

**NAME:** Ruth Oniang'o  
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**INSTITUTION:** Rural Outreach Program, Nairobi , KENYA  
**AREA OF SPECIALISATION:** Food Science and Nutrition  
**KEY QUALIFICATIONS:**



Ruth was educated in Kenya and in the USA . She has worked in Kenya throughout her professional life, gaining her international experience through meetings and conferences and through participation in multi-national dialogues. Beyond her academic training, she has spent a considerable amount of time researching talking about food security and hunger issues. Ruth K. Oniang'o is the executive director of the Rural Outreach Program, a non-profit development organization that empowers women through agriculture and entrepreneurial projects. Prof.(Dr.) Oniang'o was a nominated member of Kenya 's ninth parliament from 2003-2007 and served as Shadow Minister for Education. As a parliamentarian, she was Vice-Chair of Kenya's Women Parliamentary Association and worked on the Sexual Offences Bill with fellow women colleagues, a landmark bill regarding punishment for sexual violence in Kenya and championed the passing of the Kenya Biosafety Bill and the Nutritionists and Dietetics Bills. Before becoming a member of the Kenyan Parliament, she was Professor of Food Science and Nutrition at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology in Nairobi , Kenya. Her areas of research and consultation are household food and nutrition security, women's nutrition, child health, and community-level agro-processing and related enterprises. She is the founder and editor-in-chief of the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Development ( AJFAND).She serves on a number of Boards (HarvestPlus, IRRI, IFDC until a year ago) to name a few.

#### **EDUCATION:**

- PhD Food Science and Nutrition, University of Nairobi , 1983.
- MSc Human Nutrition, Washington State University , Pullman , USA , 1973
- BSc Food and Nutrition (with distinction), Washington State University , Pullman , USA , 1971

#### **EMPLOYMENT RECORD:**

2003-2007	National Assembly of Kenya Member of Parliament and Shadow Minister for Education
1990-2003	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi , Kenya . Professor of Food Science and Nutrition
1978-1990	Kenyatta University, Nairobi , Kenya Associate Professor – Senior Lecturer – Lecturer – Assistant Lecturer

#### **HIGHLIGHTS[sampled]**

- Serving on international Boards such as Gates Foundation Agriculture Strategy Advisory Committee, IFDC, IRRI, IFPRI Program advisory Committee, MONSANTO Biotechnology Advisory Council, I have learnt a lot personally, have represented the African side of things and have also brought back a lot to Africa, and have encouraged a focus on Africa through partnerships.
- Have helped to mentor young people in Food and Nutritional Sciences and have been involved with the formation of relevant professional bodies in Kenya, such as the Kenya Coalition for Action in Nutrition (KCAN) and Kenya Union of Food Science and Technology (KUFoST)
- Worked with FANTA and LINKAGES of USA in year 2000 on issues related to best practices in nutrition programs, food fortification and nutrition coalitions in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya as regional coordinator for nutrition capacity development in Africa; Helped to found these so that each of the three East African countries has a nutrition coalition that is affiliated to the International Union of Nutritional Sciences.
- World Food Summit 1996, Rome , as part of the Kenyan delegation, technical support. Assisted in the preparation of the Africa Position Paper and let the preparation of the Kenya 's country paper. International Conference on Nutrition, Rome , 1992 as part of the Kenyan delegation, technical support team. Assisted with preparation of Africa 's position paper.