

Vision Statement for Nomination to become a member of the International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA) board

Name of the nominee: Fassinou Hotegni V. Nicodeme, PhD

I am very pleased to be considered for membership in the the International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA) board. My vision for serving the ISPA as a member of the board centers around the promotion of innovation and precision agriculture led research, engaging more and more African researchers and practitioners in Africa in precision agriculture and supporting education and capacity building.

1. Innovation and Precision agriculture led research

I have started working on Precision Agriculture in the African context since 2010 and have published many papers allowing stakeholders (mainly farmers) to take the right decision at the right time taking into account the sustainability aspect of its production. As a member of ISPA, I will actively contribute to the advancement of knowledge and approach used by researchers in Africa. We have to consider that the evolution of Precision Agriculture in African context should take into account local context and available resources. I envision supporting initiatives that encourage research and development in areas such as remote sensing, precision nutrients, precision agronomic practices, digital platform and automated systems. By collaborating with researchers in the domain from different horizons we will ensure that professionals have access to the appropriate decision tool. As a proof, I am coordinating the first Intra Africa Mobility on Precision agriculture in Africa which will impact directly 64 people by 2027.

2. Engaging African researchers and practitioners in Africa

As Elect President of the African Association of Precision Agriculture comprising hundreds of researchers and students working on PA related topics, I strongly believe that engaging African researchers and practitioners in PA would pave the way to the development of more locally rooted technologies and innovation. Through ISPA, I intend to advocate for the adoption of precision farming techniques that optimize resource use, reduce waste and post-harvest losses, and mitigate the effects of climate change. By sharing best practices and success stories through newsletters, I believe that I can inspire a new generation of stakeholders.

3. Supporting Education and Capacity Building

As lecturer at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (FSA) at the University of Abomey-Calavi since 2016, I am fully aware of the importance of education and capacity building of youth. I will be fully dedicated to supporting programs and capacity-building activities aiming at positively impacting youth and professionals. Earlier this year, I have co-organized the first certified training on Precision Agriculture in Benin and it was a real success. By collaborating with other scientists, we can develop resources that reflect the last advancements in PA in Africa.

In conclusion, my vision for serving as a member of ISPA is rooted in a commitment to innovation, collaboration, education, and capacity building. I am excited about the opportunity to serve within ISPA board and I look forward to the possibility of working alongside esteemed colleagues in taking PA into the next level.