

Sita KONE, PhD

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dr. KONE is a Senior Agricultural Economist and Consultant with over eight years of experience leading high-impact research, policy analysis, and advisory work in international development. She specializes in sustainable agriculture, climate change, agrifood systems, food security, and resilience across sub-Saharan Africa and the MENA region. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics and Policies and has extensive experience supporting the design and implementation of multidisciplinary projects aimed at transforming agrifood systems through science, technology, and innovation.

She has collaborated with IFPRI, FAO, ICBA, IPA, World Vegetable Center, ODI, and more institutions, contributing to rigorous analytical work, evidence synthesis, and strategic program support. Her expertise includes designing and executing applied research, conducting impact evaluations, and performing economic and financial analyses such as cost-benefit analysis, value chain analysis, and market assessments to inform policy and investment decisions.

Dr. KONE has strong proficiency in quantitative and qualitative analysis, including econometric modeling. She has produced high-quality research outputs, policy briefs, and technical reports that support evidence-based policymaking and investment planning. Her work spans climate-smart agriculture, agribusiness development, sustainable financing models, and digital innovations for food systems. She has extensive experience engaging with policymakers, research institutions, and development partners, facilitating policy dialogue, and leading capacity-building initiatives. Fluent in English and French, she is committed to advancing inclusive and climate-resilient agrifood systems through rigorous research, strategic partnerships, and knowledge dissemination.

SKILLS

Languages:

- Bilingual in French and English (Fluent), Turkish (Fluent), and Spanish (Beginner) with strong communication skills for engaging with government officials, international donors, and stakeholders.

Software:

- Proficient in MS Office 365, SPSS, Stata, R, QGIS, and advanced survey tools such as KoboTool, ODK, LaTeX, SurveyCTO, Zotero, and NVivo for data management and analysis, and Tableau and Power BI for data visualization, impact evaluations, and evidence-based policy decision-making.

Data Analysis Methods:

- Expertise in Impact Evaluations, Mixed Methods Research, Instrumental Variables, Propensity Score Matching, Difference-in-Difference (DiD), Randomized Control Trials (RCTs), Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis, Agricultural Value Chain Analysis, and Data Visualization to support agricultural policy development and evidence-based strategies, Systematic literature review following PRISMA protocol.

Project Management:

- Strong abilities in Budget Development, Work Plan Creation, and Capacity Building, with a proven track record of leading multidisciplinary teams, managing complex agriculture and food security projects, and ensuring timely and cost-effective project implementation.

Communication and Collaboration:

- Extensive experience in drafting technical reports, policy briefs, and peer-reviewed publications, with strong presentation skills at international forums. Expertise in policy

dialogue and working with government agencies, development partners, and the private sector.

Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement:

- Proven success in stakeholder engagement, training, and capacity building, enhancing the effectiveness of agricultural interventions. Skilled at building strong partnerships with governments, donors, and NGOs to advance sustainable agricultural development.

EXPERIENCE

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),
Office of Evaluation (OED)**

**Dubai/Remote
January 2026-Present**

Evaluation Specialist – Climate-Resilient Agriculture & Water Management

Team Member for the Midterm Evaluation of the Ouémé Basin Climate-Resilience Initiative in Benin, a Green Climate Fund–funded project assessing climate resilience, sustainable agricultural livelihoods, water management, and agrifood value chain development, aligned with FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 and national priorities.

- Contributed to improving the design of the evaluation methodology, including the evaluation matrix, analytical framework, and data collection tools to assess climate-resilient agriculture, water management, and value chain interventions.
- Conducted comprehensive desk reviews of project design documents, progress reports, monitoring data, baseline studies, GCF documentation, and national policies to support evidence-based assessment and strategic learning.
- Carried out remote and in-person interviews and focus group discussions with project staff, government counterparts, beneficiaries, and implementing partners, including field missions to targeted municipalities in the Ouémé Basin.
- Analysed qualitative and quantitative data using structured analysis grids, assessing relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency, and benchmarking results against the project Theory of Change and GCF objectives.
- Provided technical analysis on climate resilient agriculture, water infrastructure, agroforestry, and climate resilient value chains, including institutional and platform-based capacity building interventions.
- Integrated cross-cutting themes including gender equality, social inclusion, and climate resilience, with attention to differentiated impacts and risks affecting women and vulnerable groups.
- Contributed substantive analytical inputs to draft and final evaluation reports, translating field evidence into clear findings, conclusions, and actionable recommendations for decision makers.
- Collaborated closely with the Senior Expert and Evaluation Manager on report annexes, evidence tables, and methodological documentation, ensuring analytical rigor, consistency, and high-quality client-ready outputs.

**International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
PI/Senior Consultant – Climate-Smart Agriculture and
Food Security Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa**

**Dubai/Remote
Aug-Nov 2025**

Principal Investigator for the Food Security Portal best practices brief *“Climate-Smart Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa: Best Practices to Strengthen Household Resilience to Climate Shocks – Focus on Burkina Faso.”*

- Principal Investigator in authoring a best practices research brief titled "Climate-Smart Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa: Best Practices to Strengthen Household Resilience to Climate Shocks -With a Focus on Burkina Faso" under the Food Security Portal (FSP) initiative.
- Conducted evidence-based research on innovative methods to enhance household resilience to climate shocks and natural hazards.
- Reviewed and synthesized successful interventions, policies, and practices from African contexts.
- Produced actionable recommendations for policymakers, development practitioners, and researchers to strengthen food security and climate resilience.
- Contributed to IFPRI's global knowledge platform that supports timely, data-driven policy responses to food security crises.

International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)
Agriculture Economist, Senior Socio-Economist Consultant

Dubai
Jul 2023-Mar 2025

Led socio-economic, financial, and market analyses of climate-smart agriculture and agribusiness solutions across sub-Saharan Africa and the MENA region, contributing to multi-country projects funded by IFAD, HSBC, and OCP.

- Designed and implemented mixed-methods data collection, including household surveys, FGDs, KIIs, direct observation, and secondary data
- Managed large datasets through cleaning, structuring, and analysis to produce high-quality, policy-relevant outputs
- Conducted commodity market assessments and value chain analyses to identify opportunities for agricultural technologies and crops
- Evaluated farmers' adoption of climate-smart agriculture interventions across sub-Saharan Africa, identifying key drivers, constraints, and pathways for scaling
- Assessed farmer needs and translated findings into targeted, evidence-based recommendations
- Developed agribusiness case studies and evaluated the scalability of interventions across multiple countries
- Delivered capacity-building programs to over 900 farmers in six countries, strengthening cooperative performance and access to finance
- Conducted cost-benefit analysis, market studies, and value chain assessments to inform investment and program design
- Performed economic and financial analysis of nature-based solutions, including halophytes and mangroves, supporting project development in the UAE
- Led value chain analysis of integrated aquaculture-agriculture systems (IAAS) using saline water in Morocco
- Conducted field missions and stakeholder consultations, and developed stakeholder mapping and engagement strategies
- Assessed economic viability and long-term sustainability of innovative farming systems
- Synthesized evidence into strategic insights to support policy dialogue, program implementation, and scaling decisions

World Vegetable Center
Agrifood Systems Individual Consultant,

Dubai/Remote
Oct 2024-May 2025

Conducted two systematic scoping reviews to assess Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) in African and LMIC food systems, with a focus on Benin and Ghana, supporting evidence-based policy dialogue and investment prioritization.

- Designed and implemented robust review protocols and search strategies for systematic evidence synthesis, covering multiple food system dimensions and underutilized crop pathways relevant to rural development and nutrition.
- Developed and applied structured search syntax across major academic databases, including Scopus, PubMed, and AJOL, ensuring comprehensive and reproducible coverage of peer-reviewed literature.
- Conducted extensive grey literature searches using CGSpace, FAO databases, ECHO Community, and WorldVeg repositories to capture operational, policy, and programme-level evidence.
- Identified and curated relevant theses, research reports, NGO and government publications, policy documents, and national development plans to complement academic sources and strengthen policy relevance.
- Led the screening and documentation process using PRISMA flow diagrams and CADIMA, ensuring transparency, quality assurance, and systematic data management.
- Managed large bibliographic datasets in CSV and RIS formats, ensuring data accuracy, consistency, and comparability across multiple evidence sources.
- Extracted, structured, and organized data across key food system dimensions, including geographic coverage, thematic focus, stakeholders, methodologies, and outcomes, using tailored analytical matrices.
- Analysed and synthesised findings into a comprehensive analytical report assessing the contribution of underutilized crops to diets, livelihoods, sustainability, and resilience, and identifying strategic evidence gaps to inform future programming.
- Provided methodological guidance and quality assurance to review teams on systematic review approaches, strengthening institutional learning, rigor, and replicability across projects.

Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Think Change/SPARC project
Agriculture Economist

Dubai/Remote
Mar-Aug 2024

Contributed to applied analytical research on climate shocks, loss and damage, and resilience in agriculture and livestock systems in the Sahel and Horn of Africa, supporting evidence-informed policy dialogue.

- Collected, cleaned, and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data on loss and damage from extreme climate events affecting agriculture and livestock systems in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
- Applied analytical and quasi-experimental reasoning to assess exposure, vulnerability, and resilience pathways, supporting interpretation of climate impacts on rural livelihoods.
- Conducted systematic literature reviews on slow-onset processes, indirect impacts of extreme events, and non-economic losses, synthesizing evidence relevant for evaluation and policy design.
- Contributed to analytical frameworks linking climate shocks to agricultural and livelihood outcomes, supporting causal interpretation of observed impacts.
- Co-authored a global technical report and two policy briefs, translating complex analytical findings into policy-relevant recommendations for governments and development partners.

- Delivered high-quality analytical outputs under tight timelines, collaborating with multidisciplinary teams to ensure rigor, consistency, and usability.

Economy Laboratory of Orléans (LEO), APR BIOFERTIL Project
Agriculture Economist

France
Jan 2022-July 2022

Contributed to applied research on biochar as a climate-smart agricultural practice, combining technical, economic, and policy analysis relevant to climate mitigation, resilience, and sustainable land management.

- Conducted technical and economic analysis of biochar as a soil amendment, assessing impacts on agricultural productivity, resilience, and sustainability.
- Performed empirical analytical research on biochar's role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, contributing to a peer-reviewed scientific publication.
- Produced technical-economic assessment reports, translating empirical findings into evidence-based recommendations for policy adaptation and value chain integration.
- Contributed to the development of a policy brief on biofertilizers, informing national-level agricultural policy discussions on sustainable agricultural practices.
- Organized and facilitated multi-stakeholder workshops with more than 50 participants, synthesizing evidence into actionable recommendations for the adoption of climate-resilient technologies.
- Presented analytical findings at international conferences and seminars, communicating complex results to academic, policy, and practitioner audiences.
- Supported coordination with research partners and stakeholders, strengthening collaboration, dissemination, and policy uptake.
- Recognized for clarity, analytical rigor, and strong policy relevance of research outputs and presentations.

Agriculture Economics Laboratory
Agriculture Economist

Turkey
Oct 2019– June 2023

Led and contributed to applied empirical research on food security, climate change adaptation, and household welfare in developing countries, with a strong focus on poverty measurement, heterogeneity across household types, and rigorous data analysis.

- Contributed to the design and implementation of multiple applied research and evaluation studies examining household vulnerability, adaptation strategies, and welfare outcomes, covering 1,500+ rural households across study sites.
- Designed and programmed household and community survey instruments to measure food security, perceived vulnerability, adaptation behavior, and welfare outcomes, including self-reported and relative assessment modules.
- Collected, cleaned, merged, and documented large socio-economic datasets using Stata, producing fully analysis-ready datasets and do-files for empirical analysis and publication.
- Conducted quantitative analysis of household welfare indicators, including food security scores, income proxies, asset indices, and subjective well-being and perceived adequacy measures, supporting comparisons across household composition and demographic groups.
- Applied quasi-experimental and theory-informed analytical approaches to assess impacts of sustainable agricultural practices, identifying 15–30% differences in key food security and resilience indicators between adopting and non-adopting households.

- Examined heterogeneity of impacts across household size, dependency ratios, gender of household head, and livelihood profiles, providing evidence on differential resource needs and perceived welfare across household types.
- Managed fieldwork operations and data quality assurance, achieving high data completeness and consistency rates (95%+) across survey rounds.
- Synthesized empirical findings into peer-reviewed journal articles, working papers, and policy-oriented technical reports, translating econometric results into clear analytical narratives.
- Presented research findings at international academic conferences and policy workshops, supporting evidence uptake and policy dialogue on poverty, adaptation, and food security.
- Contributed analytical inputs to research proposals and resource mobilization efforts, supporting externally funded projects on climate adaptation and rural welfare.

Ministry of Agriculture, Burkina Faso
Agriculture Economist

Burkina Faso
Jan 2016-June 2017

Contributed to evidence-informed agricultural planning and policy implementation at the national level, with a focus on household welfare, food security, climate adaptation, and empirical analysis to support decision-making.

- Designed and implemented socio-economic household surveys covering 300+ farming households, generating data on production, food security, climate exposure, and perceived constraints to agricultural livelihoods.
- Cleaned, documented, and analyzed survey data to inform agricultural economic planning, producing analysis-ready datasets used in policy notes and operational planning documents.
- Conducted empirical analysis of climate variability impacts on crop productivity and household food security, identifying 10–20% yield and food availability differences between exposed and less-exposed zones.
- Assessed household vulnerability and adaptive capacity across farm types and household composition, supporting targeting of climate-smart agriculture and adaptation measures.
- Synthesized analytical findings into policy-relevant briefs and planning notes, informing national strategies on climate change adaptation, food security, and sustainable land management.
- Contributed to the implementation and monitoring of a national sustainable land management programme, supporting measurable improvements in soil fertility indicators in pilot areas.
- Designed and delivered capacity-building sessions for 100+ farmers, strengthening adoption of conservation agriculture and sustainable land management practices.
- Worked closely with technical services and planners to integrate empirical evidence into annual agricultural operations planning and reporting.

EDUCATION

PhD in Agricultural Economics/Agricultural Policy and Extension <i>EGE University, Turkey</i>	2018-2023
Master in Agricultural Economics and Policies/PTCI <i>University of Ouaga II/PTCI and University of Ghana, Burkina Faso and Ghana</i>	2015-2017
Bachelor in Economic Analysis and Policies <i>University of Koudougou, Burkina Faso</i>	2011-2014

PUBLICATIONS

-Ouedraogo, A. R., **Kone, S.**, & Zoungrana, T. D. (2025). Diversifying to alleviate poverty? A bibliometric analysis of the relationship between agricultural strategies and multidimensional poverty in rural Côte d'Ivoire. *Cogent Economics & Finance*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322039.2025.2587504>

-**Koné, S.**, **Galieue, X.**, & Gwenzi, W. (2024). Techno-economic assessment of biochar systems: State-of-the-art and future research directions. *Biochar for Environmental Remediation*, 447-459. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-99889-5.00022-0>

-**Kone, S.**, Uzmay, A. (2024). Impact Assessment of Sustainable Agricultural Practices on Smallholder Households' Food Security: Evidence from Burkina Faso <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2024.2357183>

-**Koné, S.**, & Ouedraogo, A. R. (2024). Climate-smart and dry farming techniques and practices. *Handbook of Nature-Based Drought Solutions*, 121-152. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-443-29993-3.00007-2>

-**Kone, S.**, Balde, A., Zohonogo, P., Sanfo, S. (2024). A systematic review of recent estimations of climate change impact on agriculture and adaptation strategies perspectives in Africa. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change journal*, 29:18. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11027-024-10115-7>

-Nur, L., **Koné, S.**, Opitz-Stapleton, S., Panwar, V., & Barre, M. (2024). ASSESSING AND FINANCING LOSS AND DAMAGE DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOMALIA. <https://www.sparc-knowledge.org/publications-resources/assessing-and-financing-loss-and-damage-due-climate-changesomalia>

-Pichon, F., Nur L., Panwar, V., Wilkinson, E., **Koné, S.** and Opitz-Stapleton, S. (2024) Bearing the burden: Climate change attributable losses and damages in the Sahel and Greater Horn of Africa. Technical report. London: Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC) <https://www.sparc-knowledge.org/publications-resources/bearing-theburden>

-**Kone, S.**, and **Galieue, X.**(2023). Potential Development of Biochar in Africa as an Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change Impact on Agriculture. *Environmental Management*, 1-15, 72:1189–1203. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-023-01821-0>