

Profile

With extensive training in information and communication technologies, and agriculture for development, I specialise in designing and implementing digital solutions, strategies and policies that drive inclusive and sustainable transformation in rural areas. My expertise spans agriculture, value chains and market access, with strong skills in project design, supervision, data analytics and reporting. I am adept at policy engagement, knowledge management and stakeholder consultation, ensuring impactful initiatives from field level to strategy development.

Education

Institution	Date from	Date to	Degree(s) or diploma(s) obtained
Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham (UK)	09/2014	08/2015	MSc in Practicing Sustainable Development, Specialism in Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D)
Faculty of Agricultural Science, University of Florence (Italy)	10/1991	07/1997	MSc in Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Science

Professional experience

Date from	Date to	FTEs	Position	Location	Tasks and responsibilities	Employer and reference person
06/2022 & 12/2024	08/2022 & 08/2025	36	Knowledge Management and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist	Rome	<i>First & Second International Conference on Geographical Indications (Montpellier, 5-8 Jul 2022 & Rome, 18-21 Feb 2025)</i> : ▪ Regularly updated the conference website with schedules, calls for contributions, and participant resources in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Italian). ▪ Managed post-conference dissemination. ▪ Ensured accessibility and accuracy of all public-facing materials to support institutional knowledge sharing . ▪ Actively participated in Organising Committee meetings with key partners (FAO, Italian Ministry of Agriculture, CIRAD, Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, oriGIn and Qualivita).	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) & CIRAD / Ms Florence Tartanac florence.tartanac@fao.org
07/2024	07/2025	246	Key Expert Stakeholder Engagement, Coordination and Progress Tracking and Knowledge Management	Rome-London / Different partner countries of the ACP regions	<i>Technical Assistance to the OACPS Secretariat, in the Intra-ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific States) Climate Services and related Applications ClimSA Programme (11th EDF)</i> : ▪ Provided coordination and monitoring across global activities of the ClimSA Programme , ensuring alignment with the EU Green Deal and international climate strategies on adaptation and risk reduction. ▪ Led knowledge management and evidence-building, including the global communication and visibility strategy ▪ Promoted and expanded the use of the online ClimSA Knowledge Platform . ▪ Supervised the development and dissemination of the online Programme Reporting Dashboard for regular availability of report and progress tracking ▪ Facilitated collaboration with ACP regional organisations and technical partners (e.g. JRC, WMO, EUMETSAT, ECMWF, EU DG INTPA), supporting dissemination of scientific evidence for policy and practice.	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) / Mr Peter Nyongesa Wekesa peter.nyongesa@acp.int
08/2016	08/2024	349	Knowledge Management / Communication Specialist	London / Côte d'Ivoire	<i>African Seed Sector Development Organisation (AfricaSeeds), mandated by the African Union</i> : ▪ Designed and implemented knowledge management & communication strategies , adapting evidence to policymakers, practitioners and the public. ▪ Conducted field assessments with seed producer cooperatives (including women's groups, Côte d'Ivoire) and integrated findings into communication strategies to address local needs . ▪ Produced bilingual communication materials (French and English) and contributed to programme design by developing of concept notes for funding opportunities, supporting the organisation's financial sustainability and strategic goals .	AfricaSeeds / Dr Kouame Miezan k.miezan@africa-seeds.org
02/2014	02/2017	163	Knowledge Management Specialist for Post-Disaster Assessment and Response	Rome-London / Different partner countries	<i>Technical Cooperation and Emergency Division (TCE) in the EU-funded Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Multiple Indicator Rapid Assessment (MIRA) project</i> : ▪ Supported the project contributing to the design and dissemination of Practitioner's Guidelines to strengthen rapid assessment capacity . ▪ Produced strategic content to enhance visibility and uptake of needs assessment tools among FAO and humanitarian partners. ▪ Managed two multilingual online Communities of Practice (260+ stakeholders, including FAO, WFP, IFAD, UN clusters) to facilitate real-time knowledge exchange in emergency contexts.	FAO / Mr Neil Marsland neil.marsland@fao.org
02/2015	06/2015	46	Capacity Development and Knowledge Management Specialist	Rome/ Different partner countries	<i>Integrated Production and Pest Management Programme (IPPM) (funded by the EU Commission and the Netherlands Cooperation)</i> : ▪ Edited and co-authored Farmer Field Schools (FFS) training manuals to promote participatory learning and sustainable farming across multiple agro-ecological zones. ▪ Developed content for the IPPM Programme website (9 countries: Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Tanzania and Zambia) and supported outreach on pesticide risk monitoring and communication. ▪ Contributed to evaluation of training outcomes in Mali and Senegal, integrating field evidence into programme	FAO / Mr William Settle william.settle@fao.org

					improvement and policy awareness materials. • Produced and published a series of articles on programme results and success stories.	
04/2012	01/2015	611	Seed Sector Innovation and Communication Specialist	Rome/ Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal	<i>Regional Project "Improvement of Rice Production in West Africa", implemented by the FAO Regional Office in West Africa (funded by the Spanish Cooperation):</i> • Led the design and coordination of a pilot SMS-based information system to enhance marketing opportunities for rice seed producers in Côte d'Ivoire, including stakeholder consultations, identification of key data needs, and technical support to software developers. • Engaged in policy-level advocacy to promote the integration of the information system within the national seed legislation, working with senior officials and contributing to efforts aimed at aligning digital innovation with formal seed sector governance. • Documented project achievements through field visits in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal.	FAO / Mr Thomas Osborn thomas.osborn@fao.org
10/2010	04/2012	400	Scientific Advisor – Crop Genetic Resources and Breeding Linkages	Rome/ Different partner countries	<i>Global System Project "Securing the Biological Basis of Agriculture and Promoting New and Fuller Use of Crop Genetic Resources" (funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation):</i> • Coordinated a West Africa pilot initiative (Benin, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Togo) linking national gene banks with breeders and farmers to promote sustainable use and conservation of crop biodiversity (cowpea, pearl millet, sorghum, yam). • Led evidence-building consultations with researchers, policymakers, and technical staff , aligning conservation priorities with field practices and policy frameworks. • Developed strategic plans for integrated conservation and use of crop diversity in collaboration with national/international experts, CGIAR centres, AGRA and partners.	Global Crop Diversity Trust / Mr Luigi Guarino luigi.guarino@croptrust.org
05/2006	09/2010	934	Knowledge Management / Assistant Coordinator	Rome/ Different partner countries	<i>Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB), hosted by the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division:</i> • Supported the implementation of the GIPB to document and strengthen national plant breeding capacity in 80 countries , contributing to planning and technical direction. • Coordinated surveys in 50+ countries , supervising national consultants and ensuring data quality, consistency and evidence-based outputs. • Managed the GIPB Knowledge Resource Centre • Led the development and use of the Plant Breeding and Biotechnology Capacity (PBBC) database. • Produced data analyses, policy briefs and advocacy materials to guide investments in plant breeding systems.	FAO / Dr Elcio Perpetuo Guimaraes elcio.guimaraes@embrapa.br
09/2005	02/2006	109	Technical Expert in Data Integration and Analysis	Rome/ Different partner countries	<i>Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) – Joint FAO-WFP (World Food Programme) Initiative in the framework of the Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions (CFSAM):</i> • Supported development of the FAO-WFP GIEWS Workstation , integrating datasets and satellite imagery for timely food security analysis. • Compiled and harmonised subnational data across Africa and Central Asia (Ethiopia, Sudan, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Somalia, Afghanistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal), producing indicators to anticipate crop failures and food supply stress. • Strengthened FAO and WFP the food security early warning capacity by delivering spatially explicit, decision-ready tools for analysts and policymakers.	FAO / Mr Fabio Grita fabio.grita@fao.org
05/2005	08/2005	60	Data and Knowledge Management Expert	Rome/ Different partner Countries	<i>FAO Crop Production and Protection Division:</i> • Contributed to a global assessment of plant breeding and biotechnology capacity (32 countries), with focus on cereal improvement strategies supporting food security. • Managed and verified survey data from national consultants , ensuring accuracy and producing 10+ country analytical reports on trends and capacity gaps. • Developed a global map of plant breeding capacities and drafted manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication to inform policy and investment decision.	FAO / Dr Elcio Perpetuo Guimaraes elcio.guimaraes@embrapa.br
02/2004	11/2004	216	Visiting Scientist	Wageningen (Netherlands) / Mali	<i>Department of Agro-Ecosystems Research, Plant Research International – Wageningen University & Research (WUR):</i> • Led a desk study on natural resource management in central Mali (sorghum-based systems), using simulation modelling to assess yield potential and input efficiency for food security. • Analysed and validated historical agronomic and socio-environmental data (CIRAD, IRD, FAO), comparing with model outputs to ensure accuracy. • Produced findings forming the basis of a scientific article on resource use efficiency and sustainable agriculture.	WUR / Dr Prem Bindraban pbindraban@ifdc.org
11/2003	02/2004	45	Technical Expert in Food and Nutrition Information Systems	Mali	<i>Division for Monitoring the Food and Nutrition System of the Planning and Statistics Unit, Ministry of Health, Republic of Mali:</i> • Conducted field assessments and data reviews with institutions engaged in food and nutrition data collection at sub-regional level. • Produced an evidence-based national report on nutrition and food security to inform the Ministry of Health's strategic planning.	Data Analysis and Support Centre (DASC) / Mr Dario Berardi dberardi@dasc.it
03/2000	12/2002	412	Technical Expert in Agroclimatic Information	Florence (Italy)	<i>Early Warning and Agricultural Production Forecasting Project (AP3A), Technical Support to the AGRHYMET Regional Centre / World Meteorological Organization (WMO):</i> • Acted as thematic expert on structural vulnerability in the Sahel, identifying zones chronically exposed to food insecurity risks. • Developed GIS-based vulnerability layers , integrating agroecological, agrometeorological and socio-economic datasets. •	WMO & Fondazione per la Meteorologia Applicata (FMA) / Mr Andrea Di Vecchia

					Produced publications, maps, and training materials, including a comprehensive NDVI user manual and tutorial, to strengthen institutional capacity in food security early warning.	
03/1999	03/2000	220	Technical Expert in Early Warning for Food Security	Niger	<i>Early Warning and Agricultural Production Forecasting Project (AP3A), AGRHYMET Regional Centre:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oversaw the upgrade of the AP3A Database Management System, integrating agricultural and livestock data from 5 CILSS countries, improving reliability for regional food security analysis. ▪ Edited and disseminated technical reports (including ministerial-level submission), ensuring scientific accuracy and policy relevance. ▪ Participated in regional workshops and working groups, supporting knowledge exchange on vulnerability analysis, food security monitoring and data harmonisation across the Sahel. 	AGRHYMET / Dr Djaby Bakary
04/1998	12/1998	75	Technical Expert in Food Security Information Systems	Florence (Italy)	<i>Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) and WMO:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributed to geospatial and vulnerability data analysis to identify high-risk food insecurity zones and support evidence-based decision-making by donors and partners. ▪ Supported FIVIMS in strengthening national and global food security information systems, improving monitoring, mapping, and targeting of interventions. 	WMO & FAO / Mr Marco Knowles
TOTAL		3922				

Key skills

Computer skills: MS Word, Excel and Access. Website design and management (incl. Concrete5, WordPress, Joomla!, Typo3 and Sitefinity). Image and video processing (Adobe Creative Suite, GIMP 2 and VDSC Video Editor), elements of graphic design (Canva, Envato Elements). E-tools for knowledge management (Dgroups, Mailchimp), social media handles (YouTube, Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram and Flickr). Analytic tools for web and social media (Google Analytics, Hootsuite, SEO). Elements of Geographic Information Systems GIS (ArcView, MapWindow). Windows and Mac OSX.

Languages

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing
English	C2	C2	C2
French	C2	C2	C2
Spanish	B2	B1	B1

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages CEFR classification (A1 – Beginner / A2 – Elementary / B1 – Intermediate / B2 – Upper Intermediate / C1 – Advanced / C2 – Proficient)

Selected publications

- Dieudonné Nsadsisa Faka and Michela Paganini (2025) Improvement of Decision Support Systems for Agricultural Policy Development. In: Enhancing Climate Services for Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The Intra-ACP Climate Services and related Applications Programme (ClimSA). OACPS. doi:10.5281/zenodo.15699530
- Mba, C., Guimarães, E.P., Guei, G.R., Hershey, C., Paganini, M., Pick, B., and Ghosh, K. (2011) Mainstreaming the continuum approach to the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through national strategy. *Plant Genetic Resources*. doi:10.1017/S1479262111000943
- Plant breeding and related biotechnology capacity assessments in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo. Country Brief No. 36, 34, 37, 21, 38. (2009). Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building/Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. Available at <https://www.fao.org/in-action/plant-breeding/resources/information-material/en/>
- Guimarães, E.P., Kueneman E. and Paganini M. Assessment of the National Plant Breeding and Associated Biotechnology Capacity around the World. *Crop Sci.* 47(S3) S262–S273 (2007). Doi: 10.2135/cropsci2007.04.0007IPBS
- Guimarães, E.P., D. Bedoshvili, A. Morgounov, S. Baboev, A. Iskakov, H. Muminjanov, E. Kueneman and M. Paganini. 2006. Plant breeding and related biotechnology competence in Central Asia and recommendations to strengthen regional capacity. *Agromeridian* 2(3):137–143.
- De Filippis, T., Paganini M., Tarchiani V. and Vignaroli P. (2002). VisualCarte - Système de gestion de la cartographie thématique - Manuel de l'utilisateur, Centre Régional AGRHYMET; <https://bibliocilss.pariis.net/files/original/e808eada405ee7e67fdf66e781e1197a4d706578.pdf>
- Di Vecchia A., Paganini M., Tarchiani V. and Vignaroli P. (2001). The context of structural vulnerability per productive system in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal. CeSIA. EC Joint Research Centre/Italian National Research Council/University of Insubria.
- Maracchi G., Paganini M., Tarchiani V. (2001). Evaluation of characteristics and performance of Early Warning Systems. Initial Workshop Proceedings of the CLIMAG West Africa project: A network for harmonisation of climate prediction for mitigation of global change impact in Sudano-Sahelian West Africa. EC – V Framework Programme/Applied Meteorology Foundation (Florence, Italy)/START International Secretariat.
- Michela Paganini, 1997. [*Metodi di valutazione ambientale: il comprensorio di Keita (Niger)*] Environmental evaluation methods: the Keita area (Niger). Thesis of Master Degree. University of Florence.