impact Project-SNV; FAO Agro-ecology and the Kenya Avocado Project. Dr. Wasilwa served as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Horticulture International Advisory Board for HortCRSP. She served on the Kenya Agricultural Productivity and Agribusiness Programme (KAPAP) grants advisory and approval committee and the advisory board for the African Journal for Horticultural Science. Dr. Wasilwa is a recipient of 3 medals from International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) in recognition of service and a fellowship from Gender and Diversity Rockefeller Fellowship Programme to enhance the careers of women crop scientists in East Africa. She was recognized by AWARD (African Women in Agriculture Research Development) for her dedication and commitment to excellence in mentoring from 2008 to 2010.

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