

Dr Brian Kipkoech

Personal Information

<i>Address</i>	Via Verona 16, 39100, Bolzano, Italy
<i>Nationality</i>	Kenya
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Research interest

Applied development economist with a PhD in Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems, specialising in food system sustainability assessment, dietary transitions, and value-chain analysis. Strong expertise in quantitative and qualitative sustainability evaluation, indicator development, and policy-relevant systems analysis. Experienced in interdisciplinary European and international research projects, with a focus on agri-food systems, sustainability metrics, and governance of sustainable transitions. Skilled in translating research into policy-relevant outputs and stakeholder-facing deliverables.

Core competencies

- STATA (advanced data management, cleaning, merging, panel/longitudinal analysis, econometric modelling)
- R programming for statistical analysis and data visualisation
- Quantitative data analysis using household survey datasets
- Econometric modelling and statistical analysis
- Longitudinal data analysis
- Data harmonisation and linking across survey rounds
- Composite indicator construction
- Survey data preparation and quality control
- Data cleaning and validation
- Cross-sectional and panel data analysis
- Regression analysis and multivariate modelling
- Policy-oriented quantitative research
- Data visualisation and reporting

Education

2022 – 2026	<i>Title</i>	PhD focus in Agricultural Economics (MEA)
	<i>Institution</i>	Free University of Bolzano-Italy
	<i>PhD Thesis</i>	Empirical economic assessment of diet sustainability, dietary diversity and health outcomes across global and local contexts
	<i>Supervisor/s</i>	Prof. Christian Fischer
2020 – 2022	<i>Title</i>	MSc Food Identity
	<i>Institution</i>	École Supérieure d'Agricultures, Angers ESA-France Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore-Italy
	<i>Msc Thesis</i>	Strengthening Indigenous Value Chains through Participatory Guarantee Systems: The Case of Ogiek Honey
	<i>Supervisor</i>	Prof. Philippe Mongondry
2019	<i>Title</i>	BSc Agribusiness Management
	<i>Institution</i>	Chuka University-Kenya
	<i>Thesis</i>	Determinants of Maize Productivity with Fertiliser Use in Londiani

Research appointments

<i>Role</i>	Research Assistant
<i>Institution</i>	Moi University-Eldoret-Kenya
<i>Starting date</i>	2024 - 2025
<i>Project</i>	The British Academy-funded project -Histories and Futures of Underutilised Crops Reimagined • Conducted interdisciplinary and participatory research on indigenous and underutilised crops within smallholder farming systems in Kenya. • Carried out qualitative field research using semi-structured interviews, oral histories, stakeholder consultations, and document analysis with farmers, local communities, and institutional stakeholders. • Contributed to the documentation of local agricultural knowledge, agroecological practices, and traditional food systems linked to rural livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. • Supported stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange activities involving researchers, local communities, and policy actors. • Assisted in qualitative data analysis, scientific publications, policy briefs, and project reports focused on sustainable food systems and agricultural transitions.
<i>Role</i>	Visiting research fellow
<i>Institution</i>	University of Lincoln, UK
	Department of Accounts and Finance
<i>Starting date</i>	01/2024 – 08/2024
	• Conducted comparative food security and sustainability research • Supported interdisciplinary research design and grant development • Contributed to policy-relevant publications and analytical outputs
<i>Role</i>	Research fellow (East and South Africa coordinator)
<i>Institution</i>	Slow-Food Foundation for Biodiversity- Italy
<i>Starting date</i>	2022
	• Supported agroecology and biodiversity initiatives within the international food system and sustainable agriculture programmes. • Contributed to the design and implementation of monitoring, evaluation, and governance tools for agroecological and biodiversity-focused projects. • Collaborated with NGOs, local coordinators, researchers, and institutional partners to support participatory programme implementation across different countries. • Contributed to policy-oriented reporting, stakeholder coordination, and knowledge-sharing activities related to agroecological transitions and biodiversity conservation.
<i>Role</i>	MSc field placements
<i>Durations</i>	One month (placement each) between 2020 and 2022
	Interbev- Pays de la Loire, France (Label Rouge Scheme)
	• Analysed consumer-oriented meat labelling strategies under the Label Rouge certification • Conducted market research on consumer preferences and willingness to pay for quality-differentiated products
	École Nationale Supérieure des Sciences Agro-industrielles (African Geographical Indications)
	• Designed origin-based labelling strategies to enhance value distribution and increase farmer incomes through product differentiation, specifically for assigned case studies, including Kenyan tea and Cameroonian Penja pepper.

**University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine
(Transylvania Region)**

- Collaborated with cheese farmers to co-design narrative-based labelling strategies
- Explored labelling as a tool for enhancing short value chains and local market access

Teaching appointments

Role	Teaching Assistant
Institution	Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (2022-2023)
Course	Food value chain management

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Publications and ongoing research

Published (Peer reviewed)

- [6] **Kipkoech, B.**, Calvia, M., & Fischer, C. (2026). *Dietary diversity and health outcomes across country income groups: evidence from globally available data*. (Accepted: Springer nature Journal of Agriculture and Food security)
- [5] **Kipkoech, B.**, Ruto, E., & Fischer, C. (2026). *Global diet not likely to become carnivorous as animal-source calorie consumption shares and human trophic levels stabilize in the long run*. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, Volume 10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2026.1727309>
- [4] Hannaford, M. J., Korir, L., Kwapong, N. A., Chelanga, J., Chesire, M., Kioko, E., **Kipkoech, B.**, et al. (2025). *Becoming underutilised: Indigenous crops and foodways in colonial Kenya*. *Journal of Agrarian Change*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/joac.70060>
- [3] **Kipkoech, B.**, Korir, L., Fischer, C., & Ruto, E. (2025). *Empirical analysis of Kenyan household diet deprivation through ReDD and human trophic level indices*. *Journal of Agriculture and Food Research*. [Doi.org/10.1016/j.jafr.2025.101962](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jafr.2025.101962)
- [2] Youmma, D., Tonui, R., Neyerere, A., **Kipkoech, B.**, & Ambang, Z. (2025). *Phylogenetic and Gene Expression of Norsolorinic Acid Analysis of Aflatoxigenic Strains and Quantification of Aflatoxin B1 Levels in White Rice Grains in Kenya*. *Journal of Advances in Biology & Biotechnology*. [Doi.org/10.9734/jabb/2025/v28i11923](https://doi.org/10.9734/jabb/2025/v28i11923).
- [1] **Kipkoech, B.**, & Isarie, V. I. (2022). *Adoption of Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) for Kenyan Tea*. *International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences*. [Doi:10.22161/ijels](https://doi.org/10.22161/ijels)

Theses

- Kipkoech, B.** (2026). *Empirical economic analysis of diet sustainability, diet diversity and its implications on health across global and local context*, PhD thesis, submitted to Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Available on request: PhDunibz@unibz.it
- Kipkoech, B.** (2022). *Participatory Guarantee System as a means of certification for small-scale farmers*, Msc thesis submitted to Ecole Supérieure d'Agricatures, France, Angers

Kipkoech, B., Tonui, K., & Tonui, R. (2026). Plant-based food groups drive global dietary gaps relative to the EAT–Lancet planetary health diet threshold.

Kipkoech, B., Kananu, M. P., & Fischer, C. (2026). *Diet composition and staple-food dependence as structural determinants of global dietary diversity and nutrition security*. [Doi:10.21203/rs.3.rs-7774948/v1](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-7774948/v1)

Summer & Winter Schools

- *Advanced Econometrics* – University of Lincoln, UK (2024)
- *Qualitative Research & Scientific Data Interpretation* – University of Queensland (2024)
- *Sustainable and Inclusive Development under Climate Crisis* – University of Zurich, Cyprus (2023)
- *Trademarks, Industrial Designs & Geographical Indications* – WIPO (2022)

Research grants and scholarships

- *PhD Research Grant, Free University of Bolzano (Italy)* – €51,000
- *Erasmus Mundus MSc Scholarship, European Union (France)* – €48,000
- *Conference Grant, World Agri-Food Innovation Conference Beijing, (China)* – ~ €5,000
- *Mediterranean Mountain Areas and climate adaptation, Troodos, (Cyprus)* – €300

Conferences attended and presented oral (online/in person) and posters

- *FoodRevolution® 2024 conference, Parma, Italy*
- *Development Economic Conference, University of Lincoln, United Kingdom*
- *World Agri-Food Innovation Conference, Beijing, China*
- *Fifteenth International Conference on Food Studies, University of Pretoria, South Africa,*
- *Origin, Diversity and Territories (ODT) 2021: Ruptures and rebounds of territorialized food systems, Valposchiavo, Switzerland*

Language competence

Language	Level	Certification
Swahili	Native	
English	C1	Unibz classification
French	A2	ESA internal exams
Italian	A1	Self-certification

Research & software skills

Quantitative skills	Econometric analysis Cross-country comparative analysis Survey data analysis Regression modelling Descriptive and inferential statistics
Qualitative skills	Semi-structured interviews Thematic analysis Oral histories Document and policy analysis Participatory research approaches
Software	R, Stata, NVivo and Atlas