

Editorial

The current impetus of African scholarship puts emphasis on the formation of an alternative view of Africa, which must be groomed from within the continent. This includes knowledge production and innovation processes within the agricultural sector that have the ability to demonstrate the contribution of African indigenous knowledge systems to mitigation of global challenges of food security, environmental governance and health. The multiplicity of factors that affect local communities including access to land, environmental stressors and market access are further compounded when the opportunity to interface modern and indigenous knowledge systems are ignored. The benefits of innovation at the community level are related to the relevance of the interventions to address livelihood challenges. This Special Issue on *Agricultural Practices in African Indigenous Knowledge Systems* puts emphasis on the practicality of African indigenous knowledge systems (AIKS) in agricultural practices for improved food security. Moreover, the interface between the entire agricultural value chain is exemplified by the value addition from agricultural production to postharvest processes.

The paper by Benjamin Chapeyama, on *Quantifying the Economic Benefits of Human Excretaderived Plant Nutrient Sources: LADE-PA Pellets and Struvite* explores the economic feasibility and socio-environmental benefits of waste product LaDePa as a plant nutrient source of nitrogen. Tanyanyiwa, Kolanisi, Chimonyo and Banga revealed in their paper on *Identification of entrepreneurial characteristics of Emerging Smallholder Dairy Farmers: A Case Study of Groblersdal and Matatiele Local Municipalities, South Africa* that while indigenous knowledge was the basis of the dominant dairy production system used in the local municipalities researched, a range of operational challenges limited the ability of emerging to access the commercial market. The paper on *Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) And Food Security in South Africa: Is Land Reform a Prerequisite?* by Tiri-

vangasi and Tayengwa interrogated the issue of land and how access to land can improve rural community livelihood. Abbas investigated the role of agricultural research institutes in enhanced food sufficiency and sustainable development in the article entitled: *Knowledge Production through Indigenous and Exogenous Lens for Food Sufficiency: The Perspectives of Nigerian Agricultural Research Institutes*. The role of IK on use of effluent in agriculture to leverage its use in peri-urban and rural regions was examined by Emmanuel and Alfred in their paper *Can IKS Increase acceptability of Human Excreta in Agriculture? Evidence from a Preliminary Study in KwaZulu Natal*. Dube, Nyathi and Mpala used case studies to show IKS practices used in the rearing of indigenous chickens in *The Role of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in Indigenous Chicken Rearing: The Case of Tshongogwe Communal Area in Lupane District*. *Hail Damage: A Potential Threat to Maize Seed Quality*, the paper by Miya and Modi, addressed the climatic adaptability of indigenous agricultural production systems, particularly to hail damage. Local knowledge was found to relate with evidence demonstrated by seed quality. Khoza, Kolanisi and Siwela demonstrated in their article, *Egg Production and the Cost Effectiveness of Producing Egg Powder at a Household Level in Rural Mkhambathini, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa* the interface of knowledge systems to improve food availability, accessibility and stability at the household level. Similarly, the paper on *Consumer Perceptions Towards the Consumption and the Canning of African Leafy Vegetables in the Limpopo Province* by Sigaqa, Kolanisi, Siwela, Dlamini and Senyolo revealed the benefits of interface of technologies to improve shelf-life and consumer acceptability of traditional leafy vegetables. The paper by Ogana, *Envisioning Indigenous Knowledge Systems as Vital in Enhancing Africa's Food Security* provides an overview of the role of IKS in improving food security in the continent

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