

Profile of Professor Daniel Kwabena Obeng-Ofori



Daniel Kwabena Obeng-Ofori is a Professor of Applied Biology and Agricultural Entomology, and a distinguished University Administrator. Professor Obeng-Ofori was born in Berekum in the Berekum East Municipality of the Bono region of Ghana. He stayed with his parents, the late OP. Daniel Obeng Kwame Abosi) and the late Obaapayin Mary Twumwaa (Akosua Kuma) who were farmers at a hamlet called Kwasi Korangkrom near Adantia in the Sunyani West District. During his childhood years and vacation periods at the village, Prof. Obeng-Ofori engaged in all sorts of farming and other income-generating chores including establishment and maintenance of food crops and cocoa farms, palm wine tapping, distillation of Akpeteshie, hunting of rodents, and as farm labourer for weeding and harvesting of crops to obtain funds for payment of his school fees.

Education

Professor Obeng-Ofori started his elementary school at Koraso RC primary and later accompanied his senior brother, Mr. I K. Obeng to continue his education at Wamfie LA School and Atronie L.A Middle School where he obtained the MSLC with Distinction in 1970. He attended Presbyterian Senior High School, Bechem and obtained General Certificate of Education, “O” Level with Distinction in 1975. He then proceeded to Presbyterian Boy’s Senior High School, Legon for his Sixth-form education and obtained the General Certificate of Education, ‘Advanced’ Level in 1977.

Professor Obeng-Ofori worked briefly as Higher Executive Officer at the Public Services Commission, Accra (1978-1979) before he entered University of Ghana in 1979 and graduated in 1982 with BSc. honours degree in Agriculture (Crop Science). He did his national service at the University of Ghana Agricultural Research Centre, Kade in 1982 before being appointed as Teaching/Research Assistant at the Department of Crop Science, Legon from 1983-1986. During the same period he taught Agricultural Science and Biology at Achimota Senior High School and the Institute of Adult Education, Accra (Accra Workers College), respectively. He proceeded to the UK for his M.phil and Ph.D degrees in Applied Biology and Agricultural Entomology, respectively at the University of Cambridge from 1986-1990 and successfully completed both degrees in 1987 and 1990, respectively. His graduate research focused on ‘chemical communication and monitoring of insect pests of durable stored products’. His training at Cambridge was graciously sponsored by the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust

Return to Ghana and Postdoctoral Fellowship in Nairobi, Kenya

On completion of the PhD programme, Prof. Obeng-Ofori returned to Ghana in 1990 at the time there was general freeze on employment into the civil and public service in Ghana, including the Universities. He served for about 6 months as a Temporary Research Officer at the Oil Palm Research Institute of the CSIR, Kusi, near Kade. He joined the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Nairobi, Kenya as a Post-doctoral Research Fellow from 1991-1994. At ICIPE he was a member of the Locust Research Programme which championed the pioneering work on pheromone-mediated communication in the desert locust for the biorational management of the pest. He was one of the lead scientists in the identification, characterization and synthesis of the aggregation pheromone complex of the desert locust at ICIPE. A Patent on this pioneer investigation entitled “Gregarization-disrupting factors in a novel approach of controlling locusts and grasshoppers” was granted to ICIPE in 2000.

Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow in Germany

From 1994 to 1996, Prof. Obeng-Ofori won the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship at the Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, Institute for Stored Product Protection, Berlin, Germany. During his 19 months in Berlin as a Visiting Humboldt Scientist, he investigated the potential and practical utilization of botanicals for the control of stored product pests. In recognition of the excellent research he conducted in Berlin, the Humboldt Foundation donated scientific equipment to the tune of \$50,000 for his research work in Ghana.

Employment at the University of Ghana

Professor Obeng-Ofori joined the Department of Crop Science, University of Ghana, Legon in May, 1996 as a lecturer. By dint of hard work, he was promoted Senior Lecturer in September 1997, Associate Professor in November 2001, and Professor in December 2004. He gave his inaugural lecture at the Great Hall, University of Ghana on May 8, 2008 on the topic “**Insects in Agriculture and Human Development: Paradyn Shift in Insect Pest Management in the 21ST Century**”

Research, Publications and Mentoring

Professor Obeng-Ofori has varied research interests but his research focus is mostly centred on chemical ecology and integrated management of agricultural pests for sustainable crop production and postharvest technology. He has participated in numerous national and international scientific conferences and made over 100 presentations. Prof. Obeng-Ofori has authored or-co-authored over 350 publications, including books, book chapters, scientific papers in internationally reputed Scientific Journals, edited conference proceedings and technical reports. He has served as an Internal and External Examiner for several Master and Doctor of Philosophy theses from several Universities in Ghana, Africa and Europe since 1991. Prof. Obeng-Ofori has served as External Examiner of a number of Universities including University of Cape Coast, University of Education, Winneba; University for Development Studies, Tamale, KNUST, Kumasi. He reviews manuscripts for publication in **38** reputable Scientific Journals and is a member of several scientific and professional bodies including:

- a. Ghana Science Association;
- b. Association of Applied Biologists;
- c. Cambridge Natural History Society;
- d. Cambridge Philosophical Society;
- e. Fellow Royal Entomological Society of London;
- f. Fellow Cambridge Commonwealth Trust;
- g. African Association of Insect Scientists (AAIS);
- h. Fellow Humboldt Club;
- i. Ghana Institute of Biologists;
- j. Ghana Association of Horticulturists;
- k. Entomological Society of Ghana;
- l. International Congress of Entomology;
- m. International Congress of Entomology

He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Energy and Natural Resources Management; and the International Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies and Innovative Research. He also the Section Editor of the Journal of Ghana Science Association; the International Journal of Tropical Insect Science; and the Journal of Entomology and Nematology.

Positions Held at University of Ghana

Professor D. Obeng-Ofori has held several positions in the University of Ghana including Head of Department of Crop Science (2002-2005), Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture (2002-2005);

Coordinator of Post-Harvest Technology Programme (1996-2004); Ag. Dean of the School of Agriculture (2005-2006); Academic Coordinator of the University of London/University of Ghana Master of Science Programme by Distance Learning 2003-2010; President of Ghana Science Association, Greater-Accra Branch (2003-2007); President of the Entomological Society of Ghana (2005-2012); President of the African Association of Insect Scientists (AAIS) (2005-2009) and the National President of Ghana Science Association (2011-2013). From 1998-2002, he was the President of the University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG), Legon Branch.

Teaching and Student Mentoring

As a distinguished Academic and Researcher, Prof. Obeng-Ofori has taught several courses in agricultural entomology, environmental science, vertebrate pest management and post-harvest technology at the diploma, undergraduate and graduate levels since 1991 at the University of Ghana, Legon; University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani; ICIPE, Nairobi, Kenya and the Catholic University College of Ghana, Fiapre, Sunyani. He has supervised and mentored a number of undergraduate and graduate students in Agriculture, environment and Insect Science. He has so far successfully supervised over **300 undergraduate dissertations, 90 M.phil and 26 PhD theses.**

Research Collaboration and Networking

Professor Obeng-Ofori has contributed immensely to scientific research work which has made him **one of the top scientists in the World Scientist and University Rankings in 2021, best 20th Scientist in Ghana.** He was a member of the Working Group of the Convergence of Sciences project and the Team Leader or Member in many funded research projects among which are:

- a. AgSSIP Vegetable IPM Programme; AgSSIP Fruit Crops Programme;
- b. Bioefficacy Evaluation of Agricultural Chemicals; EDIF/Crop Science Vegetable & Culinary Herbs Seed Production Project;
- c. Alexander von Humboldt Research Group Linkage Programme with UENR and Humboldt University;
- d. Towards inclusive commodity chains and innovation platforms: the role of corporate-smallholder and public-private partnerships in increasing food sovereignty in tree crop systems in Ghana and South Africa” with UENR, University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Agricultural Research Council (South Africa); World Cocoa Council and University of Limpopo (South Africa) as partners;
- e. National Project Coordinator on Strengthening innovation and technology dissemination for sustainable development in cereals, cocoa and coffee value chains in Western and Eastern Africa, ACP-EU;
- f. Development and promotion of shea production in northern Ghana” with UENR, Savannah Plantations, Shea Unit of COCOBOD, Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and EDAIF.
- g. Management of pests of field and stored products with biopesticides, UNIDO and Government of India;
- h. National Project Coordinator on Promotion of neem-derived pesticides in West Africa, UNIDO & Government of India;
- i. Team Leader, Field utilization of neem insecticides for management of pests, UNIDO & Government of India;
- j. Insects as Food with the Association of African Universities (AAU) & Aspire Group;
- k. Bioecology and management of fruit flies, DAAD and UDS;
- l. Team Leader, Bioefficacy evaluation of agricultural products (pesticides, growth regulators, soil conditioners, pheromones), SIDALCO Co. Ltd, Accra;
- m. Assessment of postharvest losses in durables and perishables, MoFA and FAO.

Additionally, Professor Obeng-Ofori was the Principal Investigator of the following research projects:

- a. Studies on Silkworm in Ghana, University of Ghana;
- b. Bioecology of pawpaw mealy bugs in Ghana, DAAD;
- c. Genetic diversity and host range of whitefly *Bemisia tabaci*, DAAD & University of Ghana.
- d. Biological control of stored product insect pests, University of Ghana.
- e. Ecology, host range and genetic diversity in white flies *Bemisia tabaci*, DAAD.
- f. Studies on insecticide resistance in the diamondback moth *Plutella xylostella*, DAAD.
- g. Managing pests of vegetables, fruits and legumes with biopesticides especially neem, AgSSIP World Bank and Government of Ghana.
- h. Evaluation of neem insecticides against pests of food, tree and fruit crops, World Bank and Government of Ghana.
- i. Indigenous plants as source of repellents, toxicants, feeding deterrents and protectants in storage against stored product insect pests, AgSSIP, World Bank and Government of Ghana.
- j. Biological effects of neem azal and neemol on growth and development of the cocoa shield bug, *Bathycoelia thalassina* (H.-S) (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae), DAAD.
- k. Biology and management of cereal stem borers, DAAD.
- l. Bioefficacy evaluation of botanicals and plant oils as potentiation agents of monoterpenes derived from plants and insecticides against stored product insect pests, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.
- m. Pheromonal modulation of aggregation behaviour in the desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.) (Orthoptera: Acrididae), ICIPE.
- n. Aggregation responses and pheromone emissions of *Locusta migratoria* and *Schistocerca gregaria* and their biological significance, ICIPE.
- o. Scientific rationale of traditional use of plant materials for post-harvest insect pest control, ICIPE;
- p. Identification and characterization of aggregation pheromone of the desert locust, ICIPE,

Awards

Prof. Obeng-Ofori has won a number of distinguished awards including Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board Scholarship (1970-1975); Best overall student at GCE examination of Presby Senior High School, Bechem (1975); ODA Scholarship, UK (1986-87); Standard Chartered and Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Fellowship (1987-90); ICIPE Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship (1991-1994); Humboldt Research Fellowship (1994-1996); A recipient of ICIPE's 50th Anniversary Achievement Award in Nairobi, Kenya, 2020 and over 50 academic and honorary awards from the United Cultural Convention, USA; International Biographical Centre, Roll of Honour by International Biophysical Centre, Cambridge, England; the American Biographical Institute, USA; and an inaugural member of IBC's Hall of Fame.

As an astute academic, Prof. Obeng-ofori has travelled extensively as visiting scholar and conducted research and participated in numerous national and international scientific conferences in Africa, Europe and USA. In recognition of his outstanding services, the College of Basic and Applied Sciences of the University of Ghana gave Meritorious Award to Prof. Obeng-Ofori in July

2021 with great appreciation of his many years of dedication, commitment and meritorious services to the College and the University of Ghana.

Contribution to the University of Ghana

Professor Obeng-Ofori has contributed immensely to the work of the University of Ghana by serving on over **35 Boards and Committees** of the University including the University Council (1994-2002); Academic Board (1998-2012); Executive Committee (2008-2012); University Appointments and Promotion Committee (UAPC) as Science Assessor (2006-2012); Development Committee (1998-2000); Inter-Faculty Committee (2000 to 2005); Finance Committee (2004-2008); Chairman of Municipal Services Management Committee (2007-2012); Disciplinary Committee for Senior Members (2008-2012); College of Health Sciences Appointments and Promotion Committee (2008-2012); College of Agriculture & Consumers Sciences Appointments and Promotion Committee (2006-2012); Finance Committee of ISSER (2004-2012); Finance Committee of the University of Ghana Business School (2008-2012); University TALIF Proposal Review Committee (2004 to 2009); University of Ghana Senior Staff Appointments & Promotions Committee (2000 to 2012); Chairman, University of Ghana Loans Committee (2009-2012); Chairman, College of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences Inter-Faculty Appointments & Promotions Review Committee (2009 to 2012); Chairman, College Senior & Junior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee (2006-2012).

Contribution to UENR

Professor Obeng-Ofori was the Foundation Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), Sunyani (2012-2016) and laid a solid foundation for the academic enterprise to stand on. As the Pro Vice-Chancellor and under the direction of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Obeng-Ofori

- a. exercised oversight coordination of all academic matters including admissions, teaching, research and development, examinations etc.;
- b. Oversaw all academic processes and academic programmes to ensure that academic standards are enhanced;
- c. Coordinated curriculum development, programme and institutional accreditation of over 25 programmes;
- d. Ensured efficient and effective operation and monitoring of industrial attachment for students;
- e. Exercised oversight responsibility on all quality assurance issues to ensure that institutional and programme quality meets national and international standards;
- f. Ensured the development and operationalization of over 25 key academic policies;
- g. Ensured mentoring of academic staff;
- h. Coordinated the University outreach programmes; and
- i. Chaired disciplinary committee hearings involving senior members

Professor Obeng-Ofori was a member or Chairman of about **17 Boards and Committees** at UENR including:

- a. UENR Council (2012-2016);
- b. Member, Standing and Finance Committee (2012-2016);
- c. Member, Academic Board (2012-2016);
- d. Member, Executive Committee (2012-2016);
- e. Member, University Appointments and Promotions Committee (2012-2020);
- f. Member, Development Committee (2012-2016);
- g. Member, Tender Committee (2014-2016);
- h. Member, University Strategic Plan Development Committee (2013-2014);
- i. Chairman, University Admissions Committee (2012-2016);

- j. Chairman, Procurement Committee (2012-2015);
- k. Chairman, University Examinations Committee (2012);
- l. Chairman, Inter-Schools Appointments and Promotions Review Committee (2013-2016);
- m. Chairman, Procurement Evaluation Committee (2014-2016);
- n. Chairman, Statutes Development Committee (2013-2014);
- o. Chairman, Library Committee (2013-2016);
- p. Chairman, Security Committee (2013-2016); and
- q. Chairman, School of Agriculture and Technology Board (2014-2016).

Contribution to CUCG

As the 3rd President of the Catholic University College of Ghana (CUCG) from 2016 to date, Prof Obeng-Ofori has championed the transformation, rebranding and repositioning agenda of the University to become one of the best private faith based tertiary institutions in Ghana and beyond. He serves as chairman or member of several Boards and Committees of CUCG including:

- a. Member, CUCG governing Council (2016 to date)
- b. Member, Finance and Audit Committee (2016 to date)
- c. Chairman, Senate (Academic Board) (2016 to date)
- d. Chairman, Executive Committee (2016 to date)
- e. Chairman, University Appointments and Promotions Committee (2016 to date)
- f. Member, Development Committee (2016 to date)
- g. Member, Tender Committee (2016 to date)
- h. Chairman University Strategic Plan Development Committee (2017-2018)
- i. Chairman, University Examinations Committee (from 2016 to date)
- j. Chairman, Statutes Development Committee (2016-2017)

Other Key Services

Professor Obeng-Ofori has also served on several important committees nationally and internationally including

- a. Member, National Best Farmer Selection Committee in 2006
- b. External Member for Science, University Appointments and Promotion Committee, UDS, Tamale, Ghana (2012 to date).
- c. Member, International Congress of Entomology, USA (**First African Member**) since 2010.
- d. Member, Permanent Committee of the International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection (**First African Member**) since 2010.
- e. External Member, Appointments and Promotions Review Committee of the Sunyani Technical University (2016 to date).
- f. Member, Search Committee for the appointment of Vice-Chancellor of Sunyani Technical University (July to August 2016).
- g. Chairman, Search Committee for the appointment of Provosts for Colleges of Engineering, Sciences and Planning and Built Environment, KNUST, 2019
- h. Chairman, Search Committee for the appointment of Provosts of Colleges of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Health Sciences, KNUST, Kumasi, 2020.
- i. Chairman, Council of Independent Universities (CIU) (2019-2021).
- j. Global Financial Secretary and Local Chairman of the Berekumman Citizens Association (1919 to date).
- k. Member, Presbyterian Senior High School Board, Bechem
- l. Member, Berekum Senior High School Board, Berekum

Professor Obeng-Ofori has in-depth knowledge, skills and experience in the assessment of competitive research proposals for competitive bidding and documents for promotion in the senior research and teaching grades in the CSIR institutes and several universities in Ghana, Africa, and Asia. Some of the proposals he has assessed include the following:

- a. Member of World Bank and Ghana Government funded Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund (TALIF) Proposal Review Committee.
- b. Chairman of Proposal Evaluation Panel for the selection of Consultants for Central Management and Regional Implementation Consultants for the MIDA Agriculture Project
- c. Chairman of Proposal Evaluation Panel for the Selection of Consultants for training of FBOs and farmers in business enterprise development for MIDA
- d. External Assessor of MoFA Annual Performance Review Workshops (2007 & 2008)
- e. External Assessor for promotion of senior research and teaching grades in the CSIR institutes (Crops Research, Food Research, Oil Palm Research, SARI), some Ghanaian tertiary institutions (UG. KNUST, UCC, UEW, UDS, STU etc.), and some universities in Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, South Africa, Losotho, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe etc.
- f. External Assessor for CSIR-WAAP Competitive Agricultural Research Grant Scheme.

As a Consultant

Professor Obeng-Ofori has served as a consultant for several local and international institutions such as the World Bank, FAO, UN, UNIDO, USAID, DFID, GTEC, MoFA, GTZ etc. Among his selected consultancy services are

- a. Lead Consultant, training on Postharvest Management, Bio-entomology and Greenhouse Technology, Don Bosco, Sunyani (July 2018 & August 2019).
- b. Lead Consultant, Development of Plant Protection Policy for Sierra Leone, WAAP (August 2014 to January 2015).
- c. Team Member, Development of the National Fertilizer Policy for Ghana, Government of Ghana (2012-2013).
- d. Team Leader, Assessment of Potential of Neem derived pesticides in Ghana, UNIDO (July–August 2012).
- e. Team Leader, Development of a Phytosanitary Policy and Import Certification System for Sierra Leone, World Bank (April-July 2010).
- f. Team Leader, Situation Analysis of Plant Protection in Sierra Leone, World Bank (April-May 2010).
- g. Team Member, Assessment of Post-Harvest losses in food crops in Ghana, World Bank & FAO (May–August 2008).
- h. Team Leader, Review of pesticide control and management Act 1966 (ACT 528). Trade & Investment Program for Competitive Export Economy (TIPCEE) of USAID (May-July 2006).
- i. Team Leader, Draft of pesticide Licensing, packaging, transportation, storage & disposal regulations for ACT 528., Trade & Investment Program for Competitive Export Economy (TIPCEE), USAID (May–July 2006).
- j. Team Member, Alternatives to methyl bromide in soil fumigation for the control of soil-borne pests and diseases of Galia Melon (*Cucumis melo* L) in Ghana, UNDP/EPA (April 2003-2004).
- k. Team Member, Beneficiary assessment of the Root and Tuber Improvement Programme (RTIP). Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) (January–February 2003)..
- l. Team Member, Technography of the Cocoa Industry in Ghana, Convergence of Sciences Project, GBIS (Netherlands) and FAO (June–August 2002).
- m. Team Leader, Dossier Information for registration of National Neem Pesticides in Ghana. Sponsored by GTZ (June–July 1999).

- n. Team Leader, Development of Database on crop health problems of vegetables in Ghana. Sponsored by the FAO Regional Office, Accra (August–December 1998).
- o. Team Leader, Survey of indigenous plants as source of repellents, toxicants, feeding deterrents and protectants in storage against major stored product insect pests in Ghana, National Agricultural Research Programme, ARP project, World Bank (May–August 1998).

Contribution to the Catholic Church

As a practicing catholic, Prof. Obeng-Ofori has contributed to the evangelization of the gospel through his many charitable works and other church activities. He is a founding member of the St. Bakhita Catholic Church, Community 20, Batsona, Accra and Our Lady of Charity Catholic Church, Berlin Top, Sunyani; a member of the Building Committee of the Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Sakumono, Accra, member St. Aquinas Catholic Church, Legon; and a Patron of All Saints Choir of St. Peters Catholic Church, Fiapre, Sunyani. He joined the Knights of St. John International Commandery 609, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Sakumono in 2010 and rose through the ranks from Trustee, 2nd Worthy President (Commandery 609); Worthy President (Commandery 912) of St. Peters Catholic Church, Fiapre (2017); 1st Vice-Commander (2019) and currently Commander of the 10th District (2020). Since 2019, he has been the 2nd Vice President of the Kumasi Grand with the title Colonel.

Contribution to Resource Mobilization

Professor Obeng-Ofori through grantsmanship has mobilized funds for various collaborative research projects and human capacity development at the UG, UENR and CUCG totaling GHS5,513,235.00; US\$2,430,000.00; and 5,347,000.00 Euros.

Marriage Life

Prof. D. Obeng-Ofori is a practicing catholic, was married to the late Mrs. Rosaline B. Obeng-Ofori, Gender Advocate and Development Consultant and has three children, Lynda, Yaganoma and Joseph. He is currently married to Mrs. Monica Dompere Obeng-Ofori, Public Health professional based in New York, USA

Conclusion

Undoubtedly, Prof. Obeng-Ofori has made outstanding contribution to human resource development, scientific research and capacity building in Ghana and beyond as a teacher, researcher, mentor and university administrator.