

PARKER, Monica L.

Scientist

International Potato Center, Nairobi, Kenya

m.parker@cgiar.org

Education

- 2007-2012 **PhD Plant Pathology:** disease forecasting, diagnostics and crop management based on induced resistance. 2007-2012. University of Guelph, ON, Canada. Full scholarship
- 1997-1999 **MSc Plant Pathology:** epidemiology, seed pathology and biological control. 1997-1999. Simon Fraser University, BC, Canada. Full scholarship.
- 1991-1997 BSc Plant Biology, Cooperative Education; 1991-1997. Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada.

Professional experience

- 2013-present **Scientist, International Potato Center, Kenya**
Program leadership for Seed Potato for Africa program to support program growth and country projects. Research topics include: pathogen diagnostics, population characterisation, biological control, farmer seed strategies, agronomic and economic analysis of cropping systems based on root and tuber crops.
- 2012-2013 **Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Guelph, Canada**
Characterise genetic variation among populations of the fungal pathogen *Rhizoctonia* from field crops across Canada based on DNA sequences and relating phylogenetic groupings to field history and pathogenicity evaluations.
- 2006-2007 **Program Coordinator, Rwanda Flora Sarl, Rwanda**
A member of the senior management team of a private sector company in the horticulture sector with annual export and local market revenues of \$500,000 and \$120,000, respectively, and 150 staff. Responsible for public-private partnerships and product diversification – primarily vegetable production and marketing for local urban markets.
- 2003-2005 **Technical Assistant, Ministry of Agriculture, Rwanda**
Develop and support horticulture development programs, focusing on passion fruit production emphasising quality-seed use, integrated crop management and value-chain approach.

Selected projects funded and lead

2015-2018	Accelerated Value Chain Development Project: Roots Crops Component. Funding: FtF-USAID. Budget: USD 4.2 million.
2015-2016	Introduction of Heat Tolerant Potato to Mid-Altitude Cropping Systems in Western Kenyan Action Sites of the CGIAR Consortium Research Program Humidtropics. Funding: BMZ. Budget: €90,000.
2014-2016	Results Based Management pilot for Seed Potato for Africa Program. Funding: Roots, Tubers and Bananas Research Program of the CGIAR. Budget: USD 130,000.
2014-2016	Postharvest Innovations for Better Access to Specialized Ware Potato Markets. Funding: IFAD. Budget: USD 428,000.
2014	Survey of Seed Potato Pests in Uganda. Funding: IFDC. Budget: USD 40,000.

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Selected Recent Peer-reviewed publications

Low, J., Nyongesa, M., Quinn, S. and **Parker, M.** (Eds) 2015. Potato and Sweetpotato in Africa – Transforming the Value Chains for Food and Nutrition Security, CAB International, Oxfordshire.

Demo, P., Lemaga, R., Kakuhenzire, R., Schulz, S., Borus, D., Barker, I., Woldegiorgis, G., **Parker, M.L.** and Schulte-Geldermann, E. 2015. Strategies to Improve Seed Potato Quality and Supply in Sub-Saharan Africa: Experience from Interventions in Five Countries. In: Low, J., Nyongesa, M., Quinn, S. and Parker, M. (Eds) *Potato and Sweetpotato in Africa – Transforming the Value Chains for Food and Nutrition Security*.

Broders, K. D., **Parker, M.L.**, Melzer, M. S., Boland G. J. 2014. Phylogenetic diversity of *Rhizoctonia solani* associated with canola and wheat in Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. *Plant Disease* 98:1695-1701.

Parker, M.L., McDonald, M.R., and Boland, G.J. 2014. Assessment of spatial distribution of ascospores of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* for regional disease forecasting in carrots. *Can J Plant Pathology* 36:438-446.

Parker, M.L., McDonald, M.R., and Boland, G.J. 2014. Evaluation of air sampling and detection methods to quantify airborne ascospores of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. *Plant Disease* 98:32-42.

McDonald, M.R., Gossen, B.D., Kora, C., **Parker, M.**, and Boland, G.J. 2013. Using crop canopy modification to manage plant diseases. *European J Plant Pathology* 135:581-593.