

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PROFILE FOR DR. WILSON SONGA, MBS

Dr. Wilson A. Songa holds the following qualifications; a BSc. in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi; MSc. in Crop Science from Wageningen Agricultural University, Netherlands and a PhD in Plant Pathology from University of Reading, UK.

Dr. Songa has an illustrious career and experience spanning over 17 years in the national agricultural research systems and 14 years in senior management and administration in various institutions in the agricultural sector at the national level while also representing Kenya in various capacities in Regional, African and international agriculture sector committees and fora.

He has worked with the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) as a Senior Research Officer from 1981 to 1997, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) in various senior capacities rising to General Manager, Phytosanitary Services between 1998-2003, Chief Executive of the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), in 2003, the Managing Director, Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA) between 2004 and 2005 and is currently serving as Agriculture Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, since 2005. He has 36 publications in refereed journals, technical reports and refereed conference proceedings.

Dr. Songa served as the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural cooperation ACP-EU in the Netherlands from 2008-2011. He is the Kenyan Government representative to the Board of Trustees of the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) and is a member of the project Nurture Steering Committee, an initiative of the Coca-Cola Company, TechnoServe and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation aimed at promoting development of fruits industry in Kenya and Uganda. Dr. Songa has also been serving on the Supervisory Board of the Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystem Services and Food Security in Eastern Africa (CHIESA) programme and led many agricultural sector Government delegations to EAC, COMESA, AU-NEPAD, EU and bilateral forums.

In recognition of the his contribution, Dr. Songa was decorated by the Head of State, his Excellency the President of Kenya with the medals of the Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW) and the Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS) in 2004 and 2008 respectively. In addition, he is the interim chair of the Agricultural Chapter of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA).