



**MALAWI  
AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTIVITY AND  
COMMERCIALISATION  
CONFERENCE  
(MAPCC)**

**PROFILES**

**2023**

**Theme:**

**Diversified agricultural value chains for improved  
trade balances and foreign currency reserves"**

**FROM 30th-31st AUGUST 2023  
BINGU INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONAL CENTRE (BICC),  
LILONGWE**



## 2023 MALAWI AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND COMMERCIALISATION CONFERENCE (MAPCC)



**DR. BETTY CHINYAMUNYAMU**

Presenter

Dr. Betty Chinyamunyamu is an accomplished Development Economist with extensive knowledge and expertise in strategic planning, agribusiness development, project development and management; policy analysis and advocacy and food security. She is currently the CEO for the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM), providing oversight and strategic direction to both NASFAM's commercial and developmental entities, NASCOMEX Ltd and NASFAM Trust, and leading the NASFAM system on a path of growth and sustainability. Dr. Chinyamunyamu is a Board member of several organisations including member of the Reserve Bank of Malawi Monetary Policy Committee, Trustee of LUANAR Endowment Fund; Board member of Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa (ACE), and member of the National Planning Commission Policy and Programmes Committee. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics (distinction) from University of Malawi; a master's degree in Development Studies (distinction) from the University of Cambridge (UK); and a PhD from the University of Leeds (UK).

### JAMES CHIUMIA

Panelist

James Chiumia is currently working as the Head of Food and Agribusiness at NBS Bank. He is a seasoned banker with 14 years of experience, covering Agri finance, Relationship Management and Business Development. His experience covers delivering financial solutions to SME and Corporates, developing Agri finance models for both commercial and smallholder farming.

Prior to joining NBS Bank plc, James worked as Senior Agribusiness Manager at First Capital Bank. James also previously worked as Agribusiness Specialist and Relationship Manager at Standard Bank for 6 years. Earlier, James worked For Indebank Ltd as a Relationship Manager for 6 years and PriceWaterhouse in audit Assurance.

James is a Chartered Accountant (Fellow of ACCA) and graduate of the University of Malawi (Bachelor of Accountancy).



### Lloyd Banda

Panelist

“Lloyd Banda is the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Malawi Agricultural and Industrial Investment Corporation (MAIIC). He doubles as the company's 'Chief Risk & Compliance Officer. He is professionally a Banker (an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, UK), with more than 18 years of experience and has worked for various Financial Institutions including First Capital Bank, National Bank of Malawi and FDH Bank plc. His areas of specialization are Treasury, Credit, Risk and Compliance.”





**Thomas Chataghalala Munthali, PhD**  
*Presenter*

Dr. Thomas Chataghalala Munthali assumed the position of the first Director General of the Malawi National Planning Commission from March 2019. Prior to this, he was the Director of Knowledge and Learning at the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), a specialized agency of the African Union on capacity development based in Harare, where he coordinated capacity development efforts across the African Union member countries aimed at meeting the continent's socio-economic transformation agenda goals. He is a renowned capacity development expert and holds a Masters and PhD in Economics from University of Leeds, England. Prior to joining ACBF, Dr. Munthali was the Malawi Country Director for Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) providing support to Zambia too. As a seasoned Economist with extensive international experience, he has worked with Malawi's Ministry of Economic Planning where he was part of the team that coordinated the development of the Malawi Economic Growth Strategy; the World Bank where he coordinated research around exchange rates and infrastructure systems as part of the 2009 country economic memorandum; and UNFPA where he provided leadership in strategies for harnessing demographic dividend for development. While at ACBF, he coordinated publication of the continental flagships, Africa Capacity Report and the African Financial Governance Outlook (published jointly by ACBF and African Development Bank). He has also written a number of journal and workshop/conference papers as well as coordinated production of tens of publications on capacity development, corporate governance, exchange rates, economic development, financial development, insurance and economic growth, population and development, climate change, inter alia.

Munthali has also served as advisor to the chair of the African Union when Malawi was chair in 2010/11. He is a former President of the Economics Association of Malawi (ECAMA) who has sat on boards of various corporates and NGOs, and is also a renowned Personal Finance columnist in Weekend Nation, Malawi's award-winning national Newspaper.



**ZANDILE MIRIAM SHABA**  
*Moderator*

Zandile Shaba is the Managing Director of Centenary Bank Limited and the first Vice President of the Bankers Association of Malawi. She has over 25 years of banking experience in retail, investment, and SME banking. Her banking career has spanned 4 countries, namely Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, and Malawi. In her posting in Zimbabwe, she steered the bank through the most turbulent, hyper-inflationary period in Zimbabwe. Having worked in 4 countries, she also understands the challenges businesses face as they expand in Africa. She has led Centenary Bank for the past 5 years through various phases of the bank. The bank is focused on SME lending as well as empowering the people of Malawi through financial inclusion.

She has served on a number of Boards in various countries including the MITC Board in Malawi. Her core competencies are in strategy formulation and business turnarounds. She believes that for businesses to survive in this competitive world, we need to innovate, embrace the digital age as well as meet our future customers' expectations. She is also passionate about developing business leaders and supporting small and medium-sized businesses for growth.

She has a Bachelor of Science Degree and an MBA. She is also a Certified Business Coach.



**Christopher Beya**  
*Panelist*

Mr Christopher Beya is the Chief Executive Officer of Press Agriculture Limited, one of Malawi's largest commercial farming companies. He has over 25 years of agribusiness management hands-on experience. A graduate of the University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture, a Post Graduate Diploma in Management Studies at the University of Malawi, The Polytechnic, and anMBA with ESAMI. Before Joining Press Agriculture Limited, Mr Beya worked in many organisations in the agriculture sector, including Croplife Malawi as Executive Secretary, General Manager for TIL Limited and Agricultural Trading Company Limited (ATC), both AHL Group Limited subsidiary companies. He also worked as the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Tobacco Association of Malawi (TAMA), now TAMA Farmers Trust.

**Dr. Ted Nakhumwa**  
**Panelist**

Teddie Oliver Nakhumwa is the National Co-ordinator for the Agricultural Commercialisation Project (AGCOM), a Malawi Government flagship program for commercialising agriculture. AGCOM is financed by a \$95m credit facility from the World Bank. Dr Nakhumwa previously worked for the British Department for International Development (DfID) in Malawi as an economic adviser, and at the University of Malawi's Bunda College of Agriculture (now the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources) as a senior lecturer in environmental and resource economics and a senior research fellow at the Centre for Agricultural Research and Development. He has also worked as the chief economist for AHL Commodity Exchange. Teddie holds a master's degree in agricultural economics and a PhD in environmental and resource economics from the University of Pretoria. He has more than 25 years of accumulated experience as a researcher and expert in social and economic development, and has published several research papers in refereed journals including Journal for Southern Africa Agricultural Economists (Agrekon) and European Journal for Environmental and Resource Economics.



**Dr Grace Kaudzu**  
**Panelist**

Dr Grace Kaudzu is a Seed Scientist and Director of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) in the Ministry of Agriculture. She received a BSc. in Agriculture (Crop Science) in 2003, & MSc. in Horticulture (Biotechnology) in 2006 from LUANAR, and a PhD. in Crop Production and Physiology – Seed Science with a Minor in Plant Breeding from Iowa State University, USA, in 2017. DrKaudzu is a Norman Borlaug Research Fellow and significantly contributed to the development of the seed industry nationally and regionally. As a Director, DrKaudzu coordinates agricultural research and development programs in the Department of Agricultural Research Services.





**Eric Dudley Chidzungu**  
*Panelist*

Eric Dudley Chidzungu is Chief Executive Officer since March 2022 for the Greenbelt Authority, a Government established state enterprise through an Act of Parliament in July 2017 to champion large scale commercial irrigation farming.

He comes from a background of serving in the same Authority as Director of Irrigation Operations from 2018 to 2022 and previously coordinated and managed water, irrigation and infrastructure projects in various Government departments and donor funded projects both at national and international levels for 22 years.

He has MSc. Water Resources Engineering degree from KUL, Belgium and BSc Civil Engineering from University of Malawi Polytechnic.

### **Dr. Candida Nakhumwa**

*Panelist*

Vice President, Country Director -FSFW-Agricultural Transformation Initiative (ATI)

Dr. Candida Nakhumwa manages the Foundation for a Smoke Free World's (FSFW) Agricultural Transformation Initiative (ATI) activities in Malawi. She is responsible for strategic partnerships with government, private sector, development partners, academia, farmers, civil society, and other partners, both domestic, regional, and international in the agriculture sector. She works closely with partners to develop structured value chains that will promote transformation and inclusive growth. She has extensive experience in agricultural marketing, agribusiness, and policy analysis and advocacy. Most recently, she served as Director of Research, Policy and Partnerships at Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM), where she coordinated research, policy engagement, strategic partnerships, knowledge systems and institutional planning.



### **Dr Rodwell Mzonde**

*Panelist*



Malawi Ministry of Agriculture Director of Planning

An accomplished professional with experience in policy coordination, program and project development, planning, monitoring and evaluation, budgeting, and data management. He has made substantial contributions to the development of national accounts, statistical frameworks, and national plans, besides playing an important role in promoting sustainable growth, food security, and rural development.



**Dr. Agnes Mwangwela**  
**Presenter**

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (LUANAR)

Dr. Mwangwela is a seasoned researcher and a Food Scientist with 26 years' experience in university teaching at LUANAR with additional experience in domestic and international partnership engagement. She has served in several university leadership positions ranging from Head of Home economics department, Chair of Deans, College Director of Bunda College, and currently as Deputy Vice Chancellor. She holds a Ph.D. in Food Science from University of Pretoria, an MSc. and BSc. from the University of Malawi. She is a recipient of The Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology fellowship among other awards.

Dr. Albert Changaya is the CEO of Agricultural Research and Extension Trust. He has a PhD in Plant Breeding from the University of KwaZulu Natal, an MSc in Plant Pathology and a BSc in Agriculture from Bunda College of Agriculture currently LUANAR. He has worked as a CEO for the Tobacco Control Commission, a Controller of Agriculture Extension and Technical Services in the Ministry of Agriculture, a Leaf Services Manager in Pyxus Agriculture Limited, and a Director of the Tea Research Foundation of Central Africa among others. He has also served as Chairperson of the Agricultural Technology and Clearing Committee (ATCC) and National Fall Armyworm Taskforce, he serves as a Board member for various institutions, an external examiner for several Universities around the world, and a Christian who serves in many local and international religious groups.



**DR. ALBERT CHANGAYA**  
**Presenter**



**Jacob Christopher Nyirongo**  
**Panelist**

Jacob Christopher Nyirongo is the Chief Executive Officer for Farmers Union of Malawi. He graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Agronomy in 1999 from Bunda College of Agriculture, a Constituent College of the University of Malawi. He chairs the Advisory Board for MwaPATA Institute and is a member in the Boards of Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI), CIC Cooperative Insurance Limited and Centre for Agriculture Transformation. He has experience working on projects related to agriculture value chain development, development of farmer organizations, access to markets and agriculture policy and regulatory reforms. He has worked for a number of organizations including International Crops Research in Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), GIZ, International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), Christian Aid, Norwegian Church Aid, and Oxfam.



## Driana Guwa Lwanda

Moderator

Chief Executive Officer for African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC)

Driana Lwanda is an expert in Development Strategic Planning, Programme Operations, Monitoring and Evaluation. She has over 17 years of work in Policy and Advocacy, Strategic Programming, Planning and Evaluation of Rural development Programmes in Africa. She has done extensive Research in the areas of Climate Change and Mitigation, Disaster Risk Reduction, Public Private Partnerships, Commercial Investment and Private Sector Investment, Corporate Social Responsibility, Public Health and Nutrition, Agriculture and Food Security, Education, Gender, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Child protection and HIV/AIDS.



## Felix Lombe

*Presenter*

Felix Lombe is Development Economist, Rural Development Expert, Governance Expert and Financial Analyst by training and practice with over 17 years of progressive experience in Economic Systems, Market Access Development, Agricultural Partnerships Development, Rural Transformation, Agribusiness Development, Corporate Finance, Project Finance, Rural Development, Market Development, Sustainable Development Planning, Social Development Planning, Social Research, Organizational Development, Institutions and Development, Advocacy as well as Community Development. He has recently delivered in various capacities such Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Head of Programmes, Agribusiness and Value Chain Advisor, Director of Programmes, Programme Manager, Grants Manager, Senior Programme Officer, Research Fellow and Development Consultant in Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Development Agencies and University Institutions. Felix is a Fellow for Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN) and a Chartered Development Finance Analysts with the Chartered Institute of Development Finance. I am currently the National Programme Director (NPC) for IFAD/GoM Transforming Agriculture through Diversification and Entrepreneurship (TRADE) Programme. He holds a BA (Public Administration), MA (Development Management), MPhil (Development Economics), MCom (Finance), PhD (Development Studies) and is currently studying towards a completion of LLB (Honours) with University of Essex.

Working as Director of Primary Production for Malawi Mangoes since 2013. Previously, worked for 14 years as Agriculture Manager and Agriculture Engineer for Nchalo and Dwangwa Sugar Estates (ILLOVO). Over the last 24 years or so, my experience has been in leading the agricultural teams in the growing of sugarcane and mangoes. The objective is to meet the triple bottom line, social, environmental and economic.

I have M.Sc. Degree in Agricultural Engineering (majoring in Irrigation and Water Management), B.Sc. Degree in Agriculture with option in Agricultural Engineering and an MBA.



## Ignatius Majaanda

*Panelist*



**Felix Elia Jumbe, PhD.**  
*Panelist.*

Felix Elia Jumbe is an entrepreneur farmer and founder of Peacock Seeds brand of hybrid seed maize on the Malawi and Tanzania market. Peacock hybrid seed maize is one of the top preferred drought tolerant seed technology on the market with a goal to assist farmers in coping with climate change.

Felix Jumbe has worked as Marketing Manager for the then National Seed Company in charge of commercializing the operations of the company when it was bought by Cargill International. In 1997, resigned and became a farmer entrepreneur in poultry, dairy, seed farming at large scale using labour serving technologies to improve productivity like tractors.

Whilst, pursuing the challenges of being an entrepreneur and self-employed, Felix Jumbe has undertaken philanthropic work in establishing farmer organizations like Poultry Industry Association of Malawi (PIAM), Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM) and became its president in 2007 to 2013. Concurrently at the same time Felix Jumbe, became the President for Southern Africa confederation of Agriculture Unions (SACAU) a farmer grouping covering all SADC member countries. He further served as a continental Vice President for Pan-African Farmers Organization (PAFO) and also served as board Chairperson for Alliance for Commodity Trade in East and Southern Africa (ACTESA) a policy organ body for COMESA.

In quest to serve farmers, Felix Jumbe, served as the first board chair person who established Export Development Fund (EDF) to resolve the export challenges for Malawian Farmers under The Reserve Bank of Malawi and also became the board chair commissioner to detach Competition and Fair Trade Commission (CFTC) from the armpit of the Ministry of Trade.

In philanthropic jacket, he severed the People of Salima Central as Member of Parliament and Chairperson of Agriculture committee in parliament and finally served as Chief Executive Officer for ADMARC with a mission to revive the organization to start serving the interest of farmers and managed to review the strategic plan to bring the tiger back to the farmers.

Felix Jumbe earned Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in 2018, Member of The Chartered Institute of Marketing (MCIM) in 1994, post-graduate Diploma in Marketing (CIM) UK 1993, Bachelor of commerce (Business Administration) 1990, Diploma in Business Studies (1988).

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Macleod Nkhoma is the Executive Director for the Center for Agricultural Transformation (CAT), headquartered in Lilongwe, Malawi. The CAT is an inclusive science, technology and business incubation centre of excellence that is helping Malawian smallholder farmers make economically viable, data-driven decisions for diversifying their livelihoods.

Macleod began his career in the private sector with Unilever where he worked in various senior finance positions, and British American Tobacco where he worked as Finance Director and Company Secretary.

In 2003, Macleod joined Pannar Seed in Malawi (a Dupont Company) as Managing Director. He was also named Chairperson of the Seed Trade Association of Malawi. In 2009, Macleod was named Managing Director of Pannar, responsible for business in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. Macleod was also a board member of the Seed Trade Association of Kenya, later becoming Chairman of the association. After his assignment in East Africa, Macleod returned to Malawi as Managing Director, responsible for both the Pannar and Pioneer brands.

Macleod is an MBA graduate from MANCOSA Graduate School of Business in South Africa. He is also a Fellow and Chartered Governance Professional of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in the United Kingdom.

Macleod sits on the boards of Land O'Lakes Malawi and National Bank of Malawi plc. He also previously served on the board of Agricultural Trading Company.



**Macleod Nkhoma**  
*Moderator*





**Limbani Ngoma,  
Panelist**

Mr. Limbani Ngoma, is a seasoned business development and information systems specialist coupled with over 11 years working experience in both Telecom, NGO, ICT industry. Currently working with Airtel Malawi Plc in Airtel Business as Head of Fiber & Business Solutions where he is responsible for solution design, implementation and service delivery. His work spans to deliver state of the art solutions with emerging technologies that meet business and consumer needs. I am passionate for digital transformation in various sectors with a keen eye on technologies that drive business agenda.

Mr. George Vili is the Chief Executive Officer for Farm Radio Trust (FRT). He has vast experience in strategic leadership, program management, and development communication in livelihood programming. He oversees the design and implementation of multi communication strategies and models for agriculture extension and advisory services. He provides leadership in the development of a combo of digital pathways for enhancing extension towards agriculture transformation. He has also championed the establishment of the first ever agriculture farmer centered call center and Mlimi Radio, the first pro agriculture and rural development radio station. Farm Radio Trust is leading organization is the use of ICT based extension services and technologies in Malawi.



**George Vili  
Presenter**

**Paul Kwengwere  
Moderator**



Paul Kwengwere is the current CEO of Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC), a government institution that is mandated to promote and facilitate trade and investment in Malawi. Paul's role is identifying and developing strategies that promote Malawi as an ideal investment and trade destination in Africa and beyond. Paul has over 20 years' experience in dealing with economic issues in Malawi and Africa; holds a Master of Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School – Harvard University (USA) and is a Yale University (USA) World Fellow. He also holds a Master of Arts in Economics and a Bachelor of Social Science from University of Malawi.

**Prof. Levison Chiwaula -  
Presenter**

Levison is a Professor of Economics at the University of Malawi (UNIMA). He holds a PhD in Economics from Leibniz University of Hannover in Germany and has over 15 years of experience in higher education teaching and research. Prof. Chiwaula is a seasoned researcher with a track record of winning competitive research grants and publishing in renowned peer-reviewed journals. He has led and participated in several projects funded by IDRC, DFID, AERC, PEP, and the EU and has also provided consultancy services to several governmental and non-governmental organizations.





**PATRICK KABAMBE**  
*Presenter*

Mr Patrick Kabambe is the Chief Executive Officer of the Public Private Partnership Commission. He took up this role on 1st February 2021 after serving for over 20 years in the Malawi civil service. While in Government, he served as Principal Secretary for 13 years in some of the most strategic ministries of the Malawi Government including Ministries of Finance, Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs.

After leaving the civil service in 2016, he worked as Head of Agriculture for First Capital Bank. In this role, he was responsible for managing the agriculture portfolio and designing financial solutions for the sector, taking consideration the inherent risks associated with agri-business. After leaving the bank in August 2019, he did consultancies in project management.

Mr Kabambe holds a Masters Degree in Economics from State University of New York, and a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree from the University of Malawi.

Rex Chapota is a highly experienced, international development leader pushing the boundaries of digital solutions as a key catalyst for food systems transformation. Rex is at the forefront of expanding the power of ICTs such as Interactive Radio & mobile platforms in Social and Behavior Change Communication systems that bring scale and impact.

Rex is currently leading the growth and strategy portfolio at Farm Radio International (FRI) Global Office, Ottawa, Canada. He previously worked as Regional Program Manager for East and Southern Africa & Strategic Opportunities Advisor in sub Saharan Africa. He is the founding Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Farm Radio Trust.



**Rex Chapota**  
*Panelist*

**HASTINGS NHLANE**  
*Panelist*



Hastings Nhlane is the Chief Executive Officer of ACADES and the Vice president for Southern Africa Confederation of Agriculture Union Youth Network. ACADES is investing in production and processing of grains and legumes through its partnership with youth farmers in Lilongwe, Mchinji and Kasungu. Over the past 7 years, ACADES has built a community of over 3,500 small-scale youth producers that are collectively producing high quality products and creating self-economic opportunities. Hastings is also an African Visionary Fellow and a recipient of Planning for Impact Award.



Dr. Jeff de Graffenried, the Sustainable Economic Growth Office Director joined USAID/Malawi's Sustainable Economic Growth Office on December 18, 2020. Jeff joined USAID in 2009 as a Foreign Service Program Officer (BS 02). He holds degrees in Geology and Environmental Engineering from The University of Alabama, and a PhD in Environmental Health Sciences from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Before joining USAID, Jeff was a consulting Geologist/Environmental Engineer in Birmingham, Alabama

**Dr. Jeff de Graffenried**

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**Ronald Ngwira Pyxus**  
Agricultural limited  
*Panelist*



**Ngabaghila Chatata**  
Thathwe Farms  
*Moderator*



**Dr. Macdonald Mafuta  
Mwale**  
Secretary to the Treasury  
*Panelist*



**Dr. Betchani Tchereni**  
MUBAS  
*Panelist*



**Prof. Kaunda**