



**UNIVERSITY OF EMBU**

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**FELIX ROTICH**

**Name:** Felix Rotich

**Title/Qualification:** PhD

**Position:** Lecturer

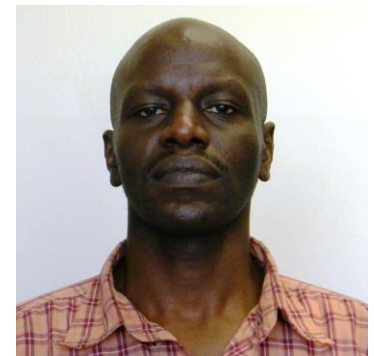
**Department:** Agricultural Resource Management

**School:** Agriculture

**Area of Specialization:** Plant Pathology

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**Short Biography**

Hold a PhD from University of Arkansas – USA, a master of science (Horticulture) and BSc (Horticulture) from Moi University, Eldoret. For my PhD I investigated the diversity of *Magnaporthe oryzae* in the U.S. and Africa. I also worked on the identification of resistance genes for disease management of rice blast disease. My master thesis was on the characterization of *Ralstonia solanacearum* the pathogen that causes bacterial wilt of potato.

**Research Interests**

Plant pathogen characterization, plant disease management and breeding for resistance to plant diseases

**Publications in Journals:**

1. Wafula, B. W., Arunga, E. E., & **Rotich, F. (2023)**. Prevalence and Host Resistance to Common Bean Rust Disease in Western and Central Kenya. *International Journal of Agronomy*, 2023.

2. Nganga, E.M., Kyallo, M., Orwa, P., **Rotich, F.**, Gichuhi, E., Kimani, J.M., Mwangera, D., Waweru, B., Sikuku, P., Musyimi, D.M. and Mutiga, S.K., **2022**. Foliar Diseases and the Associated Fungi in Rice Cultivated in Kenya. *Plants*, 11(9), 1264.
3. Mutiga, S. K., **Rotich, F.**, Were, V. M., Kimani, J., Mwangera, D. T., Mgonja, E., ... & Talbot, N. (**2021**). Integrated strategies for durable rice blast resistance in sub-Saharan Africa. *Plant Disease*, 105(10), 2749-2770.
4. Kiura, I. N., Gichimu, B.M. and **Rotich, F.** **2021**. Proximate and Nutritional Composition of Stored Bulb Onions as Affected by Harvest and Postharvest Treatments. *International Journal of Agronomy*, 2021.
5. Kiura, I. N., Gichimu, B.M. and **Rotich, F.** **2021**. Onions as Affected by Harvest and Postharvest Treatments. Visual and Keeping Quality of Stored Bulb Onions as Affected by Harvest and Postharvest Treatments. *International Journal of Agronomy*, 2021.
6. Kamiri, A. K., Arunga, E. E., **Rotich, F.**, and Otsyula, R. **2021**. Response of French bean genotypes to *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* and evaluation of their resistance using SCAR markers. *African Journal of Biotechnology*, 20(2): 51-65.
7. Chepkoech, E., **Rotich, F.** and Alkamoi., B. **2020**. Assessment of genetic variability of passion fruit using simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers. *Journal of Agricultural Science and Practice* 5(5): 202-211.
8. Maina, H., Karuri, H., **Rotich, F.** and Nyabuga, F. **2020**. Impact of low cost management techniques on population dynamics of plant-parasitic nematodes in sweet potato. *Crop Protection* 137: 105311.
9. Mgonja, E. M., Park, C. H., Kang, H., Balimponya, E. G., Opiyo, S., Bellizzi, M., Mutiga, S. K., **Rotich, F.**, Ganeshan, V. D., Mabagala, R., Sneller, C., Correll, J., Zhou, B., Talbot, N. J. Mitchell, T. K., and Wang, G.-L. **2017**. Genotyping-by-Sequencing-Based Genetic Analysis of African Rice Cultivars and Association Mapping of Blast Resistance Genes Against *Magnaporthe oryzae* Populations in Africa. *Phytopathology*. 107(9):1039-1046
10. Mutiga, S. K., **Rotich, F.**, Ganeshan, V. D., Mwangera, D. T., Mgonja, E. M., Were, V. M., Harvey, W. J., Zhou, B., Wasilwa, L., Feng, C., Ouédraogo, I., Wang, G.-L., Mitchell, T. K., Talbot, N. J., and Correll, J. C. **2017**. Assessment of the virulence spectrum and its association with genetic

diversity in *Magnaporthe oryzae* populations from sub-Saharan Africa. *Phytopathology*.107(7): 852–863.

11. **Rotich, F.**, Onyango, O. J. and Omunyin, M. E. **2010**. Assessment of Irish potato cultivars' field tolerance to Bacterial wilt (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) in Kenya. *Plant Pathology Journal*, 9(3): 122-128.
12. **Rotich, F.**, Ochuodho, J.O. and Omunyin, M. E. **2010**. Bacterial wilt (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) of Irish potatoes: Incidence and pathogen diversity in Kenya. *Journal of Agriculture Pure Applied Sciences and Technology*. 5:8-15.
13. **Rotich, F.**, Ochuodho, J.O. and Omunyin, M. E. **2010**. Bacterial wilt (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) of Irish potatoes: Incidence and pathogen diversity in Kenya. *Journal of Agriculture Pure Applied Sciences and Technology*. 5:8-15.

#### **Presentation of Papers at Academic and Professional Conferences**

- **Rotich F.**, Alkamoi B., Chepkoech E., Mutua F., Makokha H., 2017 Constraints limiting passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis sims*) production in Uasin-Gishu county Kenya. Proceedings of the 4th International Interdisciplinary Conference (IIC-4) held at Kyambogo University, Uganda from August 1st – 4th 2017 Pp 71.
- **Rotich F.**, Samuel Mutiga, David Mwongera, Jagger Harvey, Lusike Wasilwa, Ibrahima Ouedraogo, Tom Mitchell, Guo-Liang Wang, James Correll, and Nick Talbot. 2015. Utilization of differential rice lines and vegetative compatibility for the characterization of isolates of *Magnaporthe oryzae*. Poster presented on August 1-5, 2015 at the Annual American Phytopathological Society (APS) conference, Pasadena, California, U.S.A.
- **Rotich F.**, Chunda Feng, Yulin Jia, and Jim Correll. Characterizing virulence phenotypes among U.S. isolates of *Pyricularia oryzae* using IRRI NILs, U.S. germplasm, and NERICA lines. Poster presented on August 10-14, 2013 at the Annual American Phytopathological Society (APS) conference, Austin, Texas, U.S.A.