

## **[Episode 1] Integrated ICT model to solve the challenges of high production loss caused by the Sweet Potato Virus Disease (SPDV)**

### **Episode Introduction:**

An integrated ICT model has been developed to solve the challenges of high production loss caused by the Sweet Potato Virus Disease (SPDV) in a collaboration with universities and private sectors. Supported by Bioinnovate Africa, Dr. Settumba of Senai Farm Supplies Ltd. and Ms. Kitisya of MIMEA International Kenya Ltd., formed part of a team of experts who helped develop the model. The model has so far enabled the sales of more than 3 million vines to farmers in East Africa. In this episode, Dr. Settumba and Ms. Kitisya will talk about their experiences developing the model, their role in this project as well as their journey at Senai Farm Supplies Ltd.(Uganda) and MIMEA International Ltd. (Kenya). Read their project story here: [URL](#).

### **Guest Lecturer:**

- Dr. Settumba Mukasa, Senai Farm Supplies Ltd. (Uganda)

Dr. Settumba Mukasa is an Associate Professor, School of Agricultural Science, Makerere University. Other than his high expertise in plant genetics, biotechnology and plant virology, he is also interested in developing sustainable quality seed systems. Full Dr. Settumba Mukasa's biography can be found here: [URL](#)

Senai Farm Supplies Limited (SENAI) is a private limited company incorporated in Uganda since 2014 and specialises in providing quality seeds and novel agricultural innovations. Senai has sold over 900,000 certified sweet potato seeds to vine multipliers and farmers in Uganda.

- Ms. Anne Kitisya, MIMEA international Kenya Ltd.

Ms. Anne Kitisya is the Founder and Managing Director of Mimea International Limited. She holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biotechnology from Mount Kenya University, and a Masters of Science degree in Biotechnology from Kenyatta University.

Before starting Mimea international limited, she worked as the production manager at Genetics Technologies Limited and technician at The University of Nairobi among other institutions. She has consulted and trained on the startup of plant laboratories and institutions on plant tissue culture in East and Central Africa including being on a panel of experts for the World Bank/ International Development Association program.

Mimea International Ltd is an agribusiness company registered in Kenya since 2005, specializing in in-vitro micro propagation and propagation of high quality, disease, and pest-free superior planting materials such as bananas, sweet potato vines, cassava among other agricultural crops. Mimea has sold over 40,000 certified sweet potato seeds to vine multipliers.

**Industries:**

ICT, Agriculture

**Lecture date and time:**

28th October, 2021, 12-13:30pm (GMT)