

Highlighting Rural Researchers

August 2025 | Issue 16

NAZIR MOHAMMED HABIBU

Research Fellow | RDI

GETTING TO KNOW NAZIR MOHAMMED HABIBU

Nazir was born in Ghana and raised in the city of Koforidua. He is an Agribusiness Specialist currently enrolled in a PhD Agri-system program at the Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Italy, where he also earned a degree in Master of Science in Agricultural and Food Economics. Prior to these studies, Nazir graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, with a specialization in Agricultural Economics from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. During his bachelor studies, he had the opportunity to intern at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany, and is currently a member of the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA) Global Network.

RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE

Nazir was a Research Fellow at the Observatory on the Zootechnical Products Market, collaborating with School of Management and Agro-food Economics (SMEA) on a research project exploring sustainability and resilience of small-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Cremona agri-food system. As an agribusiness specialist, he liaised with project stakeholders and conducted research projects in rural development areas, focusing on agribusiness and finance in rural Ghana and intending to enable access to credit facilities for local agri-food SMEs.

Nazir is currently a PhD Research Fellow at the Brandon University Rural Development Institute. He is working to evaluate how rural capacity building supports the competitiveness of agrifood SMEs. To support this project, he reviewed literature to understand the theoretical foundations of capacity-building models, and is developing a Community Economic Development Capacity Building Framework aligned with project goals. This framework aims to identify the structural processes through which key assets and resources are used to achieve socioeconomic goals across the agrifood supply chain. Additionally, by collecting and analyzing data from participants in the agrifood chains, this research will explore skills, competencies, education, and training at each stage of the supply chain. These insights will form the basis for recommending future strategies to enhance workforce skills and competencies, ultimately fostering a more resilient agri-food sector.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Through his experiences, Nazir has gained extensive experience related to SMEs in the agri-food processing sector across international contexts. His training in rural policy design also positions him as a key proponent in embarking on new strategies supporting these economies. Nazir looks forward to exploring new opportunities focused on improving the well-being of rural communities in areas related to agriculture, food security, climate change, and sustainable rural development initiatives. As an agribusiness specialist with a background in agricultural economics and training in quantitative and qualitative methods, he is confident in his ability to continue collaborations in future projects.



It is essential that we align our purpose with the progress and prosperity of our community.

So, what have your contributions been to your community?



**Rural Development Institute
Brandon University
270-18th Street,
Brandon, MB R7A 6A9**



**BRANDON
UNIVERSITY**