

# MARTIN PAUL JR.TABE-OJONG

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

**Address:** 2 Port Said Street, Maadi, Cairo. Egypt

**Phone:** + (49) 1521-697-36-45

**Nationality:** Cameroonian

**Email:** [m.p.tabe-ojong@cgiar.org](mailto:m.p.tabe-ojong@cgiar.org)

**Web:** <https://sites.google.com/view/martin-paul-tabe-ojong/home>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Agriculture and food security

Climate change adaptation and mitigation (climate-smart agriculture)

Digitalization and disruptive technologies in Agriculture

Social (rural) development, social protection, and poverty

Impact evaluation and applied econometrics

## EDUCATION

---

**Ph.D. -Agricultural Economics** - University of Bonn, Germany (2021)

**MSc. – Social Protection** - University of Applied Sciences Bonn, Germany (2023)

**MSc. - Agricultural and Food Economics** - University of Bonn, Germany (2017)

**BSc. - Agricultural Economics** - University of Buea, Cameroon (2014)

## EXPERIENCE

---

**Economist** 12/2021 - present

**International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) USA & Egypt**

(Activities: Conducting innovative research on technology adoption, land productivity, digitalization, and, digital innovations, value chain analyses, climate change and climate-smart agriculture, farmer advisory systems and, extension services, trade and global value chains as well as social protection and poverty using cutting-edge econometric techniques, leading country case studies, and contributing to impact evaluations on social and rural development, representing IFPRI on various occasions and supervise junior research staff, support the IFPRI Egypt research agenda and help in developing new research projects).

**Visiting Researcher** 06/2021-12/2021

**Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, Thailand**

(Activities: Visiting researcher in the Foresight and Applied Economics Department. Collaborate in the study of cassava value chains. Manage, clean, and harmonize diverse community and household datasets for analysis in the framework of the Agriculture and Food Security Program. Report writing, presentation, and journal paper).

**Consultant** 08/2021-11/2021

**World Fish, Malaysia**

(Activities: Consultant with the USAID-funded project, Fish for Livelihood. Improving and maintaining the data collection instrument and drafting a research agenda to understand the links between aquaculture expansion and income, commercialization, food, and nutrition security, and changing gender roles. Data analysis and drafting success stories).

**Consultant** **07/2020-06/2021**  
**World Bank Group (WBG), Washington DC, USA**  
(Activities: Research assistant in the Lesotho Jobs pilot which centers around youth aspirations, preferences, career choices, and labour market outcomes. Assist in the development of data collection instruments, pilot the data collection instruments, provide feedback and a dataset from this exercise, and assist the team in improving the data collection instrument. Test the context validity of the instrument, and psychometric reliability of the survey instrument. Develop an operations manual for the survey implementation and data reporting).

**Consultant** **08/2020-04/2021**  
**Global Crop Trust, Bonn Germany** (Activities:  
Genebank impact fellow and consultant charged with evaluating the contribution of the (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics) ICRISAT genebank to varietal improvement and rural poverty. Extensive literature review and analyzing pedigree and panel household-level data on groundnut varieties in Malawi using robust econometric techniques. Drafting working papers, policy briefs, and two journal articles).

**Consultant** **01/2020- 07/2020**  
**World Bank Group (WBG), Cote d'Ivoire**  
(Activities: Research assistant in the Cote d'Ivoire Jobs pilot which centers around economic inclusion into rice value chains to improve labour market outcomes and rural employment. Administrative data analysis and reporting, coordinating and supervising all data collection processes by working with a survey firm, sampling activities, data cleaning, and management, pilot baseline data analysis, and drafting project reports and manuscripts).

**Survey Coordinator** **05/2019-09/2019**  
**Aspirations and Future Rural Africa Baseline Survey, Kenya**  
(Activities: Coordinate and supervise all data collection processes, sampling activities, drafting questionnaires on Survey Solutions and SurveyCTO, Data scoping and reshaping, Real-time data checks).

**Research Assistant** **04/2018-10/2021**  
**Institute for Food and Resource Economics, Bonn, Germany**  
(CAPI programming and questionnaire formulation, Data analysis, and scientific publications, MSc term paper supervision, conference attendance, Econometrics tutor).

**Researcher** **01.2018-**  
**04.2018** **Centre for Independent**  
**Development Research, Buea, Cameroon** (Activities: Data collection on  
issues of Agricultural Production Economics, Rural Development and Agricultural Policy, Training Assistant for workshops on Agricultural Policy and Political Economy Analysis).

**Research Fellow** **04.2017 -**  
**10.2017** **International Crops Research**  
**Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Nairobi Kenya**  
(Activities: CAPI programming, Panel data econometric analysis, Data cleaning, Impact evaluation, Data collection, Project management).

## **AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

---

**2022:** Co-PI on Blue social protection in Solomon Island (\$140,000)

**2021:** Economics and Governance of Global Value Chains in Africa (€7,000).

**2021:** Oil palm Expansion, food security and welfare in Cameroon (€5,000).

**2021:** AAEA Travel Grant for participation at the 2021 AAEA & WAEA meeting in Austin, TX

**2021:** IAAE grant for participation in the ICAE meeting in New Delhi, India

**2020:** Contending with COVID-19 in selected African countries (€25,000).

**2020:** Genebank impact fellowship with the Crop Trust (€14,000).

**2020:** World Bank Group Africa Fellowship in Washington D.C. USA and Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (January – June 2020).

**2019:** Hans H. Ruthenberg Graduate Award for an excellent thesis with a significant contribution to the improvement of farming and reduction of hunger in the world (€2500).

**2019:** World Bank/GIZ/AERC fellowship on Land Economics and Governance at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa (Jan 7- Feb 8, 2019).

**2018:** IAAE young research scholar travel grants for participation at the International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Vancouver Canada (€3000).

**2017:** Scholarship of the GIZ (BEAF Program, Advisory Group for Development-Oriented Agricultural Research) for a research fellowship at ICRISAT, Nairobi, Kenya. (€18000).

**2014:** Most Disciplined undergraduate student at the University of Buea, Cameroon.

**2014:** Best graduating student in the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Buea, Cameroon.

**2014:** Best graduating student in the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, University of Buea, Cameroon.

## **TRAINING**

---

**2019:** PhD Specialization Course on Land Economics and Governance at the University of Cape Town, South Africa organized by AERC/GIZ/WORLD BANK.

**2019:** World Bank online course on STATA and GIS.

**2016:** Seminar on 'Field experimentation in Development Economics' organised by the AFEP consortium at the Catholic university of Louvain, Belgium.

**2013:** Workshop on Statistical and Econometric Analysis, organised by SOWEDA, SWR, Cameroon.

**2012:** Trainee at farmer business school organized by GIZ and Ministry of Agriculture in Cameroon.

## **RESEARCH OUTPUT**

---

### **Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications**

Abate, G., Abay, K.A., Chamberlain, J., Kassim, Y., Spielman, D., **Tabe-Ojong, M. P.** (2023) "[Digital tools and agricultural market transformation in Africa: Why are they not at scale yet, and what will it take to get there?](#)", **Food Policy**, Available online.

- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.,** Molua, E.L., Nanfouet, M.A., Mkong, C.J., Kiven, V., Atem, V. (2023) "[Oil palm production, income gains, and off-farm employment among independent producers in Cameroon](#)", **Ecological Economics**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.,** Rukundo, E., Gebrekidan, B.H. (2023) "[COVID-19 and Food Insecurity in Africa: Review of the Emerging Empirical Evidence](#)", **European Review of Agricultural Economics**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.,** Nyam, Y.S., Lokossou, J.C., Gebrekidan, B.H. (2023) "[Farmer advisory systems and pesticide use in legume-based systems in West Africa](#)", **Science of the Total Environment**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.,** Ibarra, L.M., Andrades, R., Labarta, R. (2023) "[Soil conservation and smallholder welfare under Cassava-based systems in Thailand](#)", **Land Degradation and Development**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.**(2023) "[Action against invasive species: charcoal production, beekeeping and prosopis eradication in Kenya](#)", **Ecological Economics**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.**(2022) "[Do Producer Organizations Promote Environmental Sustainability Through Organic Soil Investments? Evidence from Cameroon](#) ", **Journal of Development Effectiveness**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.,** Dureti, G. G. (2022) "[Are Agro-clusters Pro-Poor? Evidence from Ethiopia](#) ", **Journal of Agricultural Economics**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.,** Fabinin, A.N., Minkoua, J.R., Molua, E.L., Fonkeng, E.E. (2022) "[Organic Soil Amendments and Food Security: Evidence from Cameroon](#)", **Land Degradation and Development**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.,** Gebrekidan, B.H., Rukundo, E., Boerner, J., Heckeley, T. (2022) "[COVID-19 in Rural Africa: Food Access Disruptions, Food Insecurity and Coping Strategies in Kenya, Namibia, and Tanzania](#)", **Agricultural Economics**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.,** Smale, M., Jamora, N., Azevedo, V. (2022) "[Genebanks and market participation: Evidence from groundnut farmers in Malawi](#) ", **CABI Agriculture & Bioscience**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.**(2022) "[Ecological shocks and non-cognitive skills: Evidence from Kenya](#)", **Ecological Economics**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.,** Hauser, M., Mausch, K.(2022) "[Does agricultural commercialization increase asset and livestock accumulation on smallholder farms in Ethiopia?](#)", **Journal of Development Studies**, Available online.
- Tabe-Ojong, M. P.,** Alvarez, M., Ihli, H., Becker, M., Heckeley, T. (2021) '[Control strategies of \*Parthenium hysterophorus L.\* on smallholder farms in Kenya](#)', **Environmental Management**, Available

Tabe-Ojong, M. P., Ordway, E., Nkongho, R., Molua, E.L. (2021) "[Oil palm expansion among non-industrial producers in Cameroon: Potentials for Synergy between Agro-economic Gains and Ecological Safeguards](#)", *Forest Policy and Economics*, Available online.

Tabe-Ojong, M. P., Rukundo, E. (2021) [Religiosity and parental educational aspirations for children in Kenya](#), *World Development Perspectives*, Available online.

Tabe-Ojong, M. P., Mausch, K., Woldeyohanes, T., Heckeley, T. (2021) '[Three hurdles towards commercialization: Integrating subsistence chickpea producers in the market economy](#)'. *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, Available online  
[2019 Hans H. Ruthenberg Graduate Award](#)

Tabe-Ojong, M. P., Heckeley, T., Baylis, K. (2021) '[Aspiration formation and ecological shocks in rural Kenya](#)' *European Journal of Development Research*, Available online

Tabe-Ojong, M. P., Molua, E.L., Ngoh, S.B., Beteck, S.E. (2021), "[Production, consumption and market diversification of grain legumes in the humid forest Agroecology of Cameroon](#)", *Sustainable Production and consumption*, Vol 27, pp 193 – 202.

Tabe-Ojong, M. P., Boakye, A.J., Muliro, M. (2020), "[Mitigating the impacts of floods using adaptive and resilient coping strategies: The role of the Emergency Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme \(LEAP\) in Ghana](#)", *Journal of Environmental Management*, Vol 270 (110809).

### **Working Papers**

The adoption of climate-smart groundnut varieties increases agricultural production and smallholder commercialization in West Africa (with Bisrat Gebrekidan, Jourdain Lokossou & Hippolyte Affognon); *Revised and Resubmitted at **Nature Communication***.

Climate change adaptation and food security in West Africa (with Ghislain Aihounton & Jourdain Lokossou); *Revised and Resubmitted to **Global Environmental Change***.

Aspirations and investments in livestock: Evidence of Aspiration Failure in Kenya (Thomas Heckeley and Sebastian Rasch); *Revised and Resubmitted to **Agricultural Economics***.

Smallholder farmer participation in profitable value chains and contract farming: Evidence from irrigated agriculture in Egypt (with [Kibrom Abay](#)); *Under Review at **Agricultural Economics***.

Oil palm expansion and educational outcomes: Gendered evidence from Cameroon (with [Ernest L. Molua](#)); *Under Review at **Journal of Development Studies***

Public-private advisory systems and climate-smart agriculture: Evidence from West Africa (with [Bisrat Gebrekidan](#), [Jourdain C. Lokossou](#) & [Sebastian Nyam](#))

Climate change adaptation and climate resilience in Ethiopia (with [Fissha Asmare](#))

## Work in Progress

Climate change and structural transformation in Africa (with [Justice Tei Mensah](#), [Kibrom Abay](#), and [Antoine Castet](#))

Climate-smart agriculture and production risks in agriculture (with [Jourdain C. Lokossou](#) and [Ghislain Aihounton](#))

Building climate resilience through climate-smart agriculture in West Africa ([Ange T. Kakpo](#), [Jourdain C. Lokossou](#))

## Conference Contributions

**2023:** ICRISAT, CSAE, AES, ICAS, CORNELL

**2022:** IDOS, NATO, AES, AAEEA, MIASA policy conference, PEGNET, African Economic Conference, IZA/WorldBank/UNUWIDER Jobs and Development conference

**2021:** AAEEA, AARES, AES, EAAE, IAAE, EAERE, LICOS seminar series, UNI-WIDER

**2020:** AAEEA AES

**2019:** Tropentag

**2018:** AES, IAAE

## Invited presentations and panel discussion

**2022:** Food insecurity in Africa and the middle east (NATO, Italy)

**2022:** Climate change adaptation and food security in Africa (Nowegian council for Africa, Norway)

**2022:** Food insecurity in the Middle East region (Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Qatar)

**2022:** Building green bridges through institutional sustainability (DAAD, Egypt)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

---

- **Reviewer for:** Agricultural Economics, Applied Economic perspectives and Policy, Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Global Environmental Change, Climate Risk Management, Development in practice, Environmental Management, Environmental Research Letters, European Journal of Development Research, Journal of Rural Studies, Land Degradation and Developemnt, Review of Economics of the household, World Development Perspectives.
- **Member,** International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE), Agricultural Economics Society (AES).

## SKILLS

---

- **Language:** Native: English and French. Advanced: German
- **Econometric Software:** STATA, R, SPSS, FRONTIER, E views
- **Programming:** CAPI ( Survey Solutions and Survey CTO), GAMS
- **Microsoft office:** Excel, Powerpoint, Word.

- **Maps: QGIS**

## REFERENCES

---

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Heckelei**

University of Bonn, Germany, [thomas.heckelei@ilr.uni-bonn.de](mailto:thomas.heckelei@ilr.uni-bonn.de)

**Prof. Melinda Smale**

Agri-food Economics, Michigan State University, USA, [msmale@msu.edu](mailto:msmale@msu.edu)

**Dr. Kai Mausch**

Senior Economist, CIFOR-ICRAF, Germany, [k.mausch@cgiar.org](mailto:k.mausch@cgiar.org)