

# HAZENDAL FESTIVAL

## SOIL EDITION

### SCIENTISTS



#### Dr. Erick Gbodossou

Dr. Erick Gbodossou is the President and founder of NGO PRO.ME.TRA. International (Promotion of Traditional Medicines), Director of CEMETRA (Experimental Center fir Traditional Medicines) of the Fatick region, Senegal. He is a consultant and resource person for several international organizations for protection, promotion and valorization of natural health and traditional knowledge and knowing.

Holder of 31 patents, initiator of collaborative research with American and international universities and institutions, Dr. Erick GBODOSSOU is the author of some fifteen books dealing with multiple and varied themes, ranging from culture to research itself, including slavery, ethics, science and development in general.

#### Prof. Sechaba Bareetseng

Prof. Sechaba Bareetseng is currently the Programme Manager of the CSIR IKS. He fosters collaborations with rural communities, Traditional Health Practitioners, other science councils, universities and private sector companies both locally and internationally. Traditional Health Practitioners use soil as a medium to practice their cultural expressions and implement their trade. Their approaches to dealing with soil relate to rematriation, ensuring no degradation occurs and where it has, rematriation is practiced. These efforts contribute to the CSIR mandate of conducting multi-disciplinary research to support the South African government in overcoming socioeconomic challenges such as poverty, unemployment and inequality.



#### Prof. Simeon Materechera

Prof. Simeon Materechera has two relevant expertise for the Hazendal festival in that he is both a soil scientist and an adherent believer of IKS. He grew up on a small farm in Malawi where his grandmother taught him many practical aspects of indigenous agriculture as a way of life. He went on to obtain Diploma and undergraduate Degree in Agricultural science where he was introduced to western ways of knowing in agricultural sciences. He furthered his postgraduate studies in Soil Science at universities in Canada and Australia where he engaged in research that applied both ways of knowing from indigenous and Eurocentric worldviews. He will emphasize that indigenous values and worldviews regarding soil are deeply rooted in a holistic understanding of the natural world, where soil is seen as a living entity that is central to the interconnectedness of all life. These perspectives often emphasize respect, reciprocity, and the intrinsic value of the land, which are in stark contrast to the Western mechanistic view of soil as merely a resource to be exploited.

#### Dr. Kensese Mossanda

Dr. Kensese Sontin Mossanda is a distinguished academic with a Pharmacy degree, three master's degrees in Tropical Medicine & Biology, Clinical Biology, and Food Sciences, and a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the State University of Liege, Belgium. He has previously been appointed as Postdoctoral Fellow in many Universities in Europe, USA, Asia and Africa; Professor, Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy, and Head of the Clinical Biology Department at the University of Kinshasa, and research coordinator at Medunsa and Walter Sisulu University. Currently conducting research in Canada, his expertise encompasses biochemistry, toxicology, and medicinal plants. Dr. Mossanda has published 77 peer-reviewed papers and has contributed to numerous books and conferences.



#### Dr. Christian Lueme

Dr Christian Lueme, a researcher at SU's School for Climate Studies, is an expert in planetary health. His research area covers climate change, air pollution and health, planetary health medical education and building climate-resilient primary healthcare. His approach focuses on the quantification and prediction of the magnitude of health risks and uncertainties of healthcare resilience to climate change and air pollution.