

Facilitator

Jeanette Sutherland
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!Khwattu's Ambassador

Ms. Nunke Kadhimo

Ms. Kadhimo is currently a tour guide, where she passionately shares her extensive knowledge of San culture and heritage with visitors from around the world. Fluent in Khwedam, !Xu, English, and Afrikaans, she is a born storyteller and gifted poet and has performed with renowned artists the likes of Antjie Krog.

<https://www.khwattu.org>



Guest Speaker

- Minister Thokozile Didiza, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development (DALRRD). Included among her degrees obtained, A Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Sociology and a master's degree in tertiary education management from the University of Melbourne.
- To learn more about DALRRD, visit: <https://www.gov.za/about-sa/agriculture>



Guest Speaker

- Dr. Babagana Ahmadu is FAO Representative in South Africa since 2023. Prior to this post, he served as FAO Representative in Namibia, the Republic of Gambia, and Sudan. In his earlier career, he was the pioneer Director for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (AUC – DREA) and was instrumental in developing policies and strategic frameworks on leading global issues in many countries across Africa. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Zambia, a Master of Science in Tropical Animal Production and Health from the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom, and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria.
- To learn more about the FAO, visit: <https://www.fao.org>



Guest Speaker

- Dr. Menghestab Haile is the World Food Programme's (WFP) Regional Director for southern Africa. In this role, he provides strategic guidance, supervision, and support to WFP's country operations in southern Africa and the Indian Ocean States. Dr. Haile has a PhD in Meteorology from the University of Reading and is a strong advocate for public private sector partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- To learn more about the WFP, visit: <https://www.wfp.org>



Guest Speaker

- Mr. Daiber is an anthropologist by training, who currently manages !Khwa ttu – an award-winning San heritage and education center and thriving tourism destination, based on a 850 hectare nature reserve located 70 kilometers from Cape Town. He has worked with the San communities of southern Africa for almost three decades.
- In his words, !Khwa ttu addresses the hopes and dreams of the San indigenous peoples all over southern Africa. It is a place to tell their story. A place of dignity where their voices can be heard, and the past be remembered for a better future; a place to tell who the San people are. The exhibitions, trails, gardens, architecture, and guided experiences are designed to engage the body and senses as much as the mind.
- To learn more about !Khwa ttu, visit: <https://www.khwattu.org>





Panellist

- Ms. Mary-Jane Morifi is the Chief Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Officer at Tiger Brands. She has worked in social development for more than 30 years and has held senior leadership positions in mining, oil and gas, and food companies. She has worked internationally with BP in international audit, risk management and assurance, and marketing operations.
- Mary-Jane is a trustee of the Tiger Brands Foundation and deputy chairman at Leratong Hospice. She is also a senior associate for the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership
- Prior to joining Tiger Brands, she led the Global Capital Campaign to raise US\$100 million for the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital, a state-of-the-art hospital that was launched in December 2016 in honour of Madiba.
- Mary-Jane has a bachelor's degree in social science from the University of Cape Town and has completed post graduate studies in arts and sciences from Harvard University as a visiting fellow.
- To learn more about Tiger Brands, visit: <https://www.tigerbrands.com>



Panellist

- Ms. Elrita Venter is the CEO of AgriEdge, a non-profit company that provides agricultural training in good agricultural practices, project management, and market access with a focus on women and youth. She is also Director of One Vision Investment, a pomegranate farm that exports on the international markets, and Founder of Pure Pom, a company that specialises in agri-processing, R&D, and marketing of pomegranate products.
- She is passionate about making agriculture work for all with a proven track record in innovating, developing, and driving new initiatives to create opportunities for growth through holistic strategies and people-centred approaches.
- Elrita has a Master of Science in Botany from the Free State University and is currently finalizing her PhD thesis on post-harvest diseases of pomegranate at the Stellenbosch University.
- To learn more about AgriEdge, visit: www.agriedge.co.za



Panellist

- Professor Ndiko Ludidi is a plant molecular physiologist in the Department of Biotechnology and a principal investigator for technological innovation at the Centre of Excellence in Food Security at the University of the Western Cape. His research uses technologies in molecular biology and physiology to improve crop adaptation to climate change, with a focus on harnessing the genetic resources from African indigenous crops to reach goal. His research also investigates integration of African indigenous crops into cropping systems as part of upscaling their production and utilization and as a further strategy for regenerative agriculture that minimizes the impact of agriculture on the environment while increasing the diversity of food and feed available to South Africa.
- To learn more about Professor Ludidi's work, visit: <https://www.uwc.ac.za/study/all-areas-of-study/departments/departments-of-biotechnology/people>



Panellist

- Ms. Sipamandla Manqele is the co-founder and Commercial Director at Local Village Foods. She completed a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree in 2013 majoring in community development and business management and has been named one of South Africa's top 200 Young People to watch in 2019 by Mail and Guardian and One Young World Ambassador.
- Sipamandla is inspired by the African continent, its diverse cultures and its quest for social and economic unity. She wants to play a role in the implementation of free and fair trade across Africa.
- To learn more about her company, visit: <https://localvillagefoods.com>



Panellist

- Ms. Siphwe Sithole has traveled a varied path since her studies to her current role managing African Marmalade, an organic farming business with a vision of taking African indigenous crops out of the periphery into the mainstream.
- In her early career, she worked for multiple corporations in communications, media, public relations, and marketing positions. During her extensive travels, she identified a gap in the market for authentic African food. This realization inspired the birth of African Marmalade, a farm that produces and sources from other farms a range of organically grown indigenous African vegetables and grains.
- Among Siphwe's many educational and professional qualifications, include a bachelor's in journalism from Rhodes University and a designation as a chartered marketer by the Marketing Association of Southern Africa.
- To learn more about African Marmalade visit: <https://www.facebook.com/africanmarmalade>



Panellist

- Ms. Petru Fourie started her career at Grain SA in the industry services department as an agricultural economist (production/inputs) in 2008. The unit's core mandate was to provide commodity strategic support, research and services to South African grain and oilseed producers.
- She has a broad knowledge of the grain and oilseed industry, having worked in the sector for almost 16 years.
- At the beginning of 2023, the Sorghum Trust appointed her as the Convener of the recently established Sorghum Cluster Initiative, where her main role is to foster and strengthen industry membership, engagement, and collaboration to address matters within the sorghum sector.
- Petru has a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of the Free State.
- To learn more about the Sorghum Trust, visit: <https://sorghumtrust.co.za>



Panellist

- Dr. Maneshree Jugmohan-Naidu is the Director of Agricultural Biotechnology at the South Africa Department of Science and Innovation
- She is responsible for implementing the agricultural pillar of the National Bio-economy Strategy. This involves prioritising, coordinating, and implementing key strategic Agricultural Bio-economy Innovation Partnership Programmes (ABIPP), including international/bilateral cooperation and the development of an enabling and conducive environment for responsible biotechnology in South Africa.
- Maneshree holds a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Kwazulu Natal and a Master of Arts in Business Administration from the University of Witwatersrand.
- To learn more about the DSI visit: <https://www.dst.gov.za>



Panellist

- Ms. Robone Ntsie is the Director of Nutrition at the National Department of Health, South Africa
- She is a member of the national food and nutrition security plan task team, which strives for optimal food security and enhanced nutritional status for all South Africans.
- Rebone is a registered dietitian with a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from the University of the Western Cape and a Master of Science in Dietetics from the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA). She has 25 year's work experience in nutrition and has worked in government, academia, and private sector.
- To learn more about the DoH visit: <https://www.health.gov.za>



Panellist

- Ms. Nombulelo Guliwe is the Interim CFO and Acting CEO of South Africa Tourism
- Nombulelo joined South African Tourism as a financial compliance and performance manager in 2011. She has since held numerous finance management positions within the organisation, leading to her appointment as Chief Financial Officer in August 2019. She is currently the Acting Chief Executive Officer.
- Nombulelo is highly skilled in financial management, strategic planning and execution, financial reporting and budgeting, supply chain and asset management as well as people management. She is currently the chair of the South African Tourism Pension Fund, and has been a trustee of the same fund since 2012.

She is registered with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants as a Chartered Accountant (SA) and holds a bachelor's degree (hons) in Accounting from the University of Johannesburg.

- To learn more about South Africa Tourism visit: <https://www.southafrica.net/za/en/>



Panellist

- Mr. Kurt Ackermann is the CEO of the South African Urban Food & Farming Trust
- He is currently a research fellow at the Global Risk Governance Programme at the University of Cape Town and sits on the Food Systems Working Group for the City of Cape Town
- Kurt holds an Artium Baccalaureatus from the University of Chicago and was a business fellow at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business
- To learn more about the SA Urban Food & Farming Trust visit: <https://fairfood.org.za>

Media

- **Ronnelle Louwrens** – *Food for Mzansi*
- Ronnelle Louwrens is part of the Food for Mzansi team and the publisher of Health for Mzansi (a Food for Mzansi Group initiative). Her interest lies in the agricultural, health and tech industries and simplifying complicated offerings to ensure information is more easily understood by the layman.
- “Food For Mzansi is an initiative to introduce South Africans to the unsung heroes of the agricultural industry. We unashamedly share success stories and good news from the farms and agri-businesses who feed South Africa. We believe in the power of agriculture to promote nation building and social cohesion by telling stories that are often overlooked by broader society.”
- “Furthermore, we would like to introduce ordinary people to the many career opportunities available within the agriculture space.”



Media

- **Liana Mocke** – *Netwerk24 and Landbouweekblad*
- Liana Mocke is a senior journalist for Landbouweekblad and previously a business reporter with Netwerk24 covering the food and consumer goods industries. Prior to joining the Netwerk24 team, Liana worked as a journalist for one Media24' tourism publications, Weg.
- Her reporting leans more towards issues affecting SA communities or the SA consumer.
- Landbouweekblad is South Africa's biggest and most influential magazine for the agricultural sector. Landbouweekblad is available as a weekly print magazine with daily news and features published online at landbou.com.
- Netwerk24 is South Africa's biggest subscription-based news portal. As the online home for Media24's Afrikaans publications, Netwerk24 produces award-winning journalism for a digital-first audience.

