

## 2019 ATI SUMMIT SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES *In order of appearance*



### FEMI OKE

#### **Moderate the Panel**

#### **Professional Moderator & Co-Founder**

**Femi Oke** is an award-winning international journalist, broadcaster, professional moderator and co-founder of the diverse moderators bureau "Moderate The Panel."

Femi's reporting has been recognized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Communications Agency and InterAction. Since the 1980s, she has worked for some of the biggest global news outlets in the world including the BBC, Sky TV, CNN and NPR. As an international moderator Femi has presided over high-profile events like European Development Days for the European Commission, NBA Africa All-Stars annual gathering, and the historic Barbershop Conference at the United Nations Headquarters.



### DR. DEREK YACH

#### **Foundation for a Smoke-Free World**

#### **Founder, President & Board Member**

**Dr. Derek Yach**, a global health expert and anti-smoking advocate for more than 30 years, is the president of the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World. Throughout his career, he has supported and led smoking cessation research and policy development and has been a strong proponent of harm reduction policies, calling for a greater emphasis on harm reduction as early as 2005. He is also a passionate advocate of health promotion and disease prevention and is advancing his career's work at the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World.

Dr. Yach is a former World Health Organization (WHO) cabinet director and executive director for noncommunicable diseases and mental health where he was deeply involved with the development of the world's treaty on tobacco control, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. He is also the former chief health officer of the Vitality Group, executive director of the Vitality Institute, SVP global health and agriculture policy at PepsiCo, director of global health at the Rockefeller Foundation, and a professor of global health at Yale University. He has authored or co-authored more than 250 peer reviewed articles on global health and has served on several advisory boards, including the World Economic Forum, Cornerstone Capital and the Wellcome Trust. From 2007 to 2016, he served on the program advisory committee of the Clinton Global Initiative.



## HONOURABLE KONDWANI NAKHUMWA

### Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development

**Honourable Kondwani Nankhumwa, M.P.** is the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development and has been since June 2019. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MOAIWD) is one of the key ministries in the Malawi Government. Agriculture, being the mainstay of the country's economy, makes the Ministry prominent in Malawi society in general, and in its contribution to the economy in particular. The Ministry is organized into seven technical Departments namely Agriculture Extension Services, Crops Development, Animal Health and Industry, Agriculture Research, Agriculture Planning Services, Land Resource and Conservation, and Fisheries. The Ministry also includes Irrigation and Water Development, the Government institution responsible for the water sub-sector.

Honourable Kondwani Nankhumwa, M.P. is also the Leader of the House in Parliament as well as the Vice President of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party. Honourable Kondwani Nankhumwa, M.P. has a master's degree in Diplomacy and International Relations and also a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication.



## WILLIAM KAMKWAMBA

### Moving Windmills

#### Author & Innovator

**William Kamkwamba** is an author and innovator in Malawi, where he designs development projects, including safe water delivery and educational access. William tells his story in the co-authored text "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" with Bryan Mealer. Among other distinctions, William is a TED Fellow, IDEO.org Global Fellow, and co-founder of Moving Windmills Project. William helps bridge the gap between "knowing" and "doing" by mentoring young people on building their own solutions. In his free time, William enjoys good music and Wimbe United games. William is from Kasungu and currently splits his time between Malawi and NC. Please email email [william@movingwindmills.org](mailto:william@movingwindmills.org) or go to [www.movingwindmills.org](http://www.movingwindmills.org) to contact William.



## TITIANNE DONDE-OMMES

**Centre for Agricultural Transformation**

**Director of Business Incubation and Commercialization**

**Titianne Donde-Ommes** is the Director of Business Incubation and Commercialization at the Centre for Agricultural Transformation (CAT). In this role, Titianne leads the identification and incubation of agri-businesses that will bring modern technologies to farmers across Malawi. Before joining the CAT, Titianne worked as Regional Advisor for the Council on Smallholder Agricultural Finance, and as Chief of Party for the Kenya Innovation Engine. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an MSc. in Entrepreneurship.

In her free time, Titianne enjoys well brewed black coffee and upbeat music.

Originally from Nairobi, Kenya, she is currently based in Lilongwe, Malawi and can be reached at [TDonde@landolakes.org](mailto:TDonde@landolakes.org).



## YOHANE CHIMBALANGA

**National Commission for Science and Technology**

**Research Services Officer for Agriculture Sciences**

**Yohane Chimbalanga** is an officer at National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST), who coordinates research activities in the agriculture sector. His roles mostly involve supporting, promoting, coordinating and regulating development and application of science, technology and innovation in agriculture sciences. Yohane has a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management from the University of Malawi and a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from Mississippi State University in the United States of America. Before joining NCST, Yohane worked as a Scientific Officer at the National Research Council of Malawi (NRCM) and also as a Business Development Officer at Seed Trade Association of Malawi (STAM). In his free time, Yohane enjoys watching soccer and reading magazines. Yohane is originally from Machinga, Malawi but is currently based in Lilongwe. Please email [ychimbalanga@ncst.mw](mailto:ychimbalanga@ncst.mw) to contact Yohane.



## SALIM AHMED MAPILA

**African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)**

**Knowledge Translation Officer**

**Salim Ahmed Mapila** is a Knowledge Translation Officer (KTO) at the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), where he provides technical support on the generation, synthesis, and translation of research evidence for policy makers at national and regional levels. Salim holds a Master of Arts in Economics and a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree biased in Development Economics. Before AFIDEP, Salim has in the past 7 years worked as an Economics Lecturer, Researcher, and Economist for several agricultural consortia.

Outside of his formal professional engagement, Salim serves on the National Planning Commission's (NPC) Youth Core Advisory Committee (CAP), informing the envisioning process for Malawi's development plans. Malawian by nationality, Salim is currently based in Lilongwe, the Capital City of Malawi. Please email: [salim.mapila@afidep.org](mailto:salim.mapila@afidep.org) or go to <https://www.afidep.org/> to contact Salim.



## TIM STRONG

**Opportunity International**

**Director of Agricultural Finance and Branchless Banking**

**Timothy Strong** is Opportunity International's Global Director of Agricultural Finance. He is responsible for strategic management and coordination of the Agriculture portfolio throughout Opportunity's network. He is originally from Northern California and has worked in Southern and Eastern Africa since 2005. Previously, he has worked with a Silicon Valley start-up coordinating Lean and Kaizen project management, the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Services under the U.C. Davis Dept of Pomology, the U.S. Peace Corps, the Clinton Foundation, and several commercial farms. He received a BS in Biochemistry and Plant Physiology from the University of California at Davis and holds an MA in International Environmental Policy and an MBA in Operations Management from Middlebury College in California. He lives with his family in Lilongwe, Malawi.



## ANDREW GOODMAN

**Horizon Farms Limited**  
**Director**

**Andrew K Goodman** is currently working as Director at Horizon Farming Ltd; Project and Operations Manager at Lisungwi Estate. Andrew is also the Project Manager on the Horizon Anchor Farm Integrated Services (HAFIS) Project in partnership with USAID; Feed the Future's Malawi Agriculture Diversification Activity. Andrew also works as the Principal Investigator on a number of research projects in partnership with the Peanut Mycotoxin Innovation Lab at the University of Georgia and the Soya Innovation Lab at the University of Illinois and IITA in conjunction with DARS. He previously worked for Exagris Africa Limited as a Management Trainee. Andrew studied Agriculture at Sparshot College in the United Kingdom.



## ANNA CHIMALIZENI

**Horizon Farms Limited**  
**Farmer Support Agent**

**Anna Chimalizeni** is a Farmer Support Agent and Lead Farmer for Horizon Farms Limited. Anna supports roughly eighty outgrower smallholder farmers through training in financial literacy, good agricultural practices, digital profiling, and market linkages.



## PATRICIA KANYANGA AND LUPHESS MAJOR

**Horizon Farms Limited**  
**Smallholder Farmers**

**Patricia Kanyanga and Luphess Major** are Horizon Farms Limited Smallholder Farmers. As a married couple, Patricia and Luphess are currently transitioning from farming tobacco to commercially growing soya and groundnuts.





## BHAHATI ZIMBA

**Opportunity International Malawi**  
**Senior Programs Officer**

**Bhahati Zimba** is a senior programs officer at Opportunity International Malawi, where she has worked for nine years. Bhahati current roles include working directly with the project manage, developing schedules and budgets for current project, supervising Farmer support agents and coordinates all project activities.

Before coming a senior program officer, she also worked as a Transformation supervisor, Transformation officer and youth relation officer at Opportunity Bank of Malawi. Bhahati also worked as an Agricultural Extension Development Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture for five years. As part of her social work she has worked towards building economic empowerment for women, youths and those that are economically maginalised inorder to transform their lives and that of their communities. She has championed several projects and facilitated and coordinated community-based programs. Bhahati holds a bachelor's degree in Community development obtained from Pentecostal Life University and a Diploma from Natural Resources College.



## KOBUS LOUW

**FMBcapital Holdings Plc Group**  
**General Manager Group Credit**

**Kobus Louw** is General Manager Group Credit at FMBcapital Holdings (Parent of First Capital Bank Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe). Kobus oversees credit extension, including strategy and appetite formulation. Kobus holds an MBA and MPhil (Futures Studies) and is studying Environmental and Social Responsibility Management, and offers experience in Sales and Credit Risk. Kobus has experience in Southern African countries with DFIs and NGOs. Before FMBcapital, Kobus worked for Standard Bank and FirstRand Bank, lastly heading Namibian Corporate and Commercial Banking.

In his free time, Kobus enjoys mountain biking and traveling. Kobus is originally from South Africa, but currently based in Blantyre. Please contact Kobus on [kobus.louw@fmbcapitalgroup.com](mailto:kobus.louw@fmbcapitalgroup.com).



## JEREMY COATS

**Institute of International Education**

**Lead, Foundation Programs**

**Jeremy Coats** serves as Lead, Foundation Programs at the Institute of International Education (IIE) where he oversees a portfolio of exchange programs for scholars, students and professionals. He is also pursuing a Doctorate of Education at George Washington University. Jeremy served in the Peace Corps in Mali as an instructor of American studies at the University of Bamako and the Conservatory of Arts and Multimedia Balla Fasseké Kouyate, Bamako. He also lived and taught in South Korea. Jeremy spends his free time gardening and enjoys hiking and camping.



## DR. ADDRESS MALATA

**Malawi University of Science and Technology**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Address Malata** is the Vice Chancellor of the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), Acting Director for the International Centre for Quality Management and Research (ICQMR) at MUST. She is former President of Africa Honor Society of Nursing of Sigma Theta Tau International; former Vice President of International Confederation of Midwives and former Principal of Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN), a constituent college of the University of Malawi where she spearheaded efforts to make KCN a World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Inter Professional Education and Leadership in 2016.



## DR. BECKY BART

**Donald Danforth Plant Science Center**

**Associate Faculty Member, Principle Investigator**

**Becky Bart** completed her undergraduate education at Reed College in Portland, Oregon before pursuing her doctoral research in the Plant Pathology Department at UC Davis. There she worked with Professor Pamela Ronald to elucidate genetic components of the rice innate immune response. Becky then worked as a postdoctoral scholar in Professor Brian Staskawicz's laboratory at UC Berkeley to further understand the molecular and genetic interaction between the important food crop, cassava, and its major bacterial pathogen *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *manihotis*. Becky began her own laboratory at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in the Fall of 2013 where she is continuing her work on cassava and expanding her focus to other important *Xanthomonas* incited diseases.



## DR. DANIEL SIKAWA

**Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Dean of Faculty of Natural Resources**

**Daniel Sikawa** is the Dean of Faculty of Natural Resources at LUANAR. Daniel is also an Associate Professor in Aquatic Resources Management in the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries Science. Daniel has a special interest in Aquaculture Production Systems and vast experience in integrated agriculture and aquaculture systems. He began his academic career in 1999, but before that he worked in the Ministry of Natural Resources' Department of Fisheries as a Regional Fisheries Officer for the Northern Region of Malawi. Daniel has a PhD from the Asian Institute of Technology of Bangkok, Thailand. In his free time, Daniel enjoys watching soccer, especially Arsenal. Daniel can be contacted at [dsikawa@lunar.ac.mw](mailto:dsikawa@lunar.ac.mw).





## JOHN LISHMAN

### Palladium

#### **Team Lead: Investment Support Facility (ISF) for Smallholder Inclusive Transactions for Malawi**

**John Lishman** is currently the Team Lead for the Investment Support Facility for Smallholder Inclusive Transactions for Malawi. John brings vast financial, insurance and smallholder experience coupled with a strong commercial acumen as demonstrated by his career. Prior to this role, John worked in the financial sector for 16 years specializing in agricultural finance with a regional (African) focus. He also worked for one of the largest privately owned companies in the United States where he managed a 40,000+ integrated smallholder business based in Zambia. Lastly, John also worked for a leading global reinsurance company specializing in parametric insurance solutions within the agricultural sector where he was responsible for Sub-Saharan Africa. John holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics and a Diploma in the Science and Practice of Agriculture.



## AGNES KANJALA

### Pula

#### **Regional Lead**

**Agnes Kanjala** works as a Regional Lead at Pula where she oversees the company's innovative crop insurance business in Zambia and Malawi. She recently concluded a non-degree program on Business Leadership at the Spears School of Business as a Mandela Washington Fellow in the US and earned her MBA at The African Leadership University in Rwanda. Prior to joining Pula, she contributed to product innovation at Zoono Malawi and Zambia. She also supported the set-up of One Acre Fund Malawi and held several leadership roles in monitoring, evaluation and research.



## MASTER MBALE

**NICO General Insurance Co. Ltd.**

**Assistant General Manager – Operations**

**Master Mbale** is the Assistant General Manager of Operations for NICO General Insurance Co. Ltd. and has worked in the Malawian insurance industry for twenty-five years. Master has his Advanced Diploma in Insurance (ACII) and was awarded his Master's in Business Administration from the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) in 2009. Master has also previously served as Education Secretary for the Insurance Institute of Malawi and as president of Insurance Institute of Malawi. He was once a lecturer at Malawi College of Accountancy teaching insurance courses. He has also served as president of the Insurance Association of Malawi's Lilongwe Chapter. He currently sits on the Insurance Association of Malawi Committee as an alternate member.



## JESSE FLANAGAN

**One Acre Fund Malawi**

**Country Director**

**Jesse Flanagan** works as Country Director for One Acre Fund Malawi. One Acre Fund is a social enterprise that provides training and agricultural inputs on loans to farmers across 10 countries across East and Southern Africa. One Acre Fund Malawi will help +25,000 farm families to improve their harvests this season and has plans to scale to serve +200,000 farmers in the next 5 years. Before working as Country Director in Malawi, Jesse worked for 4 years designing and implementing changes to the One Acre Fund program in Kenya.



## IREEN MBEWE

**One Acre Fund Malawi**

**Lead Farmer**

**Ireen Mbeve** is a Lead Farmer from Kuchombo Village of Group Village Headman Kumponda. Ireen is a forty-year-old mother of five children and a widow. She is a retired teacher and holds a teaching certificate. Currently, Ireen works as an Mpamba Agent for Ntenjera section site. Ireen enjoys farming and listening to gospel music.



## RICHARD FERGUSON

**Foundation for a Smoke-Free World**

**Investment Advisor**

**Richard Ferguson** is the Managing Director and Founder of Ferguson Cardo and Investment Advisor for the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World. His investment banking career began in 1989 in Edinburgh. He spent nine years in Asia working as an analyst. After a further four years in Latin America and Paris, Richard joined Nomura's emerging markets group in London. After a spell at Moscow-based Renaissance Capital, Richard established Ferguson Cardo. He has worked on agribusiness fundraisings across Latin America, Africa, Asia and the CIS. He is the author of *"African agriculture: This other Eden"*, *"A revolution of sorts"* and *"China's grain drain"* and the agriculture chapter of *"The Fastest Billion"*. Richard holds degrees from the Universities in Glasgow and Paris.



## KOBI RUTHENBERG

**ORG Permanent Modernity**

**Associate Director in Urbanism**

**Kobi Ruthenberg**, BArch, SMarchS is an Associate Director in Urbanism at ORG Permanent Modernity. At ORG, Ruthenberg heads the New York office with a diverse set of projects globally. Recent and ongoing projects include; a national spatial plan for Malawi, a mobility-tech study for Belgium, the Regional Plan Association's Fourth Plan for the New York metropolitan area, industrial innovation masterplans along the Brooklyn waterfront, and the award-winning 'New Meadowlands' Rebuild by Design project, post Hurricane Sandy for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Prior to joining ORG in 2015, Kobi was a research associate at the MIT Center for Advanced Urbanism (CAU). Ruthenberg obtained his post-professional Masters in Architecture and Urbanism at MIT in 2013 and his Bachelors in Architecture from the Israel Institute of Technology (Technion) in 2008.

## DAVIE BINTON CHILONGA

**Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development**

**Team Leader, Land Reforms Implementation Unit**

**Davie Chilonga** has been the Team Leader of the Land Reforms Implementation Unit for two years. Prior to this role, he was Deputy Commissioner for Lands responsible for Estate Management in Malawi. He has worked in the Ministry for nearly eighteen years in several divisions including Legal, Valuation and Estate Management. Davie has a master's degree in Property Development from University of Portsmouth in the UK, a bachelor's degree in Land Surveying from The Malawi Polytechnic, a diploma in Project Management from Galilee College in Israel and other numerous diplomas and certificates on Land Tenure as well as Biblical Studies. Davie has over the years coordinated several multi-sector land tenure related projects as well as infrastructural projects in the Ministry. These are projects supported by Malawi Government, World Bank, European Union, UN, Flanders and others.

In his free time, Davie enjoys reading, playing musical instruments and singing. Davie is a Malawian based in Malawi. Please email [daviechilonga@gmail.com](mailto:daviechilonga@gmail.com) to contact Davie.



## BOUKE BIJL

**Agricane**

**Senior Consultant**

**Bouke Bijl** is a Senior Consultant with Agricane, a farming and land development business. He has a wide range of experiences in the management of large-scale operations in Malawi including two years as an Agronomist on the Nchalo Estate, three years as an Estate Manager on coffee and macadamia plantations and two years as an Agricultural Manager on the Lujeri Tea Estate. In addition to more than a decade's experience in project management with Agricane, Bouke holds a BS and an MS from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.



## DR. PHILIP PARDEY

**University of Minnesota, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences**

**Professor of Science and Technology Policy**

**Director of Global Research Strategy**

**Philip G. Pardey** is Professor of Science and Technology Policy at the University of Minnesota, and Director of Global Research Strategy for the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS). He also co-directs the University's GEMS agroinformatics center, a venture jointly led by CFANS and the Minnesota Supercomputing Institute. Previously he was a senior research fellow at IFPRI, Washington D.C. and ISNAR, The Hague, Netherlands. Philip's career has focused on enabling data driven innovation in the food and agricultural sectors worldwide. He is author of more than 380 books, articles, and papers, a listing of which is at [www.instepp.umn.edu/about-us/people/philip-pardey](http://www.instepp.umn.edu/about-us/people/philip-pardey).



## DR. ALI JOGLEKAR

**University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics; GEMS Agroinformatic Initiative**

**Adjunct Assistant Professor; Research Associate**

**Ali Joglekar** is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Economics and Research Associate with the GEMS Agroinformatic Initiative, both at the University of Minnesota. Ali's research focuses on the spatially-explicit characterization of farming and its implications on agricultural productivity throughout the developing and developed world. Her work involves creating, enhancing and maintaining spatial bio-economic models and datasets and undertaking research to inform practical and policy decisions of governments, food and agribusiness interests, and others.

In her free time, Ali enjoys dragon boating and hiking with her dogs. Please email [joglekar@umn.edu](mailto:joglekar@umn.edu) to contact Ali.





## DR. BRYAN RUNCK

**GEMS Agroinformatics Initiative, University of Minnesota**  
**Geocomputing Scientist**

**Bryan Runck**, PhD is a geocomputing scientist whose research focuses broadly on digital agriculture. In particular, his work considers two things: 1) scaling low cost, connected sensing and actuation systems, and 2) the application of artificial intelligence and machine learning in agriculture. He is a Research Associate with the GEMS Agroinformatics Initiative and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota. He is also a Visiting Research Scientist with the Department of Computer Science at the University of Southern California. Bryan holds an M.S. in the Applied Plant Sciences emphasizing agroecology and a Ph.D. in Geography emphasizing geocomputing from the University of Minnesota.



## DR. MAXWELL MKONDIWA

**Centre for Agricultural Research and Development at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Centre for Agricultural Research and Development**  
**Research Associate**

**Maxwell Mkondiwa** is a Research Associate with the Centre for Agricultural Research and Development at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He received his PhD in Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota in 2019. While pursuing his PhD, Maxwell served as a Graduate Research Assistant on a project funded by the McKnight Foundation titled “Appropriately Targeting and Scaling Crop Management Recommendations: A Case Study of Integrated Maize-Legume Systems in Southern Africa.” His current research interests are in the spatial and temporal bio-economic analysis of agricultural research recommendations, identifying appropriate scales for such recommendations and quantification of agricultural research and innovation spillovers. Maxwell obtained a BS in Agricultural Economics at University of Malawi, a MS in Research Methods from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and a MS in Applied Economics from University of Minnesota. He previously taught agricultural statistics at Bunda College from 2011 to -2013 while also conducting development-oriented research at the Center for Agricultural Research and Development at Bunda College.



## DR. JAN GREYLING

**Stellenbosch University, Department of Agricultural Economics**

**Lead, Stellenbosch Agroinformatics Initiative**

**Jan C. Greyling** is currently a faculty member of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Stellenbosch University (SU). He holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Stellenbosch University. Jan's primary research interest is long term agricultural development, agricultural technology and interdisciplinary, data-intensive research in agriculture. Jan is the lead of Stellenbosch University's AgriSciences Faculty AgroInformatics Unit and the SU coordinator of the science, technology and innovation (STI) projects within the Centre for Agricultural Transformation (CAT) in Malawi. In addition, Jan is the Co-Project Manager of the Impacts of Land Use Patterns in South Africa (ILUPSA), a joint research project between the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (FNSNF).



## DR. CANDIDA NAKHUMWA

**Agricultural Transformation Initiative**

**Country Director, Malawi**

**Dr. Candida Nakhumwa** is the Agricultural Transformation Initiative Country Director for Malawi.

Candida manages the Agricultural Transformation Initiative activities in the country. She works closely with smallholder farmer organizations and agricultural cooperatives to identify and develop structured value chains that will promote transformation and inclusive growth for Malawian farmers. Additionally, she is responsible for management of strategic partnerships with government and private sector development partners and civil society in Malawi's agriculture sector.

Dr. Nakhumwa holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Greenwich, UK. She also has her MS and BS degrees in Agricultural Economics and Agriculture, respectively, from the University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture.



## PROFESSOR GEORGE YOBE KANYAMA PHIRI

**Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Dr. George Yobe Kanyama Phiri** is a range manager, an agronomist, and an agro-forester. He is a full Professor of Crop Science. He holds a Diploma in Range Management from Egerton College (now Egerton University) in Kenya; He also holds BS, MS and PhD degrees in Agronomy from Florida A&M University, University of California and Texas A&M University, respectively.

He has published more than 31 articles in refereed journals, 20 articles in conference proceedings, 10 articles in research bulletins, 15 technical papers, four book chapters and three monographs. His current research interests involve the evaluation of groundnuts, soya beans and pigeon peas in a monoculture and in doubled-up combinations for soil fertility improvement, legume and maize yields.

Professor Kanyama Phiri has held numerous positions including the following: Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture (University of Malawi); Chairman of the University of Malawi Deans Committee; Chairman of the SADC University Deans of Agriculture; Principal of Bunda College of Agriculture (University of Malawi); Chairman of the Malawi Human Rights Commission; Chairman of the Board of Directors for Initiative for the Development and Equity in African Agriculture; Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC); National Coordinator for the Green Belt Initiative; He is currently the Vice Chancellor for Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and the Chancellor for Nkhoma University.