



Research & Innovation

Week 2025

Programme

Dates: 11th - 12th August, 2025

Venue: Engineering Auditorium

Theme:

**Research and Innovation: Driving Sustainable Growth
for an Inclusive and Entrepreneurial Malawi**

- Innovate
- Create
- Generate

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GUEST OF HONOUR AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Guest of Honour



Mr. Clarence Gama

A visionary leader advancing Malawi's ICT landscape. Current CEO of NICO Technologies and President of the ICT Association of Malawi – ICTAM.

He is committed to building a resilient, innovative digital economy while empowering professionals to thrive in a competitive global tech environment.

Keynote Speaker



Dr Becky Jones-Phillips

Dr. Becky Jones-Phillips is the Director of Enterprise and Innovation (E&I) at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), where she leads efforts to accelerate translational research and bring health innovations to market. Her team also develops commercial strategies and builds innovation capacity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), focusing on areas like clinical trials, manufacturing, and regulation. She chairs LSTM's Gender Equity Action Committee and leads the Athena Swan Self-Assessment Team, promoting gender equity across the institution. With a background in immunoparasitology and experience in the commercial diagnostics sector, Becky is Principal Investigator on three Research England-funded projects—FLIGHT, SIGHT, and BRITE—and contributes to several others, focusing on implementation and market strategy for public health innovations.

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KEY SPEAKERS

Dr. Joseph Nagoli



Joseph Nagoli is the Senior Research Coordinator for IFPRI and Policy Hub Leader for the CGIAR in Malawi. He holds a PhD in Urban and Rural Development (Anthropology) from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and an MSc in Agriculture, Environment and Development from the University of East Anglia. With over 20 years of research experience and more than 50 publications, his work focuses on political ecology, food systems, natural resources governance, and the blue economy in East and Central Africa and Asia.

Prior to IFPRI, Joseph served as Director of Knowledge and Learning and Acting Director General of the National Planning Commission, where he led the drafting of Malawi 2063 and its first 10-Year Implementation Plan. He helped re-establish the SADC Planning Entities Platform and co-chaired Malawi's Food Systems Transformation Coordination Steering Committee. He also worked with WorldFish Malawi, developing fisheries and aquaculture programs, including improved local tilapia and nutrition-focused fish diets.

Prof. Kondwani Jambo



Professor Kondwani Jambo is a Professor of Immunology and Infection at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, with my research primarily based at the Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Research Programme (MLW). I serve as the Hub Lead of the Discovery Research Support Hub and am also the President of the Science For All Foundation, initiatives committed to advancing equitable access to science and research opportunities across Africa. My research focuses on understanding the pathogenesis of mucosal-acquired pathogens that pose serious health challenges to low- and middle-income countries, including HIV, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and emerging pathogens. We collect samples from the nose, lungs, gut, and genital tract to investigate mucosal immunity, leveraging advanced technologies such as single-cell sequencing, spatial biology, multiplex serology, and flow cytometry. Our vision is to develop, adapt, and optimise immunisation strategies that reduce the transmission and impact of mucosal-acquired infections. Over the course of my career, I have been honoured to receive several prestigious fellowships, including the MRC/FCDO African Research Leader Award, the Wellcome Intermediate Fellowship in Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and, most recently, the Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellowship from the Gates Foundation.

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Assoc. Prof. Faidess Mwale



Faidess Mwale is an Ass. Professor in Water Resources Engineering and Management in the Department of Civil Engineering at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS). She served as Head of Civil Engineering Department between 2015 and 2020 and continues to serve the University through various committees. Her work spans research and consultancies in the area of water resources, water infrastructure, disaster risk and water management. She has supervised postgraduate research both at masters and doctoral levels and has served as examiner at this level both internally and externally. Her expertise has led to collaborations with the University of Bristol, University of Florence Italy, the University of Exeter, University of Tokyo and Loughborough University among others. She has worked on assignments, among others with CIMA Foundation (Italy); JCM Power, Royal HaskoningDHV (Netherlands) and some Water Boards in Malawi. Dr Mwale is a grant reviewer for UK Research and Innovation Global Challenge Research Grants (UKR-GCRG) and has also been a speaker on water management issues.

Dr. Robert Hanjahanja



Dr Robert Hanjahanja is a Water and Sanitation Specialist with passion for serving the urban poor with sustainable water and sanitation solutions. He is currently Chief Executive Officer for Blantyre Water Board. Prior to this, he was Deputy Chief of Party with RTI for USAID's E-WASH program in Abuja, Nigeria. He also was Chief Director for Irrigation and Water Development in the Ministry of Agriculture & Water Development (Malawi) and is the former CEO for Southern Region Water Board. Prior to this, he was a consultant with Castalia Strategic Advisors in a reform project for Mombasa Water and Sewerage Company. He worked for TetraTech on USAID-SUWASA for 5 years in their regional office in Nairobi and assisted in the development and coordination of their reform initiative for the nine countries that SUWASA worked in i.e. Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Liberia and Senegal. He has also been Deputy CEO (Engineering) for Lilongwe Water Board, in Malawi. He was also Country Director for Habitat for Humanity, an NGO which provides sustainable low cost housing solutions for the poor. Robert is a Registered Utility Management Specialist with Institute of Public- Private Partnerships (IP3) in the (USA) and is a Registered Engineer with the Malawi Board of Engineers. He holds a Doctorate in Environmental Engineering from the University of Nairobi with focus on Water Service Delivery Options to the Urban Poor.

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Mrs. Pilirani Chuma



Mrs. Pilirani Chuma is the Managing Partner at Macdonald & Don Associates, a Blantyre-based law firm she founded in 2019, offering civil, criminal, corporate, and commercial legal services.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of Malawi, was admitted to the Malawi Bar in 2008, and holds multiple postgraduate degrees: an LLM in International Trade Law (Stellenbosch University), an MBA (ESAMI), and a Master in Communications Management (Buckinghamshire University, UK).

Mrs. Chuma began her legal career at Bernhard & Harris before joining Telekom Networks Malawi (TNM) in 2011, where she served as Head of Legal Services and Company Secretary for TNM Mpamba until 2019.

She has also lectured part-time at the University of Malawi (2020–2024) and Catholic University of Malawi (2017–2020). A member of the Malawi Law Society and Women's Law Association, she is active in pro bono work supporting women's legal rights.

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DAY ONE: 11TH AUGUST 2025

OPENING CEREMONY

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER/ RESPONSIBLE PERSON	CHAIRPERSON
08:45- 09:00	Arrival of All Participants and Registration	Lucy Moyo and James Msonda	Bester Nyang'wa
09:00- 09:10	Arrival of VC & the Guest of Honor	Dr. Limbanazo Matandika and Thoko Madumuse	
09:00- 09:15	Opening Prayer	Rev Patrick M'bangwa	
09:15- 09:20	MUBAS Anthem	Mr. Ellius Chizimba/ Mr. Francis Bwanali	

Session 1 : Engineering Auditorium (Guest of Honor and Keynote Speech)

09:20- 09:25	Welcome Remarks, R&I Week Highlights	Dr. Madalitso Tsakama	Petra Ndilowe
09:25- 09:40	Speech by MUBAS Vice-Chancellor	Assoc. Prof. Nancy Chitera	
09:40- 10:00	Official Opening Speech Guest of Honour	Mr. Clemence R. Gama	
10:00- 10:20	Keynote Speech	Dr. Becky Phillips	

10:20- 10:50 HEALTH BREAK AND ENTERTAINMENT (BLACK STRINGS)

10:30- 10:40	Group Photo and Media Interviews	Marketing	
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Session 2 : Engineering Auditorium (Driving Sustainable Growth for an Inclusive and Entrepreneurial Malawi)

11:00- 11:15	Presentation 1: Senior Research Coordinator, International Food Policy ResearchInstitute	Dr. Joseph Nagoli	Petra Ndilowe
11:15- 11:30	Presentation 2: Professor of Immunology and Infection at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Group Leader of the Infection and Immunity Research Group, Lead of the Discovery Research Support Hub, Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Research Programme,	Prof. Kondwani Jambo	

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11:30- 11:45	Presentation 3: Associate Professor in Water Resources Engineering and Management at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences	Prof. Faides Mwale	
11:45- 12:00	Presentation 4: C.E.O for Blantyre Water Board Registered Utility Management Specialist	Dr. Robert Hanjahanja	
12:00- 12:30	Question and Answer Session		
12:30-12:35	Gift Presentation		
12:35-13:30	LUNCH BREAK		

Session 3: Engineering Auditorium (The Future of AI, Growth Conversation with Partners)

13:45- 13:55	FDH Bank Plc Presentation	FDH Bank Plc Representative	Ms. Tamanda Kajaye
13:55- 14:05	UGI Presentation	Mr MacDonald Chibwe	
14:15- 14:25	Standard Bank Plc Presentation	Mr Noel Mbale, Head, Business Enablement	

Session 4: Engineering Auditorium (Innovation Pitching)

Category 1 (Land and Agriculture)			Hope Chilunga
14:30- 14: 40	Land Guard	Isaac Mofolo	
14:40- 14:50	Smart Farming	Precious Namondwe	
14:50- 15:00	Mobile Phone Technology in Farming	Moffat Kaliofasi	
Category 2 (Tracking and Combating Fake News)			
15:00- 15:10	Cash Tracking	George Makina	
15:10 - 15:20	Lost But Found	Caroline Kadzakalowa	
15:20 - 15:30	Deep Fake Detection	Henderson Fuse	
Category 3 (Education and Compliance)			
15:30 - 15:40	Nyani	Timothy Myamba	
15:40- 15:50	Monitoring Guards	Stephano Manyowa	
15:50 - 16:00	HEALTH BREAK		

Category 4 (Drone)			Hope Chilunga
16:00- 16:10	Drone with AI voice control	Henry Dzole	
16:10 - 16:20	Closing Remarks	Dr. Flemmings Ngwira	
16:20 - 16:30	Closing Prayer	Rev. Patrick M'bangwa	

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DAY TWO: 12TH AUGUST 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER/ RESPONSIBLE PERSON	CHAIRPERSON
Session 1: Engineering Auditorium (Innovation and Legal Landscapes)			
08:30 - 08:45	Arrival of all participants and registration	Lucy Moyo and James Msonda	Rhoda Bakuwa
08:45 - 08:50	Opening Prayer	Rev. Patrick M'banga	
08:50- 09:05	Managing Partner: Macdonald & Don Associates. Expert in Legal Corporate and Communications Management.	Pilirani Chuma	
09:05- 09:15	Question and Answers		
09:15-10:30 Plenary Session : Engineering Auditorium			
09:15-10:30	Workshop 1 (Women in innovation) Room Number 221 (Only for females)	Hope Khasu and Selina Machinjiri	Ms. Dalitso Kathyola
09:15- 10:30	Workshop 2 (Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development: Hype or Hope?) Room Number 222	Chikumbutso Walani	Triceea Mandala
09:15-10:30	Workshop 3 (Entrepreneurship) Room 224	Steve Kuchande	
09:45- 10:30 Workshops and Plenary Sessions Running Concurrently			
10:30- 10:45 HEALTH BREAK AND POSTER SESSIONS			
09:15- 10:30 Plenary Session : Engineering Auditorium			
09:15- 09:30	Behavioral Drivers of Single-use Plastic (SUP) Disposal Practices in Blantyre, Malawi: A Theory of Planned Behaviour Analysis across Income Levels	Simon Chima	Grace Kadzakumanja
09:30- 09:45	Engaging Adolescents in Promoting Road Safety: Chitetezo an Intergenerational Intervention to creating Local Solutions	Lusizi Kambalame	
09:45-10:00	Quantification of Extended-Spectrum Beta-Lactamase E. Coli and K. Pneumoniae in Effluent and Associated Health Implications in Blantyre, Malawi	Andrew Mnkhwamba	
10:00-10:15	The role of plastic bottle reuse for home-made beverage packaging in transmission of Extended-Spectrum β -Lactamases-Producing Escherichia coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae in Malawi	Dyson Kazembe	
10:15-10:30	Question and Answers		

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10:30-10:45	HEALTH BREAK			
10:45- 11:00	Sanitation Practices and their Determinants Among In-school and Out-of-school Adolescents in Rural and Urban Malawi	Monica Nzanga	Grace Kadzakumanja	
11:00- 11:15	WASH in Early Childhood Development Centres: Compliance, Practices, and Barriers in Malawi	Kondwani Luwe		
11:15-11:30	A global scoping review of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions for adolescents	Rossannie Malolo		
11:30- 12:00	Question and Answers			
12:30-13:30	LUNCH AND POSTER SESSION			
13:30- 13:45	Arrival of VC, DVC and Delegates	James Msonda	Dr. Jolly Ntaba	
13:45 - 14:00	Opening Remarks	Dr. Madalitso Tsakama		
14:00 - 14:30	Presentation of Awards(FDH Bank, UGI, Standard Bank, MUBAS ICE, SkyEnergy, Sauti and Company)	Dr Jolly Ntaba		
14:30 - 14: 45	Vote of Thanks	Dr Limbanazo Matandika		
14:45 - 15:00	Closing Remarks	Assoc. Prof. Nancy Chitera		
15:00	HEALTH BREAK			
END OF PROGRAMME				

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WORKSHOPS

WOMEN IN INNOVATION

DAY TWO: 12TH AUGUST 2025

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Women's Innovation Network (WIN) Workshop, will bring together women innovators to share ideas, build skills, and foster collaboration. The programme features interactive activities, such as the Spaghetti Challenge, alongside sessions on design thinking, leadership, funding opportunities, and overcoming barriers to innovation.

Through presentations, success stories, and collaborative dialogues, the workshop aims to empower women in the innovation ecosystem, strengthen networks, and inspire community-driven solutions.

Workshop1: Room Number 221 (Women in innovation)		
TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
09:45 – 10:00	Workshop Registration	Ms. Mernani Kaonga (MLW)
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Ms. Evelyn Solomon (MLW)
10:10 – 10:50	Session 1: Design Thinking to Impact for Innovation Chair: Ms. Selina Machinjili	
10:10 – 10:30	Hands-on Team Activity: (e.g. Spaghetti Challenge)	ALL
10:30 – 10:45	Design Thinking	Ms. Hope Khasu
10:45 – 11:00	HEALTH BREAK	
11:00 – 12:30	Session 2: Powering Innovation Through Women's Leadership and Collaboration Chair: Ms. Dalitso Kathyola	
11:00 – 11:15	Empowering Women in the Innovation Ecosystem: Innovation and Enterprise	Dr. Becky Jones-Phillips
11:15 – 11:30	Success Story: The Innovation Journey	Ms. Maya Stewart
11:30 – 11:45	Funding Opportunities & Resource Mobilisation	Ms. Selina Machinjiri
11:45 – 12:00	Exploring Barriers to Innovation: A Collaborative Dialogue on Community-Driven Solutions	Ms. Bridgette Galafa
12:15 – 12:30	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks	
12:30	LUNCH	

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WORKSHOPS

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: HYPE OR HOPE?

DAY TWO: 12TH AUGUST 2025

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The workshop "Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development: Hype or Hope?" Led by Chikumbutso Walani (MUBAS Design Studio Engineer) is designed for researchers, students, practitioners, and policymakers, it will explore AI's applications, potential, and limitations in African development contexts through presentations, case studies, group discussions, and debates.

Participants will gain an understanding of AI fundamentals, real-world African use cases, ethical considerations, and a framework for responsible AI adoption. The interactive format will encourage critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving, aiming to equip attendees with practical insights and resources for applying AI in sustainable development.

Workshop 2: Room Number 222 (Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development: Hype or Hope?)

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER	
09:45 – 10:00	Registration		Triceea Mandala
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome, Objectives & Icebreaker	Chikumbutso Walani	
10:10 – 10:30	Session 1: AI Basics & Global Context		
10:30 – 11:50	Session 2: AI in Africa – Case Studies		
11:50 – 12:10	Session 3: Barriers & Ethics in AI	Group Activity	
12:10 – 12:30	Session 4: Debate – Hype vs Hope	All Participants	
12:30- 12:35	Wrap-up & Next Steps	Chikumbutso Walani	
12:35 – 13:35	LUNCH		

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WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 3: ROOM NUMBER 244 (ENTREPRENEURSHIP)

DAY TWO: 12TH AUGUST 2025

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop offers final-year MUBAS students with entrepreneurial ambitions a platform to pitch their business ideas for expert review. It aims to refine their concepts and operational plans, preparing them to confidently approach potential funders.

By presenting ideas formalised in reviewed business plans, participants will receive valuable feedback to strengthen their proposals for commercialisation into spin-out companies. The session targets final-year students with strong business prospects, with the possibility of potential funders in attendance.

Workshop 3: Room Number 224 (Entrepreneurship)			
TIME	ENTREPRENEUR	ENTERPRISE NAME	INDUSTRY
09:30 – 09:45	Austin Mbando	Malawi Organic Peanut Products (MOPP)	Groundnut Products
09:45 – 10:00	Dorica Kapinji	Parcas Restaurant	Catering
10:00 – 10:15	Eliza Gaya	Taste of Malawi Snacks Limited	Food Processing of local foods
10:15 – 10:30	Faith Frackson	Greenharvest Dealers (Agroprocessing and Packaging)	Processing and Supply Chain of agricultural foods
10:30 – 10:45	Joseph Bwezani	Bwezani Investments	Fried Chips products
10:45 – 11:00	Tinkhani Phiri	Greenharvest Organic Farm	Production and sale of organic vegetables and herbs
11:00 – 11:15	Type Mwangolobo	Malawi Green Energy Solutions (MGES)	Renewable Energy Production
11:15 – 11:30	Gemson Major	Nyovwinyovwi Fruit Juice Production Limited	Fruit Juice Production
11:30 – 11:45	Hannah Kachingwe	Avocado Gold Oil Processing Company	Avocado Oil Manufacturing
11:45 – 12:00	James Nyirongo	Zikomo Poultry Farm	Broiler Chicken production
12:00 – 12:15	Takondwa Christopher	Mudyo Foods Limited	Catering
12:30	LUNCH		

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JUDGES

INNOVATIONS JUDGES	PROFILE
Tadala Namaona	Lecturer in Telecommunication Engineering at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences.
Goodal Nyirenda	Lecturer in Information Technology at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences.
Christopher Dzuwa	Standards Officer(Engineering & Materials) at the Malawi Bureau of Standards, and National Focal Point for ISO S4S (Energy Management Systems).
Yusuf Chimole	Software Developer, C.E.O at Rydberg Starck

POSTER SESSION

TIME	POSTER PRESENTATION SESSION	PRESENTER
10:30- 10:45 12:30- 13:30	In-situ Measurement and Analysis of Background Radiation Levels Around Cement Factories in Malawi	Aaron Nahuku
	Sheer knowledge or Morality of Sexual-Knowledge-sources	Gladson Makowa
	Potential Impacts of Integrating Solar PV Systems for Net Metering to an existing Low Voltage Network in Malawi. A Model Analysis of 100kW System	Lottie Singini

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