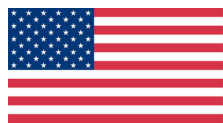


# 2023

Humphrey Alumni  
Global Policy Series:  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**PROGRAM  
BOOK**



**45** Humphrey  
Fellowship  
YEARS  A Fulbright Exchange Program

**iie** The Power  
of International  
Education





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## ABOUT

### **Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program**

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, a Fulbright exchange, enhances leadership among international professionals who collaborate to address local and global challenges and foster change for the collective good. Through academic study and professional development with U.S. counterparts, this growing global network shares best practices and builds expertise in fields of critical importance to advance societal and institutional capacity, promote human rights and freedoms, ensure sustainable environments, and develop thriving communities.

### **Humphrey Alumni Global Policy Series**

In recognition of the Humphrey Fellowship Program's 45th Anniversary in 2023-2024, the Humphrey Fellowship is launching the Humphrey Alumni Global Policy Series. This series convenes Humphrey alumni across world regions for policy dialogues addressing crucial global concerns and challenges at the national, regional, and local levels.

The Global Policy Dialogue in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on April 28, 2023 will focus on promoting food security and resilient food systems in Africa. This event will feature alumni-led discussions on sustainable land and water management, agricultural technology, climate, and related issues. It will showcase the contributions and critical value of Humphrey alumni in addressing the complex global challenge of food insecurity. A networking reception for alumni and guests will follow the Policy Dialogue.

**Venue:** Dar es Salaam Serena Hotel, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**#HUMPHREY45**





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## HUMPHREY ALUMNI GLOBAL POLICY SERIES: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### PARTICIPANTS

**Ms. Sylvia Ambali**

Malawi  
Principal Environmental Officer  
Zomba District Council

**Ms. Sheila Apopo**

Kenya  
Chief Livestock Production Officer  
Department of Livestock  
Production - Food, Agriculture and  
Natural Resources Sub-sector,  
Green Nairobi Sector, Nairobi City  
County

**Dr. Idris Bexi Warsama**

Djibouti  
Chief Technical Advisor  
UNDP Burundi

**Mr. Edson Carneiro**

Mozambique  
Impact Management Coordinator  
Gorongosa Restoration Project

**Mr. Lee Wakalala Hantembe**

Zambia  
Senior Hydrogeologist  
Ministry of Water Development and  
Sanitation

**Ms. Seeng Manne**

Botswana  
District Agricultural Coordinator  
Kasane, Chobe District, Botswana

**Dr. Maria Matui**

Tanzania  
National Coordinator  
Gender and Climate Change  
Tanzania Coalition

**Dr. Sintayehu Mekonnen**

Ethiopia  
Plant Geneticist  
Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

**Ms. Esther Ndungutse Mukundane**

Rwanda  
Country Director  
Aspire Rwanda

**Mrs. Carol Murekezi**

Uganda  
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Advisor  
TRASE Project Land O'Lakes V37

**Dr. Manuel Mutimucuo**

Mozambique  
Natural Resources Management  
Specialist  
World Bank

**Ms. Doreen Mwanyama**

Tanzania  
Country Manager  
IPSOS

**Mr. Ackson Joseph Mwanza**

Zambia  
Cofounder/Technical Director  
The Harvest Fund

**Ms. Celia Nalwadda**

Uganda  
Principal Research Officer Uganda  
National Academy of Sciences



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## HUMPHREY ALUMNI GLOBAL POLICY SERIES: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### PARTICIPANTS

**Ms. Annette Nantumbwe**

Uganda  
Digital Agriculture Analyst  
United Nations Capital  
Development Fund (UNCDF)

**Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga**

Rwanda  
Senior Scientist  
AKADEMIYA2063

**Ms. Jean Njiru**

Kenya  
Member of Board of Directors  
Agricultural Development  
Corporation

**Mr. Alfred Odubasa**

South Sudan  
Programme Manager, Base Net  
Organization

**Ms. Noroseheno Ralisoa**

Madagascar  
Head Research and Development  
Department  
FIFAMANOR Antsirabe Madagascar

**Ms. Nirina "Feno" Fenoarifara**

**Randriambololona**  
Madagascar  
Trainer of Extensionists  
Forum du Conseil Agricole

**Ms. Christina Ruhinda**

Tanzania  
Executive Director, Tanzania Network  
of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP)

**Mr. Remigius Rushomesa**

Tanzania  
Registered Environmental Impact  
Assessment Expert

**Mr. Venance Segere**

Tanzania  
Regional Environmental Technical  
Advisor  
Morogoro Regional Secretariat Office

**Dr. Albert Novas Somanje**

Zambia  
Senior Agricultural Officer/Researcher  
Ministry of Agriculture

**Mrs. Queen Turner**

Botswana  
Retired/Former Head of  
Beekeeping Division  
Ministry of Agriculture



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## HUMPHREY ALUMNI GLOBAL POLICY SERIES: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### AGENDA

#### WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY, APRIL 26-27

Humphrey Alumni Arrivals

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

##### Kivukoni Room

9:00-9:45 AM

##### Welcome

Remigius Rushomesa (Tanzania) - Registered Environmental Impact Assessment Expert

##### Opening Remarks

H.E. Ambassador of the United States to Tanzania,  
Dr. Michael Anthony Battle, Sr.

##### Regional Snapshot

##### Megatrends Shaping Food Systems in Africa

Dr. Ed Mabaya, Research Professor and Director of the Humphrey Fellowship Program, Cornell University

##### Highlights from Malabo Montpellier Panel Report on Climate Finance and Food Systems in Africa: Benin, Mali, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe

Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga (Rwanda), Senior Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063

##### Kenya Country Profile

Jean Njiru (Kenya), Member of Board of Directors, Kenya Agricultural Development Corporation

##### Morogoro Regional Profile

Venance Segere (Tanzania), Regional Environmental Technical Advisor, Morogoro Regional Secretariat Office

9:45-10:00 AM

##### Coffee Break



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## HUMPHREY ALUMNI GLOBAL POLICY SERIES: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### AGENDA

10:00-11:00 AM

**Roundtable Discussion: Improving Food Security through Climate-Smart Agriculture Techniques, Technology, and Infrastructure - Part 1**

**Climate Adapted Agriculture**

- Dr. Albert Novas Somanje (Zambia), Senior Agricultural Officer and Researcher, Ministry of Agriculture
- Sintayehu Mekonnen (Ethiopia), Plant Geneticist, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

**Food Preservation Technologies**

- The Drycard - Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga (Rwanda), Senior Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063
- Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) Program - Jean Njiru (Kenya), Member of Board of Directors, Kenya Agricultural Development Corporation

Moderator: Dr. Ed Mabaya

11:00-11:10 AM

**Coffee Break**

11:10-12:10 PM

**Roundtable Discussion: Improving Food Security through Climate-Smart Agriculture Techniques, Technology, and Infrastructure - Part 2**

**Sustainable Resource Management**

- Irrigated Agriculture - Remigius Rushomesa (Tanzania), Registered Environmental Impact Assessment Expert
- Conservation and Biodiversity - Dr. Manuel Mutimucuo (Mozambique), Natural Resources Management Specialist, World Bank

**Best Practices from the Field**

- Ackson Mwanza (Zambia), Cofounder and Technical Director, The Harvest Fund
- Noroseheno Ralisoa (Madagascar), Head of Research and Development Department, FIFAMANOR
- Alfred T.K. Odubasa (South Sudan), Program Manager, Base Net Organization

Moderator: Dr. Ed Mabaya

12:10-1:30 PM

**Group Photo and Lunch**



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## HUMPHREY ALUMNI GLOBAL POLICY SERIES: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### AGENDA

1:30-2:30 PM

#### Roundtable Discussion: Gender and Food Security

- **Perspectives from Tanzania** - Dr. Maria Matui (Tanzania), National Coordinator, Gender Climate Change Tanzania Coalition
- **Reimagining Gender Roles in Climate Action** - Celia Nalwadda (Uganda), Principal Research Officer, Uganda National Academy of Sciences
- **Women and Food Systems Report Highlights** - Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga (Rwanda), Senior Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063

Moderator: Christina Ruhinda (Tanzania) - Executive Director, Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP)

2:30-2:40 PM

#### Coffee Break

2:40-3:40 PM

#### Roundtable Discussion: Improving Market Access

- **Accessing Inputs and Markets Through Digital Platforms** - Annette Nantumbwe (Uganda), Digital Agriculture Analyst, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- **Creating Market Leverage Through Collective Action** - Esther Mukundane (Rwanda), Country Director, Aspire Rwanda
- **Increasing Trade Through Sanitary and Phytosanitary Capacity-Building** - Carol Murekezi (Uganda), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Advisor, TRASE Project Land O'Lakes V37

Moderator: Ackson Mwanza (Zambia), Cofounder and Technical Director, The Harvest Fund

3:40-4:00 PM

#### Closing

- **Takeaways** - Christina Ruhinda (Tanzania), Executive Director, Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP)
- **Alumni Opportunities** - Nnenna Ofobike-Lewis, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State and Karen Nasso, Alumni Coordinator, U.S. Embassy Dar es Salaam

4:00-6:00 PM

#### Informal Networking

6:00-7:30 PM

#### Networking Reception

Sponsored by the U.S. Embassy Dar es Salaam



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## HUMPHREY ALUMNI GLOBAL POLICY SERIES: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### BIOGRAPHIES

#### **Ambassador Michael A. Battle Sr.**

On August 20, 2021, President Biden announced his intention to nominate Dr. Michael Anthony Battle, Sr. as Ambassador to Tanzania. Battle took his official oath for the office on December 21st. He has had a distinguished career of public service spanning four decades as a diplomat, in academia, in the faith community and as a military chaplain. Battle was Executive Vice President/Provost at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. He served as a Senior Advisor to the Bureau of African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State for the U.S. Africa Leader's Summit in 2014. He also was the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the U.S. Ambassador to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Earlier in his career Battle's positions included service as the President of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia and chair of The Robert W. Woodruff Library of The Atlanta University. He served for 20 years as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1997. Battle has held senior academic administrator positions at Chicago State University, Virginia State University, and Hampton University, and he participated as an election observer in 1994 for the first free election in South Africa. Battle has authored numerous books and publications on topics related to ecumenism and the Black church. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity College, a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Howard University.





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**Dr. Ed Mabaya**

**Research Professor and Director, Humphrey Fellowship Program**

**Cornell University College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Department of Global Development**

Ed Mabaya is a scholar and a development practitioner with more than two decades of experience working on development, agribusiness value chains and food security issues with a regional focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. He is a Research Professor in the Department of Global Development, Senior Research Associate in the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University and Director of Cornell University's Humphrey Fellowship Program. His teaching, research and outreach work focuses on food security and economic development in Africa. Previously he was the Division Manager of Agribusiness Development at the African Development Bank (2018-2020) where he managed continent-wide investments, partnerships and research in support of the Feed Africa strategy.

Mabaya's applied research work is anchored around food marketing and distribution, enabling environments for agribusiness, seed systems, digital solutions for smallholder agriculture, and the role of efficient agricultural markets in Africa's economic development. He has published widely on these topics in both peer reviewed outlets and popular press media. His work has received many distinguished recognitions including for "42 African Innovators to Watch in 2016" by Ventures Africa magazine, Coca Cola Africa Diaspora Network 2013 recognition for "dedicated service and contribution towards sustainable development in Africa" and the 2006 and 2017 L.A. Potts Success Story awards for "program with model resulting in high impact on poor communities". He is a public speaker who has presented several keynote talks including TEDx-MidAtlantic and TEDx-Johannesburg. He is the former President of African Association of Agricultural Economists (2017-2019) an Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow (2007) and The Aspen Institute's New Voices Fellow (2016). Mabaya earned his MSc (1998) and PhD (2003) degrees in Agricultural Economics at Cornell University and a BSc Honors in Agricultural Economics and Extension (1994) from the University of Zimbabwe.



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**Ms. Sylvia Ambali - Malawi**

**Cornell University, 2018-2019**

**Principal Environmental Officer, Zomba District Council**

Sylvia Ambali is an experienced environmental specialist with 13 years of working experience in coordinating the implementation of environmental and social safeguards for various projects; spearheading capacity building on the environment, natural resources management, and climate change; promoting pollution control; as well as serving as a focal point for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects under Environmental Affairs Department in Zomba District. Ms. Ambali holds a master's degree in Environmental Sanitation obtained from Ghent University, Belgium, in 2015 and a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management obtained in 2009 at the University of Malawi. She is well abreast of how climate change is affecting the environment, food security, and livelihood options of the rural community. She has seen firsthand how the recent Tropical Cyclone Freddy has affected agriculture and food security and how environmental degradation has increased community vulnerability to the effects of climate-related disasters like flooding. She looks forward to policy dialogue to assist in planning for recovery and promoting resilient agriculture strategies.

**Ms. Sheila Apopo - Kenya**

**University of California, Davis, 2021-2022**

**Chief Livestock Production Officer, Department of Livestock Production, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Sub-sector, Green Nairobi Sector**

Ms. Sheila Apopo is a Kenyan citizen currently employed as Chief Livestock Production Officer at the Department of Livestock Production, Nairobi City County. Her professional background is composed of progressive 14 years of experience in extension and building the capacity and resilience of smallholder livestock farmers. Sheila is the champion of the broiler value chain of the Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme II, Nairobi City County, which seeks to transform agriculture into a commercially oriented enterprise, ensuring sustainable food and nutritional security. Sheila has conducted livestock feed inventory and assessment of the current and future supplies and demands for livestock feeds needed for county evidence-based policy and planning on food and feed security. has conducted a livestock infrastructure survey- an input for the Kenya livestock master plan that will aid in planning for livestock-based livelihoods. Ms. Apopo has done an analysis of Indigenous Chicken, Eggs, and Dairy value chains in various locations and identified opportunities, and given recommendations to improve the performance of the chains of businesses that produce food and deliver it to consumers.



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**Dr. Idris Bexi Warsama - Djibouti**  
**University of California, Davis, 2014- 2015**  
**Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Burundi**

Dr. Idris Bexi is a technical advisor on the Nature, Climate, and Environment Portfolio in UNDP Burundi, specifically focusing on food systems. He has been a highly experienced professional in the environment and climate change for over 19 years. He has expertise in strategy and policy development, program management, partnership development, and resource mobilization. He has a track record of experience in coordinating large and complex technical programs and managing multicultural teams.

**Mr. Edson Carneiro - Mozambique**  
**Cornell University, 2021-2022**  
**Impact Management Coordinator, Gorongosa Restoration Project**

Edson Carneiro is a development professional with over 10 years of experience working in the fields of Agri value chains development, environment, climate change and sustainable natural resource management, agroforestry, food systems and nutrition security, rural development, and poverty reduction in Mozambique. Prior to attending the Humphrey Fellowship at Cornell University (2021-2022), Edson was a Senior Manager of Sustainable Development at Gorongosa National Park (GNP)/ Gorongosa Restoration Project in Mozambique, where he co-led the development and implementation of inclusive business models for coffee, honey, and cashew as part of a self-finance mechanism for long-term integrated conservation and human development programs around GNP. Currently, he coordinates and oversees the technical leadership, financial and operational management of a EUR 20 million Food and Nutrition Security Program in the buffer zone of GNP funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mozambique.

**Mr. Lee Wakalala Hantembe - Zambia**  
**University of California, Davis, 2010-2011**  
**Senior Hydrogeologist, Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation**

Dr. Lee Wakalala Hantembe is a Senior Water Manager at the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation (MoWDS) in Zambia, where he oversees water resources planning and construction of climate-smart water infrastructure. He is also a freelance Environmental Consultant with experience in environmental compliance consultation.



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Prior to joining the MoWDS, Lee was the Regional Specialist for Basic Social Services at UNDP/UNV Regional Office for East and Southern Africa, where he was responsible for program advisory support across East and Southern Africa. He also worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Zambia, where his primary focus was to promote the use and adoption of post-harvest technologies to strengthen household food security. Lee earned a Master of Science Degree in Water Resources Management from the University of Dar-es-Salaam. He pursued his postgraduate studies in Natural Resources, Environmental Policy, and Climate Change at UC Davis, CA. under the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship.

**Ms. Seeng Manne - Botswana**

**University of California, Davis, 2010-2011**

**District Agricultural Coordinator, Kasane, Chobe District, Botswana**

Seeng Manne is a seasoned District Agricultural Coordinator with over fifteen years of experience in the agricultural supply chain. She is a versatile professional with leadership and production experience in agriculture. As a Coordinator, she has been mandated to ensure food security through the coordination of the Ministry extension and projects in the District. She is involved in the development of agricultural projects and programs to ensure the growth of the smaller holder as well as the sustainability of the large-scale farmers. She works directly with people in rural areas and ensures food availability through project implementation and monitoring for their sustainability. Ms. Manne was awarded the Fulbright Postgraduate Fellowship in the USA in 2010 and, upon returning home, was assigned to lead the Division of Agricultural Marketing, responsible for the management of the agriculture value chain. Through the experience gained through the fellowship year, she performed extremely well, resulting in her elevation to lead a district where she is now responsible for managing the Ministry departments and working with farmers to ensure food availability and sustainability of the production lands.

**Dr. Maria Matui - Tanzania**

**American University, 2017-2018**

**National Coordinator, Gender and Climate Change Tanzania Coalition**

Ms. Matui has fifteen years of experience in access to justice and development programs and five years working on climate justice. She is passionate about human rights, gender, and social justice. Ms. Matui is a lawyer, founder, and National Coordinator for Coalition for Gender and Climate Change Tanzania. The Coalition is a non-governmental organization whose goal is to work in partnership with likeminded organizations/government institutions and other





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stakeholders, inclusive of needy communities, ministerial departments agencies of the government of Tanzania, and development partners to address, facilitate, enhance capacity and mobilize resources through creative ways to respond to impacts and challenges of climate change and gender and accessibility to financing while addressing funding opportunities. She is a Chairperson for Women Human Rights Defenders Tanzania Coalition Board; Chairs the Foundation for Women in Children Justice in Prison; a technical advisor to Platform for Private Security Gender and Human Rights Platform; a member of Anglophone Green Climate Financing Gender Monitors; and Tanzania National GCF Gender monitors platform; Chapter Convenor for Tanganyika Law Society.

**Dr. Sintayehu Mekonnen - Ethiopia**

**University of California, Davis, 2013- 2014**

**Plant Geneticist, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute**

Sintayehu A. Mekonnen (2013-2014 Humphrey Alumnus) is a plant geneticist at the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute. His academic background includes a B.Sc. degree in plant sciences from Alemaya University and a graduate degree (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) in applied genetics from Addis Ababa University. He has a longstanding engagement in crop research improvement, genetic resource characterization, and conservation programs. His current research activities are aimed at improving crop genetic resources to increase grain and forage yield production, improve nutritional quality traits, and increase resistance to biotic and abiotic stress by employing morphological, biochemical, and molecular techniques to contribute to ongoing efforts of food security in Ethiopia.

**Ms. Esther Ndungutse Mukundane - Rwanda**

**Cornell University, 2010-2011**

**Country Director, Aspire Rwanda**

Since completing the Humphrey program, Ms. Esther Mukundane has worked in the East African region's agricultural, rural, and economic development sectors. She is currently employed as the Country Director at Aspire Rwanda, a local NGO that works with smallholders and vulnerable communities to uplift them from poverty. The program focuses on livelihoods, the inclusion of women and youth in agriculture and economic development, and early childhood nutrition and development. Her areas of expertise are agribusiness, circular and regenerative agriculture, food and nutrition security, climate-smart agriculture, climate-resilient livelihoods, gender, livelihoods, inclusive growth, markets for people experiencing poverty, Early Childhood Development, youth, and women's economic empowerment.



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Ms. Mukundane is a 2022 African Food System Leadership Fellow. She is a delegate in the Advanced Leadership in Agriculture by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa/Centre for African Leaders in Agriculture. She is a member of the African Food Fellowship Advisory Board, the African Food Fellowship Rwanda strategic circle, the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition, the International Association on Labor in Agriculture, and the Association for Women's Rights Development.

**Mrs. Carol Murekezi - Uganda**

**University of California, Davis, 2010-2011**

**Sanitary and Phytosanitary Advisor, TRASE Project Land O'Lakes V37**

Carol completed the Humphrey Program in June 2011 and promised herself to put into practice all that she had learned. When Carol got back to Uganda, she went back to work in the Ministry of Agriculture and later took a position in Rwanda, helping to build the Sanitary and Phytosanitary capacity of an existing regulating authority in Rwanda and supporting their mission to facilitate market access of traded agricultural products. Afterward, Carol joined the International Financial Corporation on one of their Rwandan projects that supported the development of policies that supported the promotion of food security and environmental protection. Carol was later involved in a number of projects that worked towards improved agricultural production until she began to work with the TRASE project, a project that works with the private sector to facilitate the implementation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures that are based on science while enabling them to improve their production methods and increasing market access of the agricultural commodities they produce.

**Dr. Manuel Mutimucuo - Mozambique**

**Michigan State University, 2013- 2014**

**Natural Resources Management Specialist, World Bank**

After completing the Humphrey Fellowship, Manuel joined the Gorongosa Restoration Project as a director of human development and sustainability (responsible for climate-smart agriculture, community-based natural resources management, and social protection programs), helping to establish one of the most recognizable integrated conservation and development interventions in Mozambique. He then worked as a Project Manager representing Peace Parks Foundation in the co-management agreement with the Government of Mozambique for the management of the then Maputo Special Reserve and contributed to its elevation to a national park vibrant with wildlife and a dynamic community coexistence program.



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Manuel then served as the Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development Advisor to the Minister of Land and Environment. He currently works as a natural resource management specialist at the World Bank in the integrated landscape management portfolio of projects.

**Ms. Doreen Mwanyama - Tanzania**  
**Syracuse University, 2020-2021**  
**Country Manager, IPSOS**

As a 2020-2021 Humphrey Fellow, Ms. Bangapi did her professional affiliation at UNICEF HQ under the C4D section, where she supported the children and youth participatory research initiative focusing on mental health in the context of COVID-19. She continued the affiliation after the fellowship until June 2022. She then joined the global research company Ipsos Tanzania as the Country Manager and continues to serve in that role. Ms. Bangapi has worked on a number of social and market research projects and strategies related to agriculture, education, health, climate change, business and cross-cutting themes including gender and youth.

**Mr. Ackson Joseph Mwanza - Zambia**  
**Cornell University, 2017-2018**  
**Cofounder/Technical Director, The Harvest Fund**

Ackson cofounded The Harvest Fund (THF) after completing the Humphrey program, which is a startup social enterprise in Kafue, Zambia. THF promotes various innovations adoption through setting up the out-grower scheme in promoting off taking of cereals and vegetables by providing input loans, solar irrigation facilities, and market access for majority women cooperatives. After the Humphrey program, he returned to working for the Ministry of Agriculture in the Chirundu district before joining Self Help Africa, where he served as Programme Advisor for Agriculture. His responsibilities were around improving the livelihoods of smallholders and rural communities through the integration of smallholders in the food value chain and supply chain systems. Ackson holds a Master of Professional Studies in Global Development focusing on International Agriculture and Rural Development from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences from The University of Zambia. He serves as a mentor/volunteer under the United World College (UWC) Zambia and serves as the vice board chairperson for Green Agriculture Youth Organization (GAYO) in Chongwe, Zambia.



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**Ms. Celia Nalwadda - Uganda**  
**Cornell University, 2021-2022**  
**Principal Research Officer, Uganda National Academy of Sciences**

Ms. Celia Nalwadda is a science-to-policy translation enthusiast working with the National Academy of Sciences in Uganda. She was a 2021-2022 Humphrey Fellow at Cornell University in the field of Climate Change and Science Policy. She is currently facilitating a team of multi-disciplinary experts in a consensus study looking at fostering community climate action.

**Ms. Annette Nantumbwe - Uganda**  
**Cornell University, 2021-2022**  
**Digital Agriculture Analyst, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)**

Since completing the Hubert Humphrey fellowship program in 2022, Annette has been working with the United Nations Capital Development Fund as a Digital Agriculture Analyst. In her role, she works with agritech companies utilizing their digital platforms to address the challenges of smallholder farmers to access quality inputs, markets, extension, and financial services. Farmers can access all these services through their mobile phones or through Digital Community entrepreneurs. Annette has also embarked on building the capacities of the agriculture financing savings and credit cooperatives in climate-smart agriculture practices (green financing) through the facilitation of workshops for the management and boards of these SACCOs. She also provides technical assistance to them in climate-smart agriculture policy development, manual revision to incorporate these policies, product refinement, and development.

**Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga - Rwanda**  
**University of California, Davis, 2016-2017**  
**Senior Scientist , AKADEMIYA2063**

Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga is a former U.S. Hubert Humphrey Fellow in Agriculture and Rural Development at the University of California Davis. From 2013-2021, Seraphin served as Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analyst in the Government Action Coordination Unit of the Office of The Prime Minister in Rwanda and spearheaded the revision and analysis of key public policies, namely the National Agriculture Policy and the National Land Policy and their implementing legal instruments. Before joining Akademiya2063, Seraphin was serving as Senior Policy and Institutional Development Specialist for the USAID Rwanda Feed The Future Orora Wihaze Activity (a USD 13.8 million project aimed at improving the production and consumption of animal sourced foods). Seraphin introduced the Drycard technology





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in Rwanda. The Drycard is a low-cost innovation invented by the University of California, Davis in the USA which allows smallholder farmers to test the moisture in grains for safe storage and aflatoxin mitigation.

**Ms. Jean Njiru - Kenya**

**Cornell University, 2005- 2006**

**Member of Board of Directors, Agricultural Development Corporation**

Jean Njiru is an experienced agriculture professional. Her experience spans 30 years across government, private sector, and NGOs. Jean is proud to have led the commercialization of the Purdue Improved Crop Storage bags in the East African region. The bags developed by Purdue University have transformed the use of hermetic technologies for grain storage to reduce post-harvest losses. Jean has served as Head of Market Engagement at Farm Africa, an International NGO, and as National Sales Manager of Bell Industries, an agricultural inputs company. As the first Country Coordinator of Land O'Lakes in Kenya, Jean led the implementation of a USAID-funded dairy project. Jean served as a Crops Officer in Kiambu under the Ministry of Agriculture. Jean has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Agriculture Development Corporation, a government parastatal in Kenya, from 2018 to date and a member of the Farm Africa Kenya Board from 2015 to date. Jean is a Hubert Humphrey Fellow (Cornell University) and holds a Master of Professional Studies in International Agriculture & Rural Development (Cornell University), MSc in Plant Pathology, and BSc in Agriculture (University of Nairobi).

**Mr. Alfred Odubasa - South Sudan**

**University of California, Davis, 2014- 2015**

**Programme Manager, Base Net Organization**

Mr. Odubasa is an accomplished and dynamic Programme Manager and Advisory Specialist with 15 years of experience in agriculture and food security situational analysis. Upon successful completion of the Humphrey Program in 2015 at the University of California, Davis, he returned to his home country South Sudan where he consistently supported food security and livelihoods enhancement of vulnerable communities. He linked up with like-minded colleagues to establish and register a not-for-profit organization, Base Net, specializing in promoting food security and a sustainable environment. Working with an international consultant, Mr. Odubasa, in his capacity as a private national consultant, developed two projects 1) strengthening Capacities of Government and Communities to Adapt to Climate Change and 2) Watershed Approaches for Climate Resilience in Agro-pastoral Landscapes. The Global Environment Facilities (GEF) funded both projects to the tune of 9 million USD each, and implementation is going by UNDP/UNIDO and the National Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Mr. Odubasa continues to work with local communities to support food security and resilience.



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**Ms. Noroseheno Ralisoa - Madagascar**

**Cornell University, 2005- 2006**

**Head Research and Development Department, FIFAMANOR Antsirabe Madagascar**

Noroseheno Ralisoa is an Agronomist from Madagascar. She worked on an FAO/UNDP project for rural development and food security on the Eastern Coast of Madagascar more than 25 years ago. She oversees the research and development department at the rural development and applied research center FIFAMANOR in Antsirabe, Madagascar. Ms. Ralisoa is also a Forum for Advisory Services (FCA Madagascar) member. In 2005, she participated in the Humphrey Fellowship Program at Cornell University, organized by the U.S. Department of State. Now, her interest and focus are on using the local landraces of sweet potatoes through its cleaning, multiplying, and sharing the cleaned material to eradicate malnutrition in Madagascar, especially in drought-prone areas.

**Ms. Nirina "Feno" Fenoarifara Randriambololona - Madagascar**

**University of California, Davis, 2015-2016**

**Trainer of Extensionists, Forum du Conseil Agricole**

Ms. Randriambololona is a trainer of trainers and curriculum development Specialist. She is an Agronomist Engineer and holds a Master's degree of Science in Water and Forestry. She worked as Expert Trainer on Food Safety to help exporters know about International norms. She learned the added value of a well-structured extension service to fight against food insecurity. Her main objective is to reach farmers by improving the leadership and communication skills of extensionists. She participated in testing the modules of the New Extensionist Learning Kit project, developed by the Global Forum Rural Advisory Services, and translated modules from English into French to make them adjusted to her home country. She has brought together extensionists and farmers through training sessions to develop a dynamic exchange of experiences about methods and tools of extension with the collaboration of Forum du Conseil Agricole in Madagascar.

**Ms. Christina Ruhinda - Tanzania**

**University of Minnesota, 2021-2022**

**Executive Director, Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP)**

Ms. Christina Ruhinda is a human rights defender. Since she completed the Humphrey Program, she has been engaging the Government to enact Anti-Gender Based Violence Law and amending other relevant laws to enhance efforts to attain gender equality in Tanzania which is one of the causes of food insecurity. Ms. Ruhinda has also been involved in empowering women on their right to own land, make decisions regarding the purchase, sale, or transfer of crop and



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land assets, coordinating the provision of free legal services and public education, and building the capacity of Legal Service Providers and Community Paralegals to reduce gender inequality/inequity and gender-based violence arising from conflicts of control over resources. Ms. Ruhinda was awarded a Certificate for extraordinary leadership in the global movement to end violence against women and girls everywhere. She is a Board member of the Board of Access to Justice and Rule of Law project implemented by the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs and UNDP; a Committee Member of Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign; and Chairperson of Policy Forum and Board Member of the Global Rights for Women among other Boards.

**Mr. Remigius Rushomesa - Tanzania**

**University of California, Davis, 2005- 2006**

**Registered Environmental Impact Assessment Expert**

Mr. Rushomesa is a registered Consulting Environmental Expert with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) and provides expertise in Agriculture, Irrigation, Land Development Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, and Water Resources Development Projects. He was a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow from 2005 to 2006. He then worked as a graduate teaching assistant for GIS and Remote Sensing classes at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale from 2007 to 2010. Upon returning home, Mr. Rushomesa continued providing technical expertise in environmental management, including environmental impact assessments for irrigation projects, creating awareness to irrigation stakeholders on environmental management issues as well as ensuring irrigation activities comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (2004). He retired from the civil service in January 2021. He is currently involved in part-time environmental consulting assignments, including as Environmental and Social Safeguards Expert for two consulting firms supervising construction works for 14 grain warehouses and the Postharvest Centre of Excellence for Grains respectively.

**Mr. Venance Segere - Tanzania**

**University of California, Davis, 2018-2019**

**Regional Environmental Technical Advisor, Morogoro Regional Secretariat Office**

Mr. Venance Soza Segere is a 2018-2019 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Alumnus. His field of study was Natural Resources, Environmental Policy, and Climate Change. Mr. Segere has a Master's in Environment, specializing in climate change from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and holds a bachelor of science in Environmental Sciences and Management from Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania. Mr. Segere has 14 years of postgraduate experience in the field of environment and natural resources conservation and has served at the local and national level in Tanzania.



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He is currently working as the regional environmental technical advisor in the Morogoro region of Tanzania. His primary role is to advise local government authorities on matters relating to the implementation and enforcement of the Tanzania Environmental Management Act. He is also a link person between the region in which he is employed with the Director of Environment from the Vice President's Office as well as the Director General of the National Environment Management Council. Mr. Segere also serves as the manager for the Tanzania Eastern Zone Agricultural Exhibitions grounds famously known as Nane Nane.

**Dr. Albert Novas Somanje - Zambia**

**University of California, Davis, 2009-2010**

**Senior Agricultural Officer/Researcher, Ministry of Agriculture, Zambia**

Dr. Albert Novas Somanje (Ph.D.) is a Senior Agricultural Officer and a Sustainability Specialist with the Ministry of Agriculture in Zambia. He is also a freelance consultant. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Sustainability Science from the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability. Besides, he holds a Master's degree in Climate Change and Development from the University of Cape Town and is certified in project management. His areas of interest and expertise include sustainable agricultural production, food security, urban-rural linkages, climate change, and sustainable development.

**Mrs. Queen Turner - Botswana**

**University of California, Davis, 2012-2013**

**Retired, Former Head of Beekeeping Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Botswana**

After completing the Humphrey Program in 2013, Mrs. Turner continued to serve with the Ministry of Agriculture in Botswana, where she was able to contribute to the development of sustainable food production within the Beekeeping Division. She continued to gain experience in various aspects of the food industry, including new ideas in food production, honey production, developing honey standards, and marketing. She worked with organizations, including the Botswana Bureau of Standards and the African Apiculture Platform, where she represented Botswana in the Executive Committee. One of the highlights of her career was running training workshops for beekeepers, women, and youth in rural areas and conducting research into fake honey sales and substandard related products. Since retiring, Mrs. Turner has remained active in the food community, advising local honey producers on production methods, packaging, marketing, and sales and assisting in sales and distribution operations. She is also undertaking a project examining household potato farming as a means of mitigating food shortages.