



**Suresh Babu**, is a Senior Research Fellow and Head of Capacity Strengthening, IFPRI. Dr. Babu was educated at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa (M.S. Economics and PhD Economics). Before joining IFPRI in 1992 as a Research Fellow, Dr. Babu was a Research Economist at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Between 1989 and 1994 he spent 5 years in Malawi, Southern Africa on various capacities. He was Senior Food Policy Advisor to the Malawi Ministry of Agriculture on developing a national level Food and Nutrition Information System; an Evaluation Economist for the UNICEF-Malawi working on designing food and nutrition intervention programs; Coordinator of UNICEF/IFPRI food security program in Malawi. During 1989-1994, as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Malawi, he helped initiate post graduate programs by developing and teaching computer-based policy-oriented courses.

At IFPRI, he has been involved in institutional and human capacity strengthening for higher education and research in many countries in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, including, Ghana, Nigeria, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa for the past 23 years. He was IFPRI's coordinator of its Central Asia program during 1997-2003 and the coordinator of the South Asia Initiative of IFPRI during 2001-2006. He leads IFPRI program on Learning and Capacity Strengthening. He was also the program coordinator for the Agricultural Open Curriculum and Learning Initiative (AGROCURI) a consortium of 40 partners from CGIAR centers, universities in developing and developed countries and international organizations. His current research includes human and organizational strengthening of food policy systems, policy processes, and agricultural extension in developing countries.

Dr. Babu has published more than 60 peer reviewed journal articles and authored or edited 14 books and research monographs. He was a coordinating author of the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment. He has been an honorary visiting professor at The Indira Gandhi National Open University of India, a guest professor at the China Center for Rural Development, Zhizhang University, China and an honorary professor of University of KwaZulu-Natal University in South Africa. He is currently on editorial board of 4 peer reviewed journals. He serves on several international advisory committees including, the Advisory Board of the World Agricultural Forum (<http://worldagforum.com>).



**Dr Nokuthula Vilakazi** is a project coordinator for Future Africa's Early Career Research Leader Fellowship at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Nokuthula has a background in nutrition, food science and food security. She has been actively involved in transdisciplinary research with a special focus towards attaining SDG Goal 2: ending hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. She is involved in food security and nutrition policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation at the household, national and global level. She has participated in improving collaboration between food security and nutrition researchers and the media towards policy change. She is also interested in science communication, especially the dissemination and uptake of knowledge generated by researchers in society.



**Elizabeth Mkandawire** is a Research Assistant with the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Well-being at the University of Pretoria. She has a PhD in Rural Development Planning. She has worked at the University of Pretoria as a Research Assistant for four years. Her research and publications have focused on the integration of gender in nutrition policy, with a specific focus on men's involvement in maternal and child health.

Over the past four years, she has been involved in a number of food security and nutrition-related activities. These include research work with the University of Pretoria, for the Feed the Future Food Security Policy Innovation Lab. This Lab is a consortium which includes the University of Pretoria, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Michigan State University. As part of the Lab, she led the gender and nutrition case study conducted in Lilongwe, Blantyre and Ntcheu, Malawi where she undertook research on men's involvement in maternal and child nutrition. She assisted with training on Food Security and Nutrition for the South African Department of Social Development. She has also contributed to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme process in several African countries. She played a central role in preparing a scoping report for Malawi for the IFPRI Compact 2025 initiative.



**Moraka Makhura** is the Director at Makhureng One Company, and Senior Lecturer focusing on Agriculture, Rural & Economic Development at the University of Pretoria. He worked at Land Bank of South Africa, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), and Limpopo Department of Agriculture. He has PhD in Agricultural Economics from University Pretoria (with IFPRI). He also studied at Penn State University, US; University of South Africa; as well as University of Limpopo and University of Johannesburg. He has also undergone training in Municipal Governance, Speaking French, and took SDGAcademy Online Course on “Feeding the Hungry World, Agriculture and Sustainability”. He also enjoys; facilitation, mediation, negotiations, creative (or

innovative) thinking, strategic planning and capacity building/skills & institutional development and architecture.

Makhura has served as the President of Agricultural Economics Association of SA (AEASA) and in other boards and Committees. He served in the South African Food Security Working Group that prepared South Africa position for the World Food Summit in 1996 – and was one of the three Drafting Team members of the initial South African Food Security Policy Discussion Document. He also prepared FAO Technical Assistance on Integrated Food Security Policy Framework for South Africa. Recently, he led a Team for the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. He also supported the Department of Agriculture, forestry and Fisheries to prepare the Malabo Biennial Review. He has collaborated extensively and has wide networks within South Africa, across the African continent and globally. Makhura’s major strength is in research, policy and strategy interface. He also works more effectively within team environments and tends to enhance teams with his versatility. He is able to traverse among different spaces. Makhura is also nominated by Modernizing African Food Systems (MAFS) as one of Role Models in African Agricultural and Food Systems.

The major areas of research have been in commercialisation; agricultural finance; land and rural development, food security, gender, new institutional economics and macro-economic analysis.



**Ms. Nosipho Mabuza** is a Research Assistant with the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Well-being (IFNuW) and a PhD candidate in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development at the University of Pretoria. Prior to joining the institute, she worked as a research assistant for the South African Land Observatory (SALO) also based at the University of Pretoria. Nosipho's research interests focus on food security and nutrition policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation, socio-economic impact analysis and rural development. Most recently she has been involved in the assessment of the scope and nature of policy change that had occurred in 11 African countries coinciding with the changes in the food security context. How well the monitoring and evaluation frameworks of these countries' National Agriculture Investment Plans aligns with global, regional and national development frameworks with a specific focus on food security and nutrition.

These studies were carried out as part of the USAID's Feed the Future Food Security Policy Innovation Lab. Nosipho holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Pretoria and a BSc degree in Agricultural Economics and Business Management from the University of Swaziland. Ms. Mabuza's PhD research focuses on assessing the impact of public investments and policies on growth and nutrition in Africa.



**Nic Olivier** was previously professor at the Universities of Pretoria, Potchefstroom and Natal, and is currently professor extraordinary at North West University and senior part-time consultant researcher at the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Well-being, University of Pretoria. He was visiting professor at the Universities of Leiden, SOAS (London) and Fribourg (Switzerland), and the EU Erasmus Mundus visiting professor at Ghent.

His fields of specialisation include sustainable development; international, human rights and constitutional law; governance (including coordination); transformative policy, strategic and programme-level management (FSN; agriculture; communal tenure and land reform; traditional communities and governance; rural development, and minerals); policy analysis; legal drafting; and electronic data bases of international, African, regional and country-specific FSN documentation.

He has completed various consultancies for the World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR, FAO, DFID, CIDA, USAID, FDC and NORAD, a number of African governments and the South African government.

In 2017-2018 he was closely involved in the drafting (for the South African government) of both the Policy Framework and Rural Development Bill for the establishment and operationalisation of (a) a Rural Development Agency (RDA) and related DFI, and (b) Agri-Parks (funded by the World Bank).

As regards his recent FSN involvement, he:

- collaborated with FAO (South Africa), the South African Government and UNICEF as part of a South African team (led by Prof. Sheryl Hendriks) that was responsible for the background research for the 2017 South African National Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Strategy;
- executed an FAOSFE multi-country IGAD comparative project on incorporation of FSN obligations and commitments; and
- is currently co-project leader (with Prof. Sheryl Hendriks) of a USAID-funded project on FS policy change in Malawi (due for completion in November 2018), and has made inputs into the drafting process of the recently launched final Malawi NAIP II.