

ZELALEM T CHALA

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OBJECTIVE

- To teach and do research in economics of international trade, development and poverty reduction in which I have gained knowledge and skill from my study and dissertation research;
 - To effectively and efficiently lead development programs/ projects by integrating the knowledge and skill I have gained from school with my long years of experience as a development practitioner;
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PROFESSIONAL SKILL

- Strong written and verbal communication complemented with good interpersonal skills to get along with co-workers.
 - Self-motivated, enthusiastic and dedicated leadership skill;
 - Flexible to try new ideas, accept constructive and innovative ideas of colleagues towards achieving efficiency of assigned tasks;
 - Attentive to details and work hard to meet goals on time even in a pressurized environment;
 - Strong data analysis skill using econometrics and optimization models;
 - Proficient with computer skill in MS Word, Excel, and Power Point; statistical packages such as SAS, STATA, MATLAB and optimization package GAMS;
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EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant (August 2003-2008) – Virginia Polytechnic and Oklahoma State Universities

- Assisted principal researchers in environment economics, consumer demand analysis and international trade and development. Particularly worked on data compiling and analyzing it using statistical, econometrics and optimization tools;

Programme Coordinator (1999- 2003) for UNDP financed program

- Designed and coordinated a \$ 10.2 Million National Development Program which benefits more than 10,000 target groups in improving their productivity. More than 12 cooperatives have secured about \$4 million revolving fund and about 100 technical experts have obtained skill up-grading and graduate level trainings from the program.

Economist/ Credit specialist (1994 –1998) for European Union financed project

- Coordinated a \$16 million credit project which benefited more than 2,000 fishermen and 20 fish traders. Sustainability of the project fund is maintained by linking its administration with development bank institutions.

Project Coordinator (1990- 1992) for a Lutheran Mekane Yesus Church

- Formulated project documents and coordinated about \$8 Million income generating and agricultural/ rural development projects. More than 300 towns destitute have been able to improve their livelihood from these projects. More than 10000 farming family heads have benefited from the agricultural development extension and training services of the projects.

Junior Agricultural Economist (1987-89) for Central Planning Office

- Preparing regional annual plans, monitor and evaluated their implementations;

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, (August 2005 – to date) – all but dissertation

M.SC Degree in Agricultural Economics (July 2005)

B.SC Degree in Agricultural Economics (July 1987)

Certificates on “Project Analysis” (2001) and” Methods and Techniques of Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation” (2000)

PUBLICATION:

Chala, Zelalem “Least Cost Solution for Removing Poultry Litter from the Eucha-Spavinaw Watershed”. VDM Verlag Dr. Muller, May 2008, Saarbrucken, Germany.

Adam, Brian D. and Zelalem Teklu Chala. “Least Cost Solutions for Removing Poultry Litter from the Eucha-Spavinaw Watershed under Phosphorous Restrictions.” Working paper #AEJ-264, Oklahoma State University, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, 2007.

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

Interested in playing tennis and soccer;

Organizer/ leader in community services such as neighbours’ and friends initiatives in helping and rehabilitating HIV/AIDS victims and their families;

REFERENCES

Dr George Norton, 205-B Hutcheson Hall, Phone: (540)231-7731

Dr Jason Grant, 317 Hutcheson Hall, Phone: (540) 231-7559

Dr Daniel Taylor, 323-B Hutcheson Hall Phone: (540) 231-5032