



### **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).**



Dr. Amson Sibanda leads and manages the activities undertaken by the Branch that support DESA’s operational work aimed at developing capacities of developing countries to translate internationally agreed policy frameworks and programmes at global, regional and country-levels. Prior to his appointment in January 2020, Dr. Sibanda was the Chief of the Social Policy Analysis Section in the Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Dr. Sibanda has published widely on African demography, migration and employment, children's schooling, fertility trends, HIV/AIDS, child marriage, household structure, poverty and inequality.

#### **Dr John Bhasera, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe**



Prior to joining the Ministry, Dr Basera was with CBZ Holdings, as a Technical Director (Agriculture) in 2019. Before joining CBZ, he was with Seed Co Ltd for about 4 years, as an Agronomy and Extension Services Manager (Southern Africa). In addition, Dr Basera has vast experience in agriculture with an inclination to agronomy, agricultural research, extension services, agricultural value chain management, agricultural strategy, finance and marketing. He has worked in SADC countries, namely Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Namibia. In February 2021, Basera was named the Young Corporate Director for the year 2020 by the Institute of Corporate Directors Zimbabwe (ICDZ).

#### **Dr. Patrice Talla, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa and Representative for Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Eswatini**



Dr. Patrice Talla Takoukam, a national of Cameroon, has been FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa since September 2020. Prior to that Dr Talla was FAO Representative in Madagascar and covering Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles, under the multiple-accreditation scheme. Dr. Talla joined FAO headquarters in 2001 as Legal Officer in the Law and Development Service of the Legal Office. In 2004, he transferred to the World Bank in Washington DC, United States, as Legal Officer/Counsel in the Environment and International Law Unit, Legal Department. He returned to FAO headquarters in 2010, where he served as Legal Officer in the Development Law Service, Legal Office. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in International Environmental Law and Public Law from the University of Limoges in France.



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Water and Rural Development



**Mr. ZOU Xiaoming, Economic and Commercial Counsellor,  
Embassy of PR. China in the Republic of Zimbabwe**

Prior to his appointment in January 2020, Mr Zou Xiaoming had worked in the United States, Uganda and Sierra Leone as Commercial Counsellor of Chinese Embassy or Chinese Consulate General with more than 20 years of economic diplomatic experience.

**Prof. LIN Zhanxi, inventor of Juncao technology, Chief Scientist and  
Director of China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao  
Technology, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China**

Prof. LIN Zhanxi has been leading the research of Juncao science, development and extension of JUNCAO Technology/industry. Prof. LIN is also Head of the Chinese Experts Team for Rwanda Agricultural Demonstration Center, and Fiji Juncao Technology Demonstration Center financed by the Chinese government.



Prof. Lin Zhanxi has won numerous awards in grand prizes and honorary titles, such as “The Prize of the State of Geneva and Golden prize in the 20th International exhibition of Inventions of Geneva”, “The Prize of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of France in the 85th Paris International Invention Exhibition”, “China’s Top Ten Champions for Poverty Alleviation”, “The Most Outstanding Dedicator in Poverty Alleviation with Science & Technology”, “The Excellent Scientist”, “Silver Award for China Foreign Aid Dedication” by the Ministry of Commerce”.

**Ms. Dongmei LIN, Deputy Director of the National Juncao Research  
Center, and Deputy Director of the International Cooperation &  
Exchange Department of Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University,  
China**



Dr. LIN has long been engaged in research and teaching, training and promotion, international cooperation and poverty alleviation works of Juncao technology. She participates and leads the implementation of China-aid projects on Juncao Technology to Lesotho, Rwanda, Central Africa, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji. As the focal point and technical consultant of Juncao technology project under China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund, she assists governments and institutions for formulation of strategic plans and programs to transfer Juncao technology and develop Juncao Industry in developing countries, and also facilitates the implementation of the technology.



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**Ms. Otilia Mabvongwe, Principal Agricultural Extension Specialist-Horticulture, Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe**

Ms. Mabvongwe joined the Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services in 2009 as a Horticulture Specialist. She has vast experience in extension working with large scale to small scale farmers. She coordinated an AU funded mushroom project in 2014 working with smallholder rural women. She has worked with many organizations on development issues related to agriculture.



**Mr. Martin Bwalya, Director, Knowledge Management and Programme Evaluation (KMPE), Africa Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).**

Mr. Bwalya's responsibility covers three core functions in AUDA-NEPAD, namely Knowledge Management, Programme Evaluation and AUDA-NEPAD's five Centres of Excellence charged with specialised research, analysis and knowledge support to implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063. Martin is a Machinery Design and Machine Management Engineer. He has extensive experience in research and development (R&D), foresight analytical work in development and public policy fields across national, regional and global political economy interests and priorities; Continues to serve in varying responsibilities in international initiatives and programmes including Board chair for the Southern Africa Coalition on Climate Change (SACCC) – Current and Co-chair of the Global Alliance for CSA (GACSA) - 2014 to 2018.



**Mr. Hui Lin, Assistant Researcher of China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China**

Mr. Lin mainly engaged in the teaching and practical guidance of international human resources training of Juncao technology. He has long been stationed in South Africa, Lesotho and other countries to implement international cooperation projects in Juncao technology.



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**Ms. Jin Zhou, Ph.D. of China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China**

Ms. Zhou mainly made work on the Molecular Biotechnology, involving the tissue culture and DNA technology of Juncao. She specialized in high throughput RNA-Seq and metabonomics. Her main topic is application mechanism of giant Juncao in arid areas.



**Mr. Zhansen Lin, Senior Researcher, China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China**

Mr. Lin joined Juncao Technology Aid Project in 1998 and served as the project team leader for China Aid Juncao Technology and Upland Rice Technical Project in Papua New Guinea (1998.7-2005.5), China-Rwanda Agriculture Technology Demonstration Center Project (2006.7-2014.7), and China-Fiji Juncao Technology Demonstration Center Project (2014.9-2021.8), whose work has achieved good results, received recognition and



**Ms. Ling Jin, Ph.D. of Animal Nutrition and Feed Science at China National Engineering Research Center, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China**

Ms. Jin's research focuses on nutrition and feed resource development for farm animals. She teaches Animal Husbandry to undergraduates.  
foreign countries.

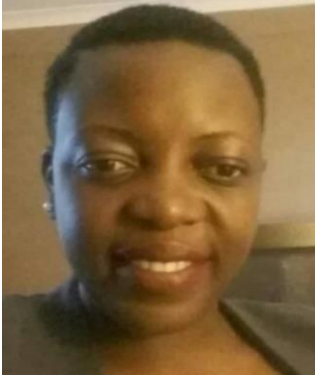


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**Mrs. Manditsvara Hilda, Principal Agricultural Extension Specialist – Horticulture, Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe**

Mrs. Manditsvara joined the Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX) in 2008 as a Horticulture Specialist. She has vast experience in technical and extension work. She is part of the coordinating and implementation team for the Zimbabwe Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion Project (ZIM-SHEP), a Technical Cooperation project between the Government of Zimbabwe and Government of Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). She has worked with various organizations on development issues related to agriculture.



**Prof. Edmore Gasura, Chairman, Department of Plant Production Sciences and Technologies, Faculty of Agriculture Environment and Food Systems, University of Zimbabwe**

Prof. Gasura joined the University of Zimbabwe in 2010. Has worked with a number of international research organization and donor agencies. He has over 50 publications. He led a team that trained over 500 farmers in mushroom production and also produced mushroom spawn (seed). He is the 2020 winner of the Japan International Awards for Young Researchers. Second prize winner of the African-Wide Young Professionals in Science Competition, 2009.