

## Profile

Namulawa Victoria Tibenda is a Research Officer working with the National Agricultural Research organization (NARO). This is a parastatal which is also the research arm for the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) in Uganda. Victoria works directly with the National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI), one of the Public Agricultural Research Institutes (PARIs) under NARO, and she is stationed at the Aquaculture Research & Development Center in Kajjansi. Her work involves carrying out breeding and nutrition experiments with the commonly cultured fish species in Uganda (*Oreochromis niloticus*, *Clarius gariepinus*, *Tillapia zilli* and *Labeo victorinus*), both on farm and on station.

Victoria holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Botany & Zoology, a Master of Science degree in Fisheries & Aquatic Science, and post graduate Diploma in Education all from Makerere University in Uganda. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Ichthyology & Fisheries at Rhodes University in the Republic of South Africa. Her research involves characterizing the digestive system and assessing the nutritional requirements of Nile perch (*Lates niloticus*, Linnaeus, 1758) with an aim of gaining insights into Nile perch nutritional requirements in order to develop diets for Nile perch culture. She is working on her two papers entitled: '*Attempts to Domesticate the Nile Perch (Lates Niloticus, Linnaeus, 1758)*'; '*Preliminary Descriptive Histology of the Gastro-Intestinal Tract*' and '*Understanding the cues to feeding in Nile perch juveniles*'

Before joining NARO in 2006, Victoria worked with the local government for seven years as a Fisheries Extension Officer. In this job she was concerned with sensitization, demonstrating and advising fisher folk and fish farmers on modern fish handling practices and aquaculture methods. During this period, she was chanced to study the status of Uganda's fisheries and aquaculture practices that are largely extensive and are carried out using low levels of technology, resulting into low yields. Amongst the biggest observation, was the fact that fish farmers in Uganda were not feeding their fish because the feed making technology was lacking in the country and this was one of the reasons why pond yields were very low. For this reason she continually looked out for means of improving aquaculture farming practices amongst fish farmers. She has been part of the team that evaluated the aquaculture component of FarmAfrica project In Luweero district, Uganda; part of the large regional studies to establish aquaculture indices in Uganda; participated in radio programs, exhibition, and shows, regional and international conferences.

Victoria has widely traveled. She has been to Belgium at ILVO, to Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, to Ethiopia for the PAFFA conference and to South Africa for her PhD training, all in quest for knowledge to make her a better person in the arena of aquaculture development. She is married to Keith, she has got a daughter and a son.