

Keynote Speakers



Dr Thomas Dubois, Principal Scientist and Head of Plant Health Theme, *icipe* holds a PhD in Entomology from Cornell University, USA and an MSc degree in Bioengineering from University of Ghent, Belgium. He has over 15 years experience in plant health for several crops in Africa, including banana, maize, rice and vegetables. Dr Dubois has worked as a scientist at IITA and AfricaRice from 2003 to 2012 and was the Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa for the World Vegetable Center prior to joining *icipe*. He has >100 publications to his credit, including several books, book chapters and >70 peer-reviewed journal articles. In Africa, he has supervised and trained 35 MSc and PhD students. At *icipe*, he is currently the project coordinator of an innovative GIZ project merging IPM with pollination services.



Dr Sevgan Subramanian, Principal Scientist and Head of Environmental Health Theme, *icipe*, has over 14 years of R4D experience in Africa. Key R4D focus of his theme include biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and harnessing insect-based ecosystem services such as pollination, organic recycling and edible insects for better livelihoods and ecosystem resilience. He has more than 90 peer-reviewed articles in high impact journals. Dr Subramanian has contributed extensively to building African research capacity in IPM, climate change and edible insects and guided 4 Postdoc, 12 PhD and 8 MSc scholars.



Dr Daniel Masiga, Principal Scientist and Head, Human and Animal Health Themes, *icipe* is an infectious diseases biologist who studies arthropod transmitted disease vectors and pathogens. After graduating from the University of Nairobi, Dr Masiga did his postgraduate studies at University College London and the University of Bristol in the UK. He later joined the University of Glasgow as a postdoctoral fellow. His research focuses on the biology of pathogens and vectors, using genomics and bioinformatics, and he uses these tools to discover emerging infectious disease threats through broad surveillance efforts in East Africa, focusing on those transmitted by ticks, mosquitoes and sand flies. He was the President of the African Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (ASBCB). He currently leads a postgraduate training programme in East Africa, which has established MSc Bioinformatics programmes at two universities. He has a strong focus on mentorship of junior scientists and students, with a strong commitment to building Africa's capacity to lead science-based growth.

Panel Members



Dr. Frank Eyhorn, CEO, Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development, Switzerland, is an expert in sustainable agriculture with more than 20 years experience in international cooperation. Dr Eyhorn holds a doctorate degree in environmental sciences from the ETH Zurich and University of Bern, with a further training on development cooperation (at NADEL at ETH Zurich) and managing international organizations at the University of Geneva. Dr Eyhorn has served in the course of agroecology management in various capacities at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture ([FiBL](#)) and [Helvetas](#). He is also contributing to the boards of [IFOAM - Organics International](#), [Swiss FAO Committee](#), the [Sustainable Trade Initiative](#) and [Nutrition Forum, Zurich](#). Dr Eyhorn is passionate about using agroecological approaches to make agricultural and food systems more sustainable. His extensive research about the impact of organic agriculture on smallholder farmers' living conditions has resulted in the publication of numerous books, educational materials and scientific articles.



Dr Edidah Lubega Ampaire, Senior Program Officer at Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) manages the Cultivate Africa's Future Fund (CultiAF), a co-funding partnership between IDRC and the Australian Centre for Agriculture Research (ACIAR). CultiAF seeks to improve food and nutrition security in Eastern and Southern Africa by funding applied research to develop and scale up sustainable, climate resilient and gender responsive innovations for smallholder producers. Dr Edidah has over 16 years' experience as a Social Science Researcher passionate about research for development work around gender equality and inclusive policies to improve smallholder farmers lives. She previously worked at the CGIAR, researching on gender in agriculture and in policy, climate change adaptation and farmer-based organizations.



Dr Ivan Rwomushana, Senior Scientist, Invasive Species at CAB International (CABI) is based at the Africa Regional Centre, Nairobi, Kenya. An entomologist by training, Dr Rwomushana's research focuses on the development of climate resilient IPM strategies for the management of invasive insect species that constrain crop production in sub-Saharan Africa. He employs basic and applied research to unravel the invasion biology and ecology of invasive pests of agricultural crops in Africa, and the development of lower risk pest management options with a strong inclination towards biological solutions. His overall research goal is to provide farmers with novel pest management solutions, that reduce the heavy reliance on chemical pesticides.



Dr Beatrice Khayota, Principal Research Scientist, National Museums of Kenya (NMK) holds a PhD. (Reading University UK), an MSc. in Botany (UoN) and an MSc. in CITES (International University of Andalusia-Spain). She has served as the Head of the East African Herbarium and the Centre for Biodiversity at NMK. Her interests include, plant taxonomy, biodiversity conservation, species threatened by international trade and use of DNA technology in wildlife crime. She has initiated and coordinated multidisciplinary biodiversity research projects. She is a member of National and Regional Technical Committees, institutional contact for various MEAs, and represent Africa on the CITES Plants Committee.



Mr Patrick Chabeda is a consultant supporting the GEF-funded UNEP-WHO AFRO II project which looks to demonstrate the effectiveness of diverse and environmentally sound sustainable alternatives to DDT use in malaria vector control. He has over twenty years' experience managing projects that address environmental challenges in the context of climate, energy use and toxic chemical pollution. Mr Chabeda started his career as a process engineer responsible for environmental, safety and occupational health compliance in the US chemicals and petroleum processing industries. He later worked as a member of Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan Taskforce where he facilitated processes to promote sustained engagement of research and academic institutions. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Louisiana Tech University and an LLM in Natural Resources Law and Policy from the University of Dundee.

