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Sharon Chemweno is a PhD student in Desert Studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Sde Boker campus, specializing in Irrigation and Plant Environment. She holds an MSc in Desert Studies (Agriculture and Biotechnology) from the same university and a BSc in Horticulture from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya. Sharon's research focuses on improving nitrogen use efficiency through the root system and enhancing crop adaptability to salinity stress—two major challenges in desert agriculture. Her findings show that reducing nitrogen fertilizer by up to 50% can sustain or

even boost crop productivity, contributing to more sustainable, climate-resilient farming. Originally from Iten, Kenya, Sharon comes from an agropastoralist community in an arid and semi-arid region, which inspired her academic path. She is committed to advancing food security and sustainable agriculture in drylands, particularly in Africa. Outside of research, she enjoys reading, hiking, traveling, and catching up on sleep.