



The Agricultural Economics
Association of South Africa

AEASA

NEWSLETTER

2026 / 2nd Edition

IN THIS EDITION



AGREKON UPDATE

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TOMLINSON
MEMORIAL LECTURE

.....



INDIGENOUS CATTLE
AND VALUE CHAIN
DEVELOPMENT

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GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

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IN MEMORIAM

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LATEST RESEARCH IN
AGREKON



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EDITOR'S NOTE



***Maremo Mphahlele**

WELCOME TO THE SECOND 2026 EDITION OF THE AEASA NEWSLETTER

It is a pleasure to present another edition that reflects the dynamism, diversity, and growing influence of the agricultural economics profession in South Africa and beyond. We begin by highlighting developments within Agrekon, AEASA's flagship journal, including its continued contribution to advancing scholarly research in food, agricultural, and resource economics. This edition also features the publication of the 2025 Tomlinson Memorial Lecture, presented by Dr Simphiwe Ngqangweni, and highlights the 2026 Tomlinson Memorial Lecture, delivered by Prof Michael Aliber. Both lectures offer valuable reflections on South Africa's agricultural and rural development trajectory while stimulating discussion on the future of inclusive growth and rural transformation.

The newsletter further explores contemporary issues affecting the agricultural sector through an insightful article on indigenous cattle and value chain development, which examines opportunities to strengthen the commercial participation of smallholder farmers while recognising the cultural and economic importance of indigenous livestock systems. We also celebrate the growing international footprint of South African agricultural economists through reports on participation at the GTAP Conference in Japan and the IFAMA World Conference in Ireland. These engagements demonstrate the strength of South African research, the quality of our scholars, and the important role our profession continues to play in addressing global challenges related to food security, trade, climate resilience, and sustainable agricultural development.

As we celebrate these achievements, we also take a moment to honour the life and legacy of Dr (Pastor) Oyewale John Oyesuntimi, whose dedication to agricultural economics, academic excellence, and service to others left a lasting impact on colleagues, students, and the wider community. We conclude this edition by showcasing the latest research published in Agrekon, reaffirming AEASA's commitment to disseminating high-quality research that informs policy, supports industry, and advances agricultural economics across Southern Africa.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all authors and contributors who have made this edition possible. Your continued willingness to share knowledge, research, and professional experiences enriches our community and strengthens the Association's mission of promoting excellence in agricultural economics. We hope you find this edition informative, engaging, and inspiring, and we encourage you to continue contributing your articles, achievements, and perspectives to future editions of the AEASA Newsletter.

Newsletter editor

Maremo Mphahlele

A DIVE INTO OUR AGREKON JOURNAL

AIMS AND SCOPE

Agrekon publishes scholarly articles that contribute to the existing literature in the domain of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics as it applies to Southern Africa. The editors of Agrekon therefore invite contributions in this context that provide new insights, either through the problems they address, the methods they employ or the theoretical and practical insights gained from the results. The quarterly journal serves as the official publication of the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa (AEASA) and is published by Taylor & Francis.

JOURNAL METRICS



USAGE



48k
annual
downloads/views



CITATION METRICS

- **1.6 (2024)** Impact Factor
- **Q2** Impact Factor Best Quartile
- **1.5 (2024)** 5 Year IF
- **3.0 (2024)** CiteScore (Scopus)
- **Q2** CiteScore Best Quartile
- **0.679 (2024)** SNIP
- **0.470 (2024)** SJP



SPEED/ACCEPTANCE

- **9** days avg. from submission to first decision
- **75** days avg. from submission to first post-review decision
- **27** days avg. from acceptance to online publication
- **6%** acceptance rate

OPEN ACCESS

Agrekon is a hybrid open access journal and part of the Taylor & Francis Open Select publishing program, giving authors the option to publish their work as open access. Open access publication ensures that articles are freely available online immediately upon publication, increasing the visibility, readership, and impact of the research.

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THE 2025 TOMLINSON MEMORIAL LECTURE PUBLISHED AS A PAPER UNDER AGREKON JOURNAL

Seven decades since Tomlinson: the evolution of agricultural and rural development policy in South Africa

Dr Simphiwe Ngqangweni



**Dr Simphiwe Ngqangweni*

This paper revisits the legacy of the 1954 Tomlinson Report, a seminal blueprint for rural development in apartheid-era South Africa and examines its influence on agricultural and rural development policy over seven decades. It reviews how the Tomlinson themes of economic dualism, tenure reform, modernisation, and

farmer empowerment influenced subsequent scholarship and policy discourse through the apartheid and democratic eras. Despite partial implementation and persistent underdevelopment, Tomlinson's vision continues to inform contemporary debates on land, infrastructure, skills development, and inclusive growth. The paper concludes by pointing to the unfinished agenda

of rural transformation and calls for agricultural economists to continue informing policies that align with Tomlinson's principles.

Read more: Full article: [Seven decades since Tomlinson: the evolution of agricultural and rural development policy in South Africa](#)

MAKING SENSE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RURAL ECONOMY: THE CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF DUALISM

Tomlinson Memorial Lecture, 2026

Prof Michael Aliber, University of Fort Hare



**From left: Prof Abbyssinia Mushunje, Prof Michael Aliber and Prof Jan Hlongwane*

The Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa (AEASA) 2024 Conference LOC hosted its Tomlinson Memorial Lecture on the 9th June 2026 which was presented by Prof Michael Aliber. The Lecture ponders the global crisis of declining rural communities and asks a deceptively simple question – what are rural areas for? – using it to reframe how we understand South Africa's rural economy. Tracing twentieth-century efforts to define the “role” of the Reserves, from the Tomlinson Commission (1955) to post-1994 rural

development strategies, the lecture shows how the once-central goal of “de-congesting” the former homelands quietly faded as land reform shifted towards to deracialise large-scale farming rather than restructure the agricultural sector, and rural development became lost in community upliftment projects. Notwithstanding the evident wish of post-1994 policy to act as though the former homelands no longer exist, they clearly do. Thus, the goal of erasing dualism has been largely frustrated – but does it matter? Drawing on evidence from the Eastern Cape – settlement densification around rural towns, vibrant small-

scale entrepreneurship, and substantial and growing real estate wealth – the argument is that agriculture is “small potatoes” and a poor lens for rural development. High density, often treated as a problem, carries real economic advantages – for commerce and real estate, among others – that benefit large numbers of people. Despite the negative historical associations they may evoke, the lecture concludes that we should embrace the former homelands and the dualism they represent rather than wishing them away.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

DEPARTMENT OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS)

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

2026–2028

Description: The SARCHI Chair in Circular Economy: Leveraging Smart Technologies for Sustainable Ecologies, Food Security and Climate Resilience at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa seeks to appoint a postdoctoral research fellow with strong agricultural & environmental economics background. The fellowship involves extensive travelling and field work. Possession of a Code B driver's license will be an added advantage.

REQUIREMENTS:

- The successful candidate will preferably have a doctorate, completed in the last five years, in Agricultural Economics or Environmental Economics at a higher education institution in South Africa or abroad.
- If not yet in possession of a doctoral degree, they need to submit a written statement from the Registrar (or equivalent) at the issuing University confirming that they satisfactorily fulfilled the University's requirements for a doctoral degree at the time of application for a postdoctoral research fellowship. Details of the qualification and expected date of graduation should be included in the statement.
- The successful candidate may not be in the employment of UFH (including Time on Task) at the time of taking the postdoctoral fellowship.
- The successful candidate may not be employed in any other institution/company during their postdoctoral fellowship.
- The successful candidate may be of any age, gender or nationality (subject only to the visa regulations of the Department of Home Affairs)
- Preference will be given to South African females.

CONDITIONS:

- By the end of their first year, the PDRF is expected to have submitted papers amounting to 2 units for review on the topic of their postdoctoral research which meets the following minimum requirements
- PDRF extending into their second and subsequent years are expected to have published (or have in-press) 2 units. All papers must be on the topic of the postdoctoral research and details of the papers must be submitted by the host to the PGS office by the end of each renewal year.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

- Demonstrate relevant experience and understanding of the Circular Economy, Food and Nutrition Security, Agroecosystem and Climate Change.
- Evidence of relevant publications in the environmental economics domain.
- Proficiency in advanced environmental econometrics modeling

APPLICATION DETAILS:

- Full CV (including publications), motivation letter (2–3 pages long), and proof of completion of doctorate. On the subject line write Agricultural Economics, applications to be sent to Mr. Mandilakhe Qelesile at MQelesile@ufh.ac.za and copy Ms. Babalwa Solani at BSolani@ufh.ac.za/ postdocs@ufh.ac.za

DURATION:

The fellowship is valid for 24 months from the month of arrival and may be extended with evidence of good progress.

For queries contact: Prof Amon Taruvinga (ataruvinga@ufh.ac.za) and cc Dr L Gwala (LGwala@ufh.ac.za).

NOTE:

- o Applications will be treated in order of arrival and with the highest degree of confidentiality.
- o Correspondence will be limited to shortlisted candidates only.
- o The University of Fort Hare is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. Pursuant to complying with the Employment Equity Act No.55 of 1998, when appointing, preference will be given to applicants from designated groups whose appointments will contribute towards the achievement of equitable demographic representation of our workforce profile.
- o The University reserves the right NOT to make an appointment.

CLOSING DATE: 17 JULY 2026



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INDIGENOUS CATTLE AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA: ADDRESSING THE GAPS

Mr Papi Kubeka¹, Dr Joseph Kau²



**Indigenous cattle: Africa's untapped premium livestock heritage.*

Introduction

Indigenous cattle are of strategic significance to the economy of Africa. For example, as of 2026, the Ankole cattle breed from Angola has its heifers fetching as high a price as a million rands each at an auction, yet in South Africa, local indigenous cattle breeds are marginalized in commercial value chains. With Ankole breeds, record breaking auction prices show that elite Ankole genetics are achieving premium prices, with records as of early 2026 indicating top quality heifers selling for as high as R2.1

million (approx. \$110,000+) and pregnant 3-in-1 cows (cow, calf, and embryo) reaching R1.8 million at auction. This highlights an exceptional return on investment for high-value breeding operations. Indigenous cattle are repeatedly described as multi-functional assets central to livelihoods, food security, and social systems in Southern Africa. Beyond meat and milk, cattle serve as stores of wealth and social security, sold or traded to meet urgent cash needs such as school fees, medical expenses or debt repayment. They also perform critical cultural and ritual functions: provision of

livestock for lobola (bride wealth), funerals, ancestral rites and other ceremonies is widely documented as a core role of indigenous herds in rural communities. Indigenous knowledge (IK) around Nguni cattle emphasizes their use for animal traction, multipurpose products and a wide range of socio-cultural ceremonies, forming part of the cultural heritage of Zulu and other communities. These socio-cultural roles mean that herd management and marketing decisions are often guided

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as much by social and ritual calendars as opposed to economic considerations.

Studies of small-scale indigenous livestock keepers in KwaZulu-Natal and other provinces show that livestock ownership significantly supports income security, while also preserving indigenous knowledge and cultural practices. Yet development and value-chain initiatives have often overlooked these non-market values, leading to interventions that do not align well with local priorities or that unintentionally undermine social-security values. Given the farming practices related to indigenous cattle, one can deduce that these commodities are “organic by default,” yet when it comes to pricing, there is no appreciation for the value embedded in these resources. Indigenous cattle in South Africa and the wider Southern African Development Community (SADC) are central to food, income, culture and social security, yet their role in commercial value chains remain limited and undervalued.

Marginalization of indigenous cattle in commercial value chains

About 75% of cattle in SADC are kept under smallholder systems, and herds in these

systems are primarily indigenous tropical breeds. In South Africa, a significant proportion of livestock, up to 40%, is in the hands of smallholder farmers. According to Ntombela (2023), as of 2023, of the 14 million cattle available in South Africa, about 5.6 million were in the hands of Black farmers.

In South Africa’s communal and smallholder areas, Nguni and other indigenous types dominate and are raised in low-input, extensive systems. Despite their adaptive traits and contribution to household and national economies, indigenous breeds are “undervalued,” underutilized, and often marginalized in formal commercial chains. Current carcass grading and classification systems in Southern Africa disadvantage slow-maturing, pasture-finished indigenous breeds, limiting their ability to capture value in formal markets and reinforcing reliance on informal outlets.

Reviews of South African cattle development programmes show that commercialization efforts have mainly targeted off-take and market linkage, often privileged better-off farmers and failed to address deeper structural constraints that affect low-input, indigenous-based systems.

Free-Range, Low-Input Systems and “Organic by Default”
Smallholder beef production in communal areas is typically

based on continuous grazing of natural pasture, low use of external feed and veterinary inputs, and reliance on local resources. Communal farmers in KwaZulu-Natal describe their indigenous cattle as raised in systems that are effectively “organic by default,” free ranging and without growth hormones, and perceive the meat as more mature, tasty, and with medicinal or health benefits compared to conventional beef. However, these producers lack access to certification, institutional support and market information for organic beef, and thus do not receive price premiums despite the attributes of their product.

Off-take rates from communal farms remain low (5–10%) compared with commercial farms (about 25%), even though approximately 40% of South Africa’s cattle herd is found on communal land, highlighting the gap between production potential and market realization. Broader reviews on indigenous livestock confirm that small-scale producers frequently lack extension, credit, infrastructure, markets and veterinary services, which constrains both productivity and commercialization.

Production, Services and Commercialization Constraints

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¹ Papi Kubeka: Intern Agricultural Economist, ARC

² Dr Joseph Sello Kau: Senior Agricultural Economist, ARC

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Table 1: Key constraints limiting commercialization of indigenous cattle

Constraints Area	Typical Issues in Indigenous smallholder cattle systems
Production	Diseases, parasites, feed shortages, poor breeding
Services	Weak extension, credit, veterinary and market services
Marketing	Low offtake, distance to markets, biased grading, limited formal access.

Informal Marketing, Appraisal Buying and Value Under-Recognition

For indigenous and smallholder herds, the dominant marketing channels are informal and private: direct sales to local buyers, auction pens, and word-of-mouth transactions, rather than abattoirs and formal processors. In the Eastern Cape, for example, over three-quarters of Nguni project beneficiaries sell through private channels, with only a small minority using abattoirs.

Reviews of Nguni cattle marketing highlight that communal farmers rely heavily on visual appraisal and negotiation to determine prices, considering the body size, condition and in some cases, the sex and age of the animal. This “appraisal buying” system is flexible and embedded in social networks, but it also means that much of the trade is unrecorded, limiting the visibility of indigenous cattle’s economic contribution at the national level. At the same time, when indigenous cattle enter formal markets, they are often discounted by grading systems

that favour younger, heavier, grain-finished carcasses, leading to systematic under-valuation of pasture-finished indigenous animals.

Economic studies of Nguni commercialization projects show that improved market access and larger herds can increase gross margins and support commercialization, but also that smallholders often lack the experience and support needed to participate fully and benefit.

Slaughter Practices, Culture and Perceptions of Quality and Hygiene

While detailed quantitative work on indigenous-cattle slaughter practices is limited, several studies point to the strong cultural embedding of livestock use, including slaughter for rituals, ceremonies and communal events. In many rural communities, home or community slaughter is preferred for important occasions, both to comply with ritual requirements and to retain control over how the animal is killed and the meat is distributed.

Farmers and consumers often associate these traditional

methods, which may involve full bleeding and specific handling of organs, with better taste, healthfulness and spiritual or social benefits. Conversely, concerns are sometimes raised in policy and veterinary circles about the hygiene and food-safety aspects of informal slaughter, particularly where facilities, water and inspection are lacking.

Reviews of cattle development and marketing programmes in South Africa point out that efforts to integrate smallholders into formal abattoir chains have paid limited attention to cultural norms and local perceptions of quality, contributing to low participation and mistrust. The tension between culturally embedded slaughter practices and formal hygienic standards is therefore an important consideration for value-chain design: approaches that ignore cultural beliefs risk low uptake, whereas approaches that ignore hygiene concerns may face regulatory and public health challenges.

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Conclusion

The Agricultural Research Council's Kaonafatso ya Dikgomo (KyD) programme is improving smallholder commercialization by increasing farmers' awareness of market channels and effectively shifting them from low-value farmgate sales toward more lucrative auctions, with participation shaped by socio-economic factors such as education, income, herd size, labour and training.

At the same time, experiences with agricultural research systems and agri-business incubators highlight the growing importance of intellectual property management, structured technology transfer, and deliberate commercialization strategies to capture value from publicly generated innovations. Taken together, this suggests that the ARC and KyD should explicitly adopt a value-chain approach that not only links communal cattle keepers to markets, but also addresses downstream processing, branding

and governance, while integrating appropriate IP and technology-commercialization practices to protect and leverage genetic resources, know-how and other innovations for the benefit of smallholder farmers. More value can be derived from securing IP, such as by securing a geographic indicator for biltong

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NAMC ECONOMISTS ATTEND THE GTAP CONFERENCE

Dr Solly Molepo¹, Mr Bhekani Zondo², and Mr Phelelani Sibiya³



**From left: Dr Solly Molepo, Mr Phelelani Sibiya and Mr Bhekani Zondo*

On the week of 17 - 19 June 2029, NAMC economists Dr Solly Molepo, Mr Bhekani Zondo, and Mr Phelelani Sibiya represented the organisation at the 29th annual conference on Global Economic Analysis (2026

GTAP conference) in Kyoto, Japan. The conference was held under the theme "Confronting Developmental and Environmental Challenges in Asia and the New Trade Landscape." Over the three-day conference,

participants shared cutting-edge research on computable general equilibrium (CGE) modelling and its application to real-world policy issues. Sessions explored topics including international trade, climate change mitigation, carbon pricing, agricultural development, food security, biodiversity, water resource management, artificial intelligence, regional integration, and sustainable economic development. The conference provided an important platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the presentation of innovative analytical approaches to support evidence-based policymaking in addressing global developmental and environmental challenges.

SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS STRENGTHEN GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AT IFAMA 2026

Mr Buhlebemvelo Dube



**AEASA members strengthening global partnerships at IFAMA 2026.*

South African agricultural economists made a significant contribution to the 2026 International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA) World Conference, hosted by University College Cork in Ireland. Under the theme “Rooted in Resilience: Revitalizing Agri-Food Systems for an Uncertain Tomorrow,” the conference brought together academics, agribusiness leaders, policymakers, and students from around the world to advance research and practical solutions for resilient agri-food

systems.

For the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa (AEASA), participation extended beyond conference attendance. It provided an important platform to showcase South African research, strengthen international collaborations, promote emerging scholars, and exchange ideas that can inform policy, agribusiness decision-making, and food system resilience. Such global engagement reinforces the growing contribution of South African agricultural economists to addressing challenges, including climate change, trade, food security, rural development, and

sustainable value chains.

South African delegates participated as presenters, moderators, panellists and poster authors, reflecting the breadth of expertise within the country’s agricultural economics profession. Among the representatives were former AEASA President Melissa van der Merwe and Andre Jooste, Chairperson of the Council of the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC).

Participating institutions included:

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- National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) - Stellenbosch University - University of the Free State - University of Fort Hare - North-West University	- University of the Western Cape - University of Zululand South African research addressed a diverse range of contemporary issues in agricultural economics, including monetary policy	transmission, agricultural trade, climate resilience, value chains, market volatility, consumer behaviour, financial resilience, agricultural extension, and digital agriculture.
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Presentations included:

Presenter	Presentation
Nkele Kgasago	Unlocking economic growth through value-added processing of raw materials in South Africa: Opportunities and strategies for the agricultural sector
Nkele Kgasago and Abbyssinia Mushunje	Determinants of household participation in informal microfinance institutions (IMFIs): A pathway to resilient and sustainable rural livelihoods in Limpopo Province, South Africa. Evaluating the impact of social capital on household food security in Limpopo Province, South Africa
Anathi Makamane	Agricultural extension practitioners' awareness and understanding of climate change: Empirical evidence from the Eastern Cape, South Africa
Anathi Makamane and Kirsty Green	Food system stress test: Exploring stressors in South African agri-food case studies
Jabulile Manyike	ICT-based versus human-based climate information: Implications for agronomic decision-making among smallholder farmers
Buhlebemvelo Dube	Non-neutrality of monetary policy and the interplay of macroeconomic transmission channels in South Africa's avocado sector
Christien Langenhoven	Volatility interdependence between global and South African maize and wheat markets
Ernst Idsardi and Mariette Geyser	Revitalizing value distribution in the South African beef value chain: The fifth quarter effect
Ernst Idsardi	Social sustainability standards in the South African wine sector
Kirsty Green	Understanding the nature, dynamics and resilience of smallholder participation in the Western Cape fresh produce market

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Liezel Massyn	A scoping review of farmers' personal resilience
Mariette Geyser	Climate signals and market expectations: ENSO effects on white maize option volatility in South Africa
Melissa van der Merwe	Green trade, unequal burdens: The EU Green Deal's implications for developing-country fruit exporters. Skills and competencies of the agricultural economist of the future: Evidence from a developing-country context.
Moses Lubinga	Consumers' opinions and willingness to pay for eggs above the average price in South Africa
Sanlie Middelberg	Resilient pathways: Integrating small-scale livestock farmers into red meat value chains in fragile economies.
Zenzile Mahlangu	Determinants of financial resilience in urban households across a shock: Strengthening the consumer foundation of agri-food systems in Bulawayo

South African delegates contributed throughout the conference programme. During the Academic Symposium, they attended more than 150 research presentations on resilience, sustainability, and agribusiness management.

The Business Forum explored emerging issues, including climate risk, resilient supply chains, artificial intelligence in agriculture, and consumer trust, with South Africans serving as moderators and panellists. Delegates also participated in the conference reception and gala dinner, celebrating international collaboration and excellence in agribusiness research, while the technical field visits to Irish dairy and distilling enterprises provided valuable insight into internationally competitive agri-food systems.

South African Students Shine in Global Hackathon

A highlight of the conference was the Global Hackathon on Nutrient Use Efficiency. Three South African university teams from the University of the Western Cape, North-West University, and the University of the Free State competed in the international competition. In an outstanding achievement, Team 4, comprising two South African students, won the global challenge with an innovative solution to improve sustainable nitrogen management. The achievement demonstrated the talent of South African students and the country's growing contribution to practical innovation in sustainable agriculture.

Strengthening the Agricultural Economics Profession

South Africa's strong presence at IFAMA 2026 reaffirmed the country's position as an

active contributor to global agricultural economics and agribusiness research. Through high-quality research presentations, international networking, student success, and professional leadership, AEASA members demonstrated the value of agricultural economics in addressing complex challenges facing food systems. Participation in international forums such as IFAMA strengthens South Africa's agricultural economics community by fostering knowledge exchange and expanding research partnerships. It also ensures that locally relevant research contributes to global discussions while bringing international perspectives back to inform policy, industry and sustainable agricultural development.

IN MEMORIAM OF DR (PASTOR) OYEWALE JOHN OYESUNTIMI



**Dr (Pastor) Oyewale John Oyesuntimi*

The Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa (AEASA) mourns the passing of Dr (Pastor) Oyewale John Oyesuntimi.

Oyewale John Oyesuntimi was born on the 30th of November 1989 at Kukoyi Hospital, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, into the family of Engr. Rufus Daisi Oyesuntimi and Mrs. Grace Titilayo Oyesuntimi. He was the third child and the only son in the family.

He began his early education at Ade-Ojo Nursery and Primary School, where he laid

a strong academic foundation. He proceeded to Iganmode Grammar School for his secondary education, where he demonstrated diligence and a passion for learning.

In the year 2009, at a young age, Oyewale gave his life to Christ during an Easter retreat held at the Deeper Life Bible Church Campground in Ilogbo, Ota, Ogun State. From that moment, he became a devoted follower of Christ. He lived a life marked by faith, discipline, and unwavering commitment to the gospel.

Driven by a desire for academic excellence, Oyewale gained

admission into the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), where he commenced his tertiary education through the pre-degree programme and later advanced into the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension. He successfully graduated from FUTA in 2017, marking an important milestone in his academic journey.

After completing his undergraduate studies and participating in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Oyewale furthered his education in South Africa, where he pursued his Master's degree and later his PhD in Agricultural Economics. His academic pursuits were driven by a passion to contribute meaningfully to society.

On the 14th of May 2022, Oyewale got married to Mrs. Victory Oghenetega Samuel, and their union was blessed with two beautiful children, Tijesunimi Oyesuntimi and Toluwanimi Oyesuntimi. He was a devoted husband and a loving father who nurtured his family in the fear and knowledge of God, demonstrating love, care, and responsibility.

Oyewale John Oyesuntimi was a true soldier of Christ, deeply passionate about evangelism and winning souls for the Kingdom of God.

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In pursuit of this calling, he founded Faith Apostolic Mission, through which he reached out to many lives both in person and through online platforms, impacting people globally during his time on earth. His commitment to spreading the gospel was

marked by fervency, compassion, and sincerity, as he consistently dedicated himself to reaching lost souls within and beyond his immediate environment.

He will be remembered for his unwavering faith in God, his love for his family, his academic excellence, and his profound impact on the lives of many.

Though his passing is a great loss, his legacy of faith, love, and service will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” — 2 Timothy 4:7

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