



Young Scientists & Outstanding Farmers

AWARDS 2022



Our Vision

The RUFORUM Vision 2030 envisions vibrant, transformative universities catalyzing sustainable, inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa.

Our Mission

RUFORUM's mission is to strengthen the capacities of universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact-oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions and governments.

Our Motivation

To strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to the demands of smallholder farmers and value chains through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact-oriented research, and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, market actors, national agricultural research and advocacy institutions, and governments.





FOREWORD

Prof. Adipala Ekwamu
Executive Secretary
RUFORUM

find solutions to her problems particularly in the Agriculture sector, which is the backbone of the African Economy. The improvement of the agriculture through researching improved Agriculture practices will make agriculture more sustainable, resilient and more paying for generation.

Science is the key for the development of Africa as for other parts of the world. Scientists help to guide, to search and propose better solutions for the challenges faced by the communities in various aspects of life. Many were considering education as important to only educated people and their immediate families but now educated people are providing solution to not only their families but also the whole humanity. For tomorrow, Africa's scientists will be the booster the progress of the continent if well supported.

Across the continent, from South to north, west to east and central, science has shown the potential of transforming communities. However, the budget allocated to science (Training and Research) is relatively low. Fortunately, African Governments are now thinking beyond and willing to increase the budget allocation into education and research sectors. If this happens, Africa will

Most farmers in Africa are only practicing to feed their families but there are also farmers who are trying to feed and are also practice agriculture as a business. These farmers are role models and encourage other farmers so that we can have enough food to feed the whole African Continent and reduce on food importation into the continent.

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) runs the RUFORUM Young Scientist and Outstanding Farmers Call periodically in selected African countries. For this call, independent assessors identified three (3) young scientists and five (5) farmers for the work to transform communities in Zimbabwe.

On behalf of the RUFORUM Network, I congratulate the three (3) 2022 Zimbabwe Young Scientists Winners and the five (5) top farmers for the work to transform communities.



Young Scientists





Bruce Mutari is a plant breeding scientist who has released eight (8) demand/market-led niche dry bean cultivars which include Sweet violet, Sweet William, NUA674, Protea, Canpsula, Gloxinia, Cherry and Jasmine for production in Zimbabwe and these cultivars have been shared and adopted in other Southern Africa countries through the Southern African Bean Research Network for a wider impact. The Sweet William Cultivar has helped farmers in drought-prone areas prefer this cultivar (due to its ability to produce pods under drought) including those in irrigation schemes due to its short growth duration (reducing the number of irrigation cycles).

Mutari has also worked on cultivar dissemination through participatory varietal selection and Innovation Platform approach to improve adoption rates among farmers. This increased the adoption rate (from 2% in 2015 to 11% in 2019) of “NUA45” the first bio-fortified bean cultivar in Zimbabwe through commercialization of bean based products, five multi-stakeholder, participatory and operational Innovation Platform approach. This led to the increase in the number of seed companies and entrepreneurs in Zimbabwe multiplying and processing dry bean seed and grain, respectively.

Bruce Mutari has 11 years of bean research for development experience in multidisciplinary Project Coordination, Conventional and Marker Assisted Plant Breeding, Demand Led-Breeding, and Product Profiling, Participatory Plant Breeding, Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation, and project proposal development.

Bruce Mutari has won national awards at individual and institutional level coordinated and implemented international, multidisciplinary, and collaborative projects. Mutari’s career goal is to improve food, nutrition, and income security of rural and urban poor households by developing, releasing, and disseminating market demanded, bio-fortified, multiple constraint resilient and high yielding crop cultivars.

This award is given to Bruce Mutari for his work on developing and disseminating different beans cultivars, which has contributed to reduce food insecurity amongst the local farmers and benefitting millions of households in Zimbabwe and Africa.



Dr Casper Nyaradzai Kamutando is a passionate scientist in the fields of plant sciences and genetics. He holds a PhD degree in Genetics from the Center of Microbial Ecology and Genomics, University of Pretoria. In his PhD study, he demonstrated that rhizosphere microbiota harbor important functional roles that promote plant fitness under environments characterized by abiotic stresses and that, the plant genotype selects specific microbial taxa with potential to perform functions beneficial to plant growth and development.

Dr. Kamutando joined the University of Zimbabwe as a Senior Lecturer, and since

then, he has contributed in mentoring 2 PhD graduates and more than 20 masters students. Dr Kamutando has so-far, co-published over 20 Papers and 2 Book chapters with renowned scientists from: (i) regional and international universities (i.e., University of the Free State, University of Stellenbosch, Macquarie University, Reunion University, University of Pretoria, University of Hawaii At Manoa, and Western Cape University; (ii) Local universities (i.e., Midlands State University); and, (iii) International research institutes (i.e., ICRISAT (Zimbabwe), CIMMYT (Zimbabwe), IRNASA-CSIC (Spain), Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute (The Netherlands), and Agricultural Research Council (South Africa)). His passion lies in developing technologies that enhances crop resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses by harnessing genetic potential of crops as well as their holobiont (especially, the beneficial microorganisms).

He is currently involved in metagenomics-related studies in-which they aim to fingerprint the diversity and to depict the functional potential of the rhizosphere microbiome associated with the root system of sorghum under combined drought and heat stress conditions. He is also involved in a project in Angola where we aim to develop maize inbred lines with acid tolerance using the DH technology.

This award is given to Casper Nyaradzai Kamutando for his work and contribution into knowledge sharing through the publication of over 20 peer-reviewed journal articles and 2 book chapters.



Joseph Manzvera is an Agricultural Economist by profession. Before commencing his PhD studies Joseph also supported evidence generation to enhance data driven agricultural policies and strategies development in Zimbabwe. He was also part of the team led the pilot project of warehouse receipt system (WRS) and the development of the WRS investment plan. Joseph is currently pursuing a PhD in Applied Agricultural Economics and Policy at the University of Ghana. As an effort to strengthen investments in climate services, Joseph's PhD research is focusing on economic valuation of climate and weather

forecast services among smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe.

Joseph Manzvera has won several awards including the Vice Chancellor's Creativity and Innovation grant at Bindura University in 2016, RUFORUM Young Africa Innovation Award 2018, SMART Connect team in 2018 and outstanding research award by Research Council of Zimbabwe in 2019. He led a team to develop a novel mobile platform, (SMART Connect), to connect farmers to markets. The intellectual property rights of this platform were filed at Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office in 2016 and thereafter a pilot project was implemented in Mashonaland Central province in 2017. He developed the SMART Connect App, which is now available on Google PlayStore.

Since weather forecasts are critical in supporting farming decisions such as scheduling planting dates, Joseph's PhD research is focusing on estimating the economic value of weather services. It is anticipated that, the insights from this research will enhance mechanisms to integrate weather forecast information on SMART Connect platform to support farming decisions given escalating climate risks.

This award is given to Joseph Manzvera for his innovation for harnessing technology to help farmers to make informed decision and thus reduce their vulnerability to climate and other threats to agriculture.



Outstanding Farmers



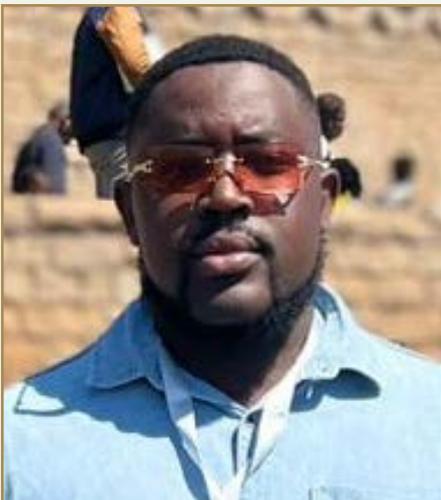
Marshall is the Managing Director of Kwayedza Farm, Glendale in Mashonaland Central, Province. Marshall graduated from Blackfordby College Agricultural College, Concession with a Diploma in Agriculture in 2021. During his one-year attachment, he worked at Heyshott Pvt Ltd in Concession.

During attachment, Marshall was involved with keeping an up-to-date control measures of pests and diseases in maize, wheat, berries and peas as well as labour management of farm workers. He contributed to ensuring that the farm was profitable and meets

projected financial targets.

After graduating Marshall was employed as Managing Director at Kwayedza Farm, Glendale. Where he provides inspiration, motivation, and guidance to all workers. Organizing sales and purchases of livestock, farm equipment, crops and agricultural products.

His current projects include 52 cattle herd, goats 61, sheep 10, 7 sow unit pig unit, 300 chickens and 32 ducks.



Marshall Gezi
Kwayedza Farm,
Mashonaland Central



Lincoln Farai Chirinda, graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration Majoring in Finance. He was employed by African Banking Corporation now BancABC from 2008 to 2019 where he served in Treasury Division as a Treasury Money Dealer for 6 Years & Business Development Manager in the Corporate & Investment Banking for 5 Years.

On the Agricultural Farming Side, Chirinda started working with his late parents in 2008 as an Understudy and Part time assistant during weekend in the management of the

Family Farming Enterprise, which is crop & livestock farming production. In 2019, Chirinda resigned from serving in the Bank to undertake full time Farming as career after the passing of his Father.

Chirinda is currently running a crop production farm (800 Ha Annual Production), Summer (Maize 250 Ha with average yields of 8mt/ha and Soya Bean - 150 Ha with an average yield of 3.5mt/ha), Winter (Wheat - 360 Ha with an average of 6 mt/ha Premium grade). He is also practicing livestock rearing with 300 Herd of Beef Cattle, 150 Herd of Goats and 25 Herd of Sheep.



Lincoln Farai Chirinda
Family Farming Enterprise



Macheri was born on 27 July 1988 and holds an MSc in Marketing Strategy and a BSc in Agricultural Economics and Management. He has worked as an agronomy officer for a large corporate that dealt with export roses and vegetables as well as field crops- wheat, soya beans, maize and tobacco.

Macheri started farming in 2014, leasing small plots from willing farmers as he grew his knowledge and financial strength. All the horticulture crops are strategically grown against the season to capture the market at its strongest prices.

Macheri owns 15ha tobacco and commercial maize 3ha. Area Darwendale (Mudotwe Farm and Ngorima Farm) and 5ha tobacco, commercial maize 10ha, onion Production 1ha in Trelawney (Ilsham Farm) that he works together with his paternal Uncle. Some of his great achievement includes: acquiring a 20ha towable pivot 2 ha drip kit and 40kva generator and smaller ones, to sustain curing and other operations; Re-electrifying a 11 conventional barns and 2 long lows, equipping boreholes to increase irrigation capacity and land clearing to have more cropping land (10ha).



Olivia Macheri
Colenso Farm, Trelawney,
Zvimba District



Terence Muripo is 37 years old with a bachelor's degree in computer science from Bindura University. Terence started goat farming in 2015 at his parents' plot in Bindura with 37 local Mashona breed females, which were crossed with Boer bucks. The herd to peak of 500 in 2019.

After facing grazing shortages many of the Mashona goats and imported 30 pure Boer

does and 2 bucks from South Africa. Muripo is now breeding pure Boer goats as well as crosses with indigenous goats. He has relocated the project to bigger farm in Mt. Darwin in order to increase flock size. The flock size is currently the herd consists of 25 pure Boer females and 80 female crosses.

Terence Muripo offers farmer-to-farmer goat training to other goat farmers.



Terence Muripo



Maphosa is a graduate from University of Zimbabwe with a degree in Political Science. Started working as a shop attendant before starting roadrunner chickens in 2017. Maphosa is currently a full time farmer who specializes in breeding roadrunners and now have a total 500 breeders.

Maphosa's sales cover the whole of Zimbabwe after he started goat farming in Mhondoro Gezi in 2020 and the herd is now 179. Maphosa also opened the first rural restaurant in Mhondoro to promote rural tourism. This was to add value to my chicken and goat project. Other villagers can also market their products from his business hence He contributes to promoting and uplifting his fellow villagers.



Terence Maphosa



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