

**Mr. Augustine Uzo Mokwunye.** He holds a Ph.D. in Soil Chemistry in 1972 from University of Illinois (USA), a Master of Science degree in Soil Biochemistry from Ohio State University (USA) in 1968 and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from Ohio State University (USA) in 1966. He was Director (D2 level) of United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) in Accra, Ghana from 1996 to 2004. He is now a retired UN staff member. Prior to his tenure at UNU-INRA, he was Director responsible for developing projects for Eastern and Southern Africa in the Office of the President of International Fertilizer development Center (IFDC) in 1996 and Director of IFDC – Africa, Lome (Togo) from 1990 to 1996. During his long career as agronomist and soil scientist, he has worked, among others, for the promotion of sustainable agricultural development through research and development that take into account the strong interface between the soil, the plant/crops, the cropping systems and the management practices. His focus was on removing factors (including soil fertility shortcomings) that constrain food production in the different agro-ecological zones of tropical Africa. He has vigorously pursued research on farmers' fields, involving active farmer-participation in the generation and testing of technologies, and has promoted the adoption of these technologies. He has also assisted African governments to evolve policies that promote transparent, open and competitive input and output markets that support sustainable agriculture production systems. Overall, Professor Mokwunye's career is marked with agronomic research and development. Most of his work has been done in West Africa and this in many French and English speaking countries. He can read and hold a conversation in French.

**Mr. Mbah David Akuro.** He holds a Ph.D. in Genetics in 1980 from the Pennsylvania State in The United States, a Master of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Florida in 1975 and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Cuttington College and Divinity School in 1967 in Liberia. Currently, he is a member of the Cameroon Academy of Sciences. He had been the Director of Regional Research Center covering three agro ecological zones namely guinea savannah, sudan and the sahel. The centre he led harboured one of sixteen laboratories of Excellence of the Francophonie. He was also the heads of Dairy Research Programme and the Beef Research Programmme. He has published numerous articles. Among these i) Factors affecting the growth of sheep and goats in West and Central Africa; ii) Livestock production in sub-humid regions of West and Central Africa: Constraints and potentials for genetic improvement; iii) Biotechnology: Potential and risk for agricultural development in West and Central Africa with particular reference to Cameroon; iv) Status of biodiversity, biotechnology and biosafety with special appraisal of capacity building in Central Africa.

**Ms. Patricia Masanganise.** She holds a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics in 1994 from University of London (England) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics in 1989 from University of Zimbabwe. She is now the Food Security Practice Manager, Khanya-African Institute for Community Driven Development. Prior to her tenure at this Institute, she has worked as a Programme Associate at Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). RUFORUM is an umbrella organization of 12 universities in East and Southern Africa, that is involved in training Masters Students on Agricultural Resources Husbandry. Ms. Masanganise has also worked as an Agricultural and emergency program manager for Catholic Relief Services (CRS); SADC's (sub-regional) food security and vulnerability assessment advisor; advisor for the improvement of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of food security, and poverty alleviation programmes in Zimbabwe; agricultural extension and marketing specialist; and team leader for food security assessment analysis and dissemination of information. As Regional Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment Advisor, she coordinated the last round of the Livelihood-Based Vulnerability Assessments in the six Emergency Operation (EMOP) countries which are Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. She has a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of agriculture research and development as evidenced by her coordination of research work at the African Institute of Agrarian Studies.