

## LINDIWE MAJELE SIBANDA

Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*

Professor Lindiwe Majele Sibanda is a globally recognised leader in food security, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture whose pioneering contributions have significantly shaped academic discourse, international development, and policy reform. With a career rooted in Africa and a demonstrable global impact, she has been at the forefront of efforts to create equitable and environmentally sustainable food systems by championing emissions reduction, climate adaptation strategies, improved land and water management, and the promotion of agroecological practices. Her leadership has influenced transformative change across continents, with her insights informing global responses to the intersecting challenges of climate change, food insecurity, and sustainable resource use, positioning her as a pre-eminent figure in her field.

Professor Sibanda has held pivotal roles in international organisations, including the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), where she shaped policy frameworks that address global hunger, food systems resilience, and climate-smart agriculture. She has served as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and has contributed to high-level advisory groups advising on international policy, investment strategies, and research priorities spanning domestic and multilateral contexts. These include roles with the African Union, United Nations agencies such as the UN Committee for Development Policy, and leading philanthropic and scientific institutions. Her leadership has supported initiatives focused on agricultural innovation, inclusive food governance, climate resilience planning, and sustainable livestock and crop production systems. Professor Sibanda's contributions have been widely recognised, underscoring her influence and authority in the advancement of globally relevant, sustainable agricultural practices. She currently serves as a member of the Nestle Board, as co-Chair of the Curt Bergfors Food Plant Prize, Chair of the Zimbabwe National University of Science and Technology, Extra Ordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria in South Africa and a Resident Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Germany.

Beyond her research and policy achievements, Professor Sibanda is a respected public intellectual, frequently featured in leading media outlets such as The Guardian, BBC, and Al Jazeera. Her expertise in food security, climate change, and agricultural transformation has helped bridge the gap between scientific research and real-world application, influencing policymakers and global audiences to focus on assisting marginalised smallholders to have sustainable commercial options.

Professor Sibanda has played a pivotal role in strengthening the University of Melbourne's international leadership in agricultural and livestock research. As keynote speaker at the 2024 World Animal Congress held in Melbourne, she appeared as a special guest of Professor Frank Dunshea, Chair of Agriculture and President of the World Association of Animal Production. Professor Sibanda has been instrumental in directing top Kenyan PhD candidates to the University, notably collaborating with Professor Richard Eckard on groundbreaking research into ruminant carbon emissions that reshaped global understanding of methane outputs from rangeland cattle. At the request of Professor Emeritus Lindsay Falvey, she has presented to faculty on global agricultural research, building on years of collaboration through the International Livestock Research Institute to oversee livestock projects across Asia and Africa. Through her enduring engagement, Professor Sibanda has furthered the University's proud legacy in international livestock research, following in the footsteps of distinguished figures, such as the late Professor Emeritus Derek Tribe, the late Dr. John Vercoe, Professor Rebecca Doyle, and many others.

Professor Sibanda's unwavering commitment to advancing food security, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience has shaped global policy, research, and practice. Her visionary leadership, influential advocacy, and dedication to fostering international collaboration have left a lasting legacy in the fields of agricultural research for development and environmental sustainability. She is widely recognised as a trailblazer and an inspiration to future generations of researchers, policymakers, and leaders worldwide.