MEET THE 2021 MAWAZO LEARNING EXCHANGE (MLEX) FELLOWS

We are excited to introduce our inaugural cohort of Mawazo Learning Exchange (MLEx) Fellows. The MLEx Fellowship Programme will provide bespoke professional development training to our MLEx Fellows via the MLEx Platform, as well as tailored mentorship and networking with national, regional and international researchers and experts.

The cohort consists of 42 MLEx Fellows who are current PhD candidates at universities across East Africa (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda). Together, they represent eight African nationalities, and are pursuing innovative local research in a range of fields including Agriculture, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Climate Change, Engineering, Food Science, Health, Physics, and Women's Studies. By supporting the professional development of African women in the knowledge sector, we can amplify the voices and contributions of women to the continent's development.

All 42 MLEx Fellows are introduced below and you can find out more about them and their research by clicking here.

The Mawazo Learning Exchange is an initiative of the Mawazo Institute that provides professional development through a range of online courses and free resources created and curated by the Mawazo Team, with early-career African researchers in mind.

CHEMISTRY

EMILY NGENO, Kenya
PhD in Chemistry
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

FLORA CHIRIKONA, Kenya
PhD in Chemistry
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

MARGARET MURAGE, Kenya
PhD in Biochemistry
University of Nairobi

RENEE MUNAYI, Kenya
PhD in Chemistry
University of Nairobi

RUTH KIHIKA, Kenya
PhD in Chemistry
Kenyatta University
EDNA MUTHAMIA, Kenya
PhD in Horticulture (Floriculture)
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

EVALINE SANG', Kenya
PhD in Agribusiness
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

KAVENGI KITONGA, Kenya
PhD in Agriculture and Applied Economics
University of Nairobi

MARGARET MWANGI, Kenya
PhD in Agricultural Economics
Egerton University

MARIE CHANTAL ZANINKA, Rwanda
PhD in Agricultural and Rural Innovation
Egerton University

MARGARET MWANGI, Kenya
PhD in Agricultural Economics
Egerton University

NJERI NJAU, Kenya
PhD in Horticulture
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

ROGIA GOMEZ, Benin
PhD in Animal Science
Sokoine University of Agriculture
BIOTECHNOLOGY

DORCAS BENARD, Kenya
PhD in Environmental and Biosystems Engineering
University of Nairobi

HELLEN GITONGA, Kenya
PhD in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
Makerere University

JOANNE ADERO, Uganda
PhD in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
Makerere University

PAULINE ORONDO, Kenya
PhD in Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

RUTH MWANGI, Kenya
PhD in Plant Pathology
Egerton University

SYLVIA MUTINDA, Kenya
PhD in Biotechnology
Kenyatta University

VELMA OKARON, Kenya
PhD in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
Makerere University
CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DESTA GEBEYEHU, Ethiopia
PhD in Climate Change and Bioenergy Development
Kaimosi Friends University College

FATUMAH Nakiguli, Uganda
PhD in Life Sciences (Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management)
Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology

Lilian Kong’ANI, Kenya
PhD in Environmental Governance and Management
University of Nairobi

Margaret Muriuki, Kenya
PhD in Environmental Governance and Management
University of Nairobi

Maysoon Osman, Sudan
PhD in Climate Change and Adaptation
University of Nairobi

Mutono Nyamai, Kenya
PhD Environmental Governance and Management
University of Nairobi

Sally Musungu, Kenya
PhD in Environmental Research
Imperial College London/International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

Yvonne Githiora, Kenya
PhD in Climate Change and Adaptation
University of Nairobi

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HEALTH AND MEDICINE

HELLEN KOKA, Kenya
PhD in Medical Parasitology and Entomology
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

JANET SURUM, Kenya
PhD in Educational Psychology
Moi University

LORINE NYONGESA, Kenya
PhD in Genetics
University of Nairobi

MARY MURITHI, Kenya
PhD in Molecular Medicine
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

MERCY MWANJA, Uganda
PhD in Health Science
Makerere University

PEACE UWAMBAYE, Rwanda
PhD in Public Health
University of Rwanda

TERESA MILUGO, Kenya
PhD in Medical Entomology
Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College

THÉRÈSE UMUHOZA, Rwanda
PhD in Tropical and Infectious Diseases
University of Nairobi
**FOOD SCIENCE**

ELIZABETH NAKHUNGU WAFULA, Kenya  
PhD in Food Science and Nutrition  
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

LINNET MWANGI, Kenya  
PhD in Food Science  
Egerton University

MILCAH WAMBUA, Kenya  
PhD in Food Science  
Egerton University

REHEMA MATENDO ESTHER, DRC  
PhD in Food Science and Nutrition  
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

**ENGINEERING**

FRIDA ANDALU, Tanzania  
PhD in Petroleum Engineering  
University of Dar-es-Salaam

**PHYSICS**

CYNTHIA UMUHIRE, Rwanda  
PhD in Space Physics  
University of Rwanda

**WOMEN'S STUDIES**

JUDY NGINA, Kenya  
PhD in African Women Studies  
University of Nairobi