



## **John Derera**

John Derera is the Senior Director of Plant Breeding and Pre-Breeding at the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Previously, held the roles of Head of Breeding at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Group Head of R&D at Seed Co Group, and Professor of Plant Breeding at the African Centre for Crop Improvement, University of KwaZulu-Natal, in South Africa. In his native Zimbabwe, he worked in the Department of Research & Specialist Services, where he implemented variety registration for plant breeders' rights and seed certification.

He has a combination of business (MBA) and technical qualifications in plant breeding and international seed systems (PhD, MPhil degrees), with professional experience from both the public and private sector.

He is an accomplished publisher and postgraduate students' supervisor. He is a member of Southern Africa Plant Breeders Association (SAPBA), and an Executive Member of the African Plant Breeders Association. Recently, he received the SAPBA award for being one of the 20 most influential plant breeders in 2020.