



You are cordially invited to a webinar on

Women in Agriculture: Driving Food Security in a Changing Climate

Date: 30 September 2025
Time: 12:00 – 14:00
Platform: Zoom
RSVP: [Click here](#) to register

Globally, women are frequently recognised as central figures in agricultural production, yet they remain systematically undervalued. Structural barriers such as restricted access to land, financial services, education, and agricultural technologies, have significantly limited their full participation and potential in the sector. These structural barriers are equally prevalent for women in South Africa. An *Exploratory Study on Women and Gender Equality in South African Agriculture* highlights that gender equity challenges continue to impede women's effective participation in agriculture. Overcoming these barriers is essential, as increasing women's involvement in the sector is vital for strengthening food security, particularly in the face of escalating climate change impacts.

It is on this basis that the Academy of Science of South Africa, through its' Inclusivity Initiative in partnership with the University of Fort Hare (UFH) and The Organization for Women in Science in the Developing World, South African National Chapter (OWSD SA NC) Invite you to a webinar focused on empowering women in agriculture to drive significant impact in addressing food security challenges amid climate change

Facilitator Ms Ntokozo Msiza UFH/OWSD

12:00 – 12:05	Welcome Remarks	Prof Linda Sibali University of Fort Hare (UFH)
12:05 – 12:25	Empowering Women in Agriculture	Ms Matebogo Victoria Voiceout Deaf (Pty) Ltd
12:25 – 12:45	Breaking Barriers to Land and Resource Access	Ms Pelokazi Mhlaba Land Bank Insurance Company and Farmer
12:45 – 13:05	Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture	Ms Unathi Gulwa Department of Agriculture
13:05 – 13:25	Is Inclusivity the Key to Equity in Agriculture?	Prof Michael Aliber UFH
13:25 – 13:50	Q & A	All
13:50 – 14:00	Closing Remarks	Prof Olubukola Oluranti Babalola North West University (NWU)/OWSD



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BIOGRAPHIES



Prof Michael Aliber is an agricultural and development economist based at the University of Fort Hare. Michael's research interests include land reform, rural development, and agricultural policy. Michael has worked in South Africa since 1994 and holds a PhD in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin.



Prof Olubukola Oluranti Babalola is a Visiting Professor at Imperial College London, a B2 NRF-rated Scientist, and former Research Director and Head of Department at North-West University, South Africa. After a PhD with a Fellowship from the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and OWSD, she had postdoctoral experiences at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, and the University of the Western Cape, South Africa



Ms Unathi Gulwa is a seasoned agronomist specialising in pasture science. With nearly two decades of experience in planted pastures and a strong academic foundation—BSc Agric (Agronomy) University of Zululand, MSc (Pasture Science), University of Fort Hare and a PhD in progress at UKZN—she has made significant research contributions and mentorship impact. At the Dohne Agricultural Development Institute, she leads critical pasture trials and collaborates widely, and holds leadership roles within the Eastern Cape Department of Agriculture research committee.



Ms Pelokazi Mhlaba is a dedicated maize farmer based in the Alfred-Nzo District of the Eastern Cape, South Africa with vast experience in crop production and advisory services as she previously worked with the Department of Rural development and Agrarian Reform. Currently, she is working towards completing a PhD in Agricultural Extension and Rural Resource Management at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where her research centers on developing targeted media communication tools to enhance information dissemination to farmer, with a specialization in agricultural journalism. She is currently working as a Crop Assessor for Land Bank Insurance Company.



Ms Ntokozi Msiza is a passionate woman in STEM. She is a Lecturer at the University of Fort Hare in the Department of Animal and Pasture Sciences. She holds a BSc in Pasture Science (UFH), MSc in Animal Science (NWU), and is currently a PhD candidate. As Vice Chairperson of the Organization for Women In Science for the Developing World (OWSD SANC), she actively promotes and supports women in STEM, helping them realize their potential and amplify their voices within the scientific community.



Prof Linda Lunga Sibali is currently the Dean in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture at the University of Fort Hare. He was also the Director of the School of Ecological and Human Sustainability in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, University of South Africa. He is responsible for the provision of strong academic leadership which includes research and innovation in the faculty. Prof Sibali's research focus area is based on identifying, quantifying, and treating pollutants regarded as emerging contaminants in the environment and has made significant contributions in the field.



Ms Matebogo Victoria is an African business woman, born deaf. Being deaf in a hearing world was never easy, but in the world of agriculture, it felt like trying to navigate a field in the dead of night. Communication was everything – negotiating with suppliers, attending farmer's markets, even just chatting with neighbouring farmers. Her world was often silent, filled with misunderstandings and dismissed ideas. She started a company called VoiceOut Deaf with the aim of servicing the deaf community. Compared to people with normal hearing, deaf populations face notable challenges in finding jobs.