



Abridged Biography | Dr Nompumelelo Obokoh



Dr Nompumelelo Obokoh (nee Masubelele) holds a PhD in Plant Biotechnology from the Institute of Biotechnology, University of Cambridge, UK. She is currently the Chairperson of the Board of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and a member of the Independent Science for Development Council for the CGIAR, based in Montpellier, France. She has served as a Commissioner in the Presidential Commission on the 4th Industrial Revolution and is managing a private consultancy firm, Langace (Pty) LTD, that provides specialised advisory services on gender-responsive climate-smart agricultural practices and Biotechnology. She is also an independent non-executive Director of FruitSA.

She has worked as the CEO of AfricaBio (an independent non-profit organisation in the biotechnology sector) and as Divisional Head for Innovation Support and Protection of Companies & Intellectual Property Commission (The dtic-CIPC), and with the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) in Abuja, Nigeria and Nairobi, Kenya. Prior to this, she was a Senior Manager at the Agricultural Research Council in South Africa and a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the University of Cambridge, UK.

With more than 18 years working in agricultural research and innovation systems with a focus on biotechnology, Nompumelelo has led multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary, and multi-national teams throughout Southern, East, and West Africa, scaling up agricultural technologies and efforts to improve sustainable agricultural productivity for small-holder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa through access to proprietary technologies.

She has also received several awards including the Mandela Cambridge Scholarship, Mandela Magdalene College Scholarship, Fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Society, as well as the Rothamstead International - African Research Fellowship.
