



**Abdoulaye Aziz Zerbo, MPH Student of Health Science & Human Ecology College of Natural Sciences**

**Abdoulaye Aziz Zerbo** is a Master's student of Public Health who has dedicated his life and career to helping underserved communities. As an immigrant from Western Africa, Aziz understands the immediate need to educate underserved communities. He has been trying hard to help marginal groups to have a healthy lifestyle and walking towards a prosperous life.

Abdoulaye Aziz Zerbo collaborated with the project PI, Dr. Nikbakhtzadeh to conduct a 3-week on-campus training in Mosquito Identification, Surveillance & Control. The project was also supported by the local agency, Coachella Valley mosquito and Vector Control District (CVMVCD) from July 24<sup>th</sup>- August 10<sup>th</sup> 2023.





## MPH Thesis Project

Abdoulaye Aziz Zerbo has been doing his MPH thesis on the Effect of Agricultural Pollutants on Mosquito Survival, Development and Oviposition under supervision of Dr. Mahmood Nikbakhtzadeh. His research will contribute to our understanding of the impacts of the environmental factors, such as the impact of the off-site Glyphosate pollution on mosquito populations and their fitness to transmit human diseases.

## Abdoulaye's Story

Fourteen years ago, Abdoulaye Zerbo made the journey to the United States from Burkina Faso, a small French-speaking country in Africa. His arrival was met with a significant cultural shock, but he gradually learned to navigate these challenges, eventually becoming well-integrated into the American society.

Currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Health, Aziz has devoted his life and career to assisting underserved communities. Having experienced the immigrant perspective himself, Aziz comprehends the importance of educating underserved communities about specific risk behaviors and promoting healthier lifestyles. His involvement also extends to mosquito surveillance and control training supervised by Dr. Nikbakhtzadeh, a workshop, mutually performed with the Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (CVMVCD) at the CSU San Bernardino Campus. In this program, students acquire diverse mosquito surveillance and identification skills, encompassing areas such as biology, ecology & behavior of mosquitoes, and mosquito-borne diseases and their control. Additionally, they learn how to cultivate and manage mosquito colonies.

Aziz is also working on his MPH thesis in Dr. Nikbakhtzadeh's lab and actively engaged in research regarding the impact of Glyphosate, a widely used herbicide, on the southern house mosquito (*Culex quinquefasciatus*) survival, development, and oviposition. This research targets the impacts of Glyphosate on adult mosquito fitness to transfer disease to the residents of southern California.

