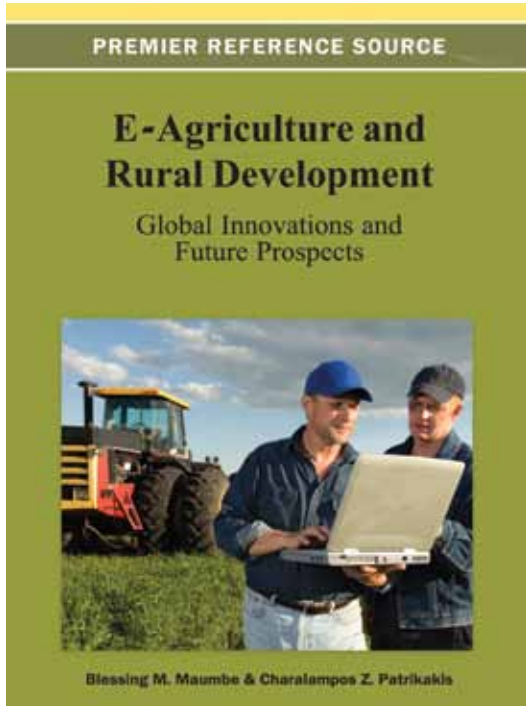


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E-Agriculture and Rural Development: Global Innovations and Future Prospects

Blessing Maumbe (West Virginia University, USA) and Charalampos Z. Patrikakis (Technological Educational Institute of Piraeus, Greece)

In recent years, there has been growing attention devoted to the implementation of information and communication technology in agriculture and rural development. While evidence has linked ICT to an increase in gross domestic product, it has prompted a global dedication to the research of the socio-economic benefits, trade-offs, and policy implications of ICT consumption in developing countries.

E-Agriculture and Rural Development: Global Innovations and Future Prospects is a comprehensive collection of research on the emerging trends and advances in the global use of information and communication technology in agriculture and rural development. Consisting of case studies, implementation frameworks, and policies, this book provides a global perspective and understanding of the developments in e-agriculture and rural development.

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Blessing Mukabeta Maumbe holds a PhD in agricultural economics from Michigan State University (USA). Blessing has extensive international teaching, research, and academic program management experience. He has taught both undergraduate and graduate students at various public and private universities in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and the United States. He is currently an assistant professor of Agribusiness Management at West Virginia University. Prior to that, he was an associate professor in charge of the Agribusiness Management program in the College of Business and Technology at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU). Before joining EKU, he was an associate professor in the Faculty of Business Informatics at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (Cape Town, South Africa). In South Africa, Blessing was part of an inter-disciplinary team of leading academics tasked to develop a new graduate program in Community Informatics and was instrumental in the recruitment and supervision of the first cohort of the graduate students. Blessing also completed consultancy work for the Germany Technical Agency for Development (GTZ) and the second-tier banking industry in South Africa. In Zimbabwe, Blessing was the founding Lecturer and Coordinator of the Agribusiness Management program at Africa University where he taught numerous courses including agribusiness management, farm business management, and agricultural marketing. His current research interests focuses on vertical coordination in global agri-food supply chains, information and communication technology (ICT) uses in agriculture and rural development in Sub-Saharan Africa, and rural financial service delivery. Blessing has received competitive scholarships and research grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Michigan State University's Thorman Foundation, and the Southern Africa Center for Cooperation in Agricultural Research (SACCAR). He has recently published a book entitled "E-Agriculture and E-government for Global Policy Development: Implications and Future Directions." He has authored several book chapters and papers in international and national journals. Blessing is a reviewer for several international conferences and an Associate Editor for the *International Journal of Healthcare Reform Initiatives (IJHRI)*. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal for Information and Communication Technology in Research and Development (IJICTRDA)*.



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