Victor Ohileobo DANIA, PhD

Academic and Professional Qualifications

B. Agric. (Benin), M.Sc., Ph.D. Plant Pathology/Mycology (Ibadan), Nigeria Certificate in Bioinformatics (IITA, Nigeria)

Rank: Associate Professor

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RESEARCH FOCUS

Plant disease diagnostics and molecular characterization of plant pathogens. Biochemical and physiological dynamics of host-pathogen interaction. Plant disease epidemiology and postharvest pathology. Characterization and field deployment of phyto-essential oils within the context of integrated disease management.

Membership of Learned Societies

(a) Member, Nigerian Society for Plant Protection
(b) Member, Mycological Society of Nigeria
(c) Member, America Phytopathological Society
(d) Member, International Society for Plant Protection
(e) Member, African Crop Science Society
(f) Member, Asian Phytopathological Society

(g) Member, Nigerian Organic Agricultural Network

Details of Teaching/Work Experience

Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria
Research Officer I
Senior Research Officer

University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Lecturer II
Lecturer I
Senior Lecturer
Associate Professor

Courses taught

(a) Undergraduate Level
CPE 314 Principles of Plant Pathology
CPE 411 Principles and Practice of Crop Protection
CPE 316 Biological Techniques
CPE 320 Principles of Forest Protection
CPE 522 Introductions to Mushroom Production
CPE 599 Special Projects in Agricultural Biology

(b) Postgraduate Level
CPE 752 Post-harvest Pathology
CPE 753 Fungal Taxonomy, Diseases and Control
CPE 754 Fungal Biochemistry and Genetics
CPE 758 Phytobacteriology
CPE 751 Physiology of host-pathogen interaction
CPE 799 Special Projects in Crop Protection
CPE 762 Bacteria Ecology and Control

(c) University of Ibadan School of Business
SBZ 749: Advanced Crop Production and Storage

(d) University of Ibadan Distance Learning Centre
CPE 411: Principles and Practice of Crop Protection

(e) Pan African University
PPB 719: Bio-Policy, Safety and Bioethics
PPB 810: Breeding for Resistance/Tolerance to Biotic and Abiotic Stress

Students' Project Supervision

Degree	Completed	In progress
B.Sc.	33	2
M.Sc.	24	4
Ph.D	2	3

Administrative Responsibilities and Community Services

Departmental Duties

Undergraduate Coordinator/Exam Officer
Member, Departmental Curriculum Committee
Member, Experimental Research Project
Member, Curriculum Committee

Secretary, Local Organizing Committee NSPP Conference
Staff Advisor, CPEB Undergraduate Students' Club
Chairman, Mushroom Production Project

Faculty Duties

Sub-Dean (Undergraduate)
Member, Faculty Curriculum Committee
Member, Faculty of Board of Studies
Member, Faculty Examinations Committee
Member, Practical Year Training Programme (PYTP)
Member, Faculty of Committee on Admissions

University Duties

Member, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Admissions
Member, Senate Committee on General Studies
Assessor, University of Ibadan School of Business
Assessor University of Ibadan Distance Learning Centre

Completed Research

(i) Evaluation of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp genotypes for response to wilt disease caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *tricheiphilum.*

(ii) Pathogenicity of *Colletotrichum coccodes* causing anthracnose disease and its effect on growth and yield of sweet potato

(iii) Bioprospecting *Rhizopus oryzae* species for production of polygalacturonase and cellulase enzymes using solid state fermentation

(iv) Identification of okra mosaic virus and sources of resistance among okra (*Abelmoschus esculentum* (L.) Moench varieties under natural field infection.

Current Research

(i) Detection and characterization of *Curvularia lunata* as new pathogen causing brown leaf spot disease of cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) in Nigeria

The study is investigating the causative agent of cassava brown leaf spot (BLS) disease in southwest Nigeria. Symptomatic cassava leaf samples have been collected from major cassava producing areas in southwest Nigeria. Identification and molecular characterization of fungal isolates are ongoing. Screenhouse experiment will also be conducted to establish pathogenicity of the fungal isolates on susceptible cassava cultivar.

(ii) Assessment of cowpea *Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp landraces for resistance to *Aschochyta* blight disease

Thirty cowpea landraces are currently being evaluated for resistance to *Ascochyta* blight disease in a two-season field trial. The first experiment has been concluded and data collected are being analyzed. The second trial is ongoing and data are being collected to validate the first experiment. This study will recommend resistant varieties to be sown by farmers in order to reduce incidence and severity of the disease.

(iii) *Trichoderma-Fusarium* pathway as model for studying plant-fungal interactions

The research is investigating the efficacy of two selected strains of the species, *Trichoderma harzianum* and *T. asperellum* in the promotion of tomato growth and also in the biological control of *Fusarium* wilt disease induced by *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *lycopercisi* in a field experiment. Data on effect of the treatments on tomato growth and yield have been collected and currently being analysed. Histopathology of inoculated and treated tomato vascular tissues are currently being evaluated, while secretion of phytotoxins and phytoalexins will also be assessed.

(iv) Efficacy of *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* stains in inducing resistance to wilt disease in pepper (*Capsicum annum* L.)

Two *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* stains AM103 and AM117 are being evaluated *in vitro* for production of secondary metabolites and ability to directly inhibit the causal agent of bacterial wilt disease of pepper pathogen, *Ralstonia solanacearum*. Data on inhibitory potential have been collected, while the metabolites are undergoing GC-MS analysis. Field experiment for the *in vivo* assay is ongoing prior to transcription analysis of selected genes related to the plant defence in response to *B. amyloliquefaciens* treatment.

Publications

Articles that have already appeared in Refereed Conference Proceedings

Dania, V.O., Ekpo, E.N., Olasupo, O.O. and Nurudeen, T.A. 2011. Comparative evaluation of three species of *Trichoderma* for the control of leaf spot disease of *Jatropha curcas in vitro*. In: Esekumenu, V.C. (Ed). *Proceedings of the fifth African Regional Sustainable Development Conference*. Ekpoma. 14-17 June, 2011. (Nigeria) 5(4): 131-137.

Ajayi, K.F. and **Dania, V.O.** 2022. Harnessing agroforestry wastes for the production of edible mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus* (Jacq.) P. Kumm). In: Olubode, O.S., Agbogidi, M., Ogunkunle, A. and Ejikeme, A. (Eds). *Proceedings of the Conference of Ecological Society of Nigeria* held at the Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology, University of Nigeria between 15 and 19 May, 2022. Pp 28-35.

Ugiagbe, I.M., Aken'Ova, M.E., Aghahowa, J.O., Owoh, N.B., Uwaifo, W.A., Nwite, P.A. and **Dania, V.O.** 2021. Effect of light regime on callus initiation in oil palm (*Elaeis guinensis* Jacq) Orlet *in vitro*. In: Adesina, J.M., Iwala, O.S., Borokini, E.A., et al. *Proceedings of the 55th Annual*

Conference of Agricultural Society of Nigeria held at Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo between 25 and 29 October, 2021. (Nigeria). Pp 614-618.

Articles that have already appeared in learned journals

Dania, V.O., Fadina, O.O., Ayodele, M. and P. Lava Kumar 2014. Efficacy of *Oryza sativa* extracts for the *in vitro* and *in vivo* control of fungal rot disease of white yam (*Dioscorea rotundata* Poir). *SpringerPlus Journal* 3:1: 1-7.

Dania, V.O., Ekpo, E.N., Nurudeen, T.A. and Erinle, O.A. 2014. Effect of some plant extracts on *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* and *Alternaria* sp. from *Jatropha curcas*. *Nigerian Journal of Plant Protection* 28(1): 133-144.

Dania, V.O., Fadina, O.O., Ayodele, M. and P. Lava Kumar 2015. Allelopathic potential of some biocontrol agents for the control of fungal rot of yellow yam (*Dioscorea cayenensis* Lam). *African Journal of Biotechnology* (14(6): 474-481.

Dania, V.O. and Arabambi, B.O. 2015. Effect of storage conditions on incidence of seed-borne fungi of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp and their control with botanicals. *Nigerian Journal of Plant Protection* 29(1): 73-85.

Dania, V. O. Fadina, O. O., Ayodele, M. and P. L. Kumar. 2016. Evaluation of isolates of *Trichoderma, Pseudomonas* and *Bacillus* species as treatment for the control of post-harvest fungal rot disease of yam (*Dioscorea* spp.) *Archives of Phytopathology and Plant Protection* 49(17-18):456-470.

Dania, V.O. and Ekpo, E.N. (2016). Evaluation of growth and nutritional value of *Pleurotus* sajor-*caju* (F.) Springer cultivated on sawdust of different wood species. *Ibadan Journal of Agricultural Research* 12(2): 85-96.

Dania, V.O. and Ekpo, E.N. 2017. Incidence and severity of fungal diseases of some economic trees at Onigambari forest reserve southwest Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Ecology* 16(2): 1-12.

Dania, V.O. and Okoye, U.J. 2017. Evaluation of neem seed extract for the management of early blight (*Alternaria solani*) disease of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.). *Nigerian Journal of Plant Protection* 31:39-58.

Dania, V.O. and Oge L. 2018. Fungi Associated with stored sorghum grains and occurrence of aflatoxin contamination in Southwest Nigeria. *Ibadan Journal of Agricultural Research* 14(1):15-26.

Durojaye, H.A., Moukoumbi, Y.D., **Dania, V.O**., Boukar, O., Bandyopadhyay, R. and Ortega-Beltran, A. 2019. Evaluation of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.) Landraces to bacterial blight caused by *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *vignicola. Journal of Crop Protection* 116:77–81.

Dania, V.O. and Gbadamosi, L.O. 2019. Efficacy of combined application of *Trichoderma asperellum* NG T158, *Aloe vera* leaf extract and poultry manure for the management of *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* causing anthracnose disease on cowpea. *Archives of Phytopathology and Plant Protection* 52(1-2):90-107.

Dania, V.O., Fadina, O.O., Ayodele, M. and P. L. Kumar (2019). Distribution and virulence of fungal species isolated from yam (*Dioscorea* spp.) tubers in three agroecological zones of Nigeria. *International Journal of Pest Management* 66(3): 252-261.

Dania, V.O. and Ojeyemi, T.D. 2019. Prevalence and polymerase chain reaction detection of *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *manihotis* causal agent of cassava bacterial blight disease in Osun State, Southwestern Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Biotechnology* 36(1): 159-170.

Dania, V.O. 2019. Bioefficacy of *Trichoderma* species against important fungal pathogens causing post-harvest rot in sweet potato (*Ipomoea balatas* (L.) Lam). *Journal of Bangladesh Agricultural University* 17(4): 446-453.

Dania, V.O. and Oni, J.O. 2019. Integrated management of bacterial blight disease of cowpea caused by *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *vignicola* (Burkholder) Vauterin. *Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development* 22(2):4602-4610.

Dania, V.O. and Thomas, A.S. 2019. Bioactivity and phytochemical composition of *Moringa oleifera* L. in the management of fungal rot disease of orange-fleshed sweetpotato. *Nigerian Journal of Mycology* 11:26-45.

Dania, V.O. and Omidiora, J.A. 2019. Combination of biological control agents and garlic (*Allium sativum*) extract in reducing damping-off disease of tomato. *Bangladesh Journal of Agricultural Research* 44(3): 553-567.

George, T., **Dania, V.O.** and Ikotun, T. 2019. Evaluation of seed-borne fungi associated with paddy rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) varieties using different isolation methods. *Nigerian Journal of Mycology* 11:46-58.

Dania, V.O. and Nurudeen, T.A. 2019. Host reaction and yield of maize cultivars infected with southern leaf blight disease caused by *Cochliobolus heterostrophus* (Drechs.) Drechs under natural conditions. *Ibadan Journal of Agricultural Research* 15(1):59-72.

Dania, V.O., Osunlaja, O.A. and Igwe, D.O. 2020. Evaluation of genetic diversity using inter-simple sequence repeat markers and effect on the severity of leaf blight disease of tea*k (Tectona grandis* L.). *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 39(5): 461-476.

Dania, V. O. and Eze, S. E. 2020. Using *Trichoderma* species in combination with cattle dung as soil amendment improves yield and reduces pre-harvest aflatoxin contamination in groundnut. *Agrivita Journal of Agricultural Science* 42(3): 449–461.

Dania, V.O. and Sam, N.E. 2020. Compatibility of Mancozeb 75 WP with some plant extracts in

the integrated management of *Cercospora* leaf spot disease of okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench). *Ghana Journal of Agricultural Science* 55**(**2): 26 – 38.

Dania, V.O. and Adedoyin, A.C. (2020). Pathogenicity of *Curvularia* sp. causing leaf blight disease of sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench and its management using extracts of ten different wild plants. *Annals. Food Science and Technology* 20(3):665-675.

Dania, V.O. and Kayode, M.D. 2020 Efficacy of *Moringa oleifera* extract, *Trichoderma asperellum*, a synthetic fungicide and cattle dung amendment in the integrated management of rice blast disease. *Bangladesh Journal of Agricultural Research* 45(4): 395-407.

Ugiagbe, I.M., Asemota, M., Aken'Ova, M.E., Aghahowa, J.O., Uwaifo, W.A., Erumwenbibi and **Dania, V.O.** 2021. Comparative effect of different growth media on callus initiation in oil palm (*Elaeis guinensis* Jacq) Orlet *in vitro* culture. *Nigerian Journal of Palms and oil seeds* 19(1):59-68.

Dania, V.O., Alabi, O.V. and Azuh, V.O. 2021. ITS -based identification and characterization of sweetpotato soft rot disease-causing *Rhizopus* species isolated from Oyo state, southwest, Nigeria. *Journal of Plant Pathology* 104(1):225-236.

Ugiagbe, I.M., Asemota, M., Aken'Ova, M.E., Aghahowa, J.O., Uwaifo, W.A., Maidoh, F.U. and **Dania, V.O.** 2021. Evaluation of age on callus initiation in oil palm (*Elaeis guinensis* Jacq) types. *Research Journal of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences* 10(3):1–7.

Dania, V. O. and Henry, E. U. 2022. Pathogenicity of *Sclerotium rolfsii* isolates causing stem and root rot disease of cowpea *Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp and management using *Trichoderma* species. *Agrivita Journal of Agricultural Science* 44(1):105–118.

Dania, V.O. and Olaleye, E.A. 2022. Chemical characterization of essential oil constituents of three selected botanicals and their antimicrobial activity against postharvest rot pathogens of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.). *Archives of Phytopathology and Plant Protection* 55(.5):564:582.

Dania V.O. 2022. Pathogenicity of *Colletotrichum coccodes* causing anthracnose disease and its effect on growth and yield of sweet potato [*Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam]. *Ghana Journal of Agricultural Science* 57(1):105–118.

Dada, A., **Dania, V.**., Oyatomi, O., Abberton, M. and Ortega-Beltran, A. 2022. First report of *Colletotrichum cliviicola* causing anthracnose disease of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L. Walp) in Nigeria. *Plant Disease* 107(7):1-5.

Dania, V.O. and Esiobu, M.G. 2022. Efficacy of plant-derived essential oils in post-harvest management of anthracnose disease on mango fruits. *Makerere University Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences* 11(2): 1-17.

Esiobumeh, M.N and **Dania, V.O.** 2022. Bioprospecting *Rhizopus oryzae* MT4489 for production of polygalacturonase and cellulase enzymes using solid state fermentation. *Mycopath* 20(2):

65-73.

Alli, I.E. and **Dania, V.O**. 2023 Bioactivity of volatile organic compounds associated with *Euphorbia hirta* L. essential oil against fungi causing fruit rot disease of pawpaw (*Carica papaya* L.). *Archives of Phytopathology and Plant Protection* 56(7):529-546.

Dania, V.O., Akunwata, C.K. and Omidiora, J.A. 2023. Evaluation of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp genotypes for response to wilt disease caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *tricheiphilum. Tanzania Journal of Agricultural Sciences* 22(2):242-251.

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Ademola, B.D. and **Dania, V.O.** 2024. Fungi associated with banana black leaf streak disease and phytochemical analysis of essential oil of bamboo (*Bambusa vulgaris* L.) for management in Nigeria. *Tanzania Journal of Agricultural Sciences* 23(2):234-246.

Adejumo, O. A. Ikotun, B. and **Dania, V. O**. 2024. Evaluation of agro-morphological features promoting resistance of sorghum accessions to sorghum grain mould (SGM). *Nigerian Journal of Plant Protection* 38(1):11-20.

Dada, A.O., **Dania, V.O**., Oyatomi, O.A., Abberton, M. and Ortega-Beltran, A. 2024. Studies of *Colletotrichum* species causing cowpea anthracnose in Nigeria reveal two first-time reports globally. *Journal of Plant Pathology* 107:701-710.

Sam, N.E., **Dania V.O**. and Azuh, V.O. 2025. Identification of okra mosaic virus and sources of resistance among okra (*Abelmoschus esculentum* (L.) Moench varieties under natural field infection. *Archives of Phytopathology and Plant Protection* 58(11):1-19.