



The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

in partnership with the

Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS), University of Mpumalanga (UMP),
University of Venda (UniVen) and University of Pretoria (UP)

will be hosting

Prof Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda: ASSAf Distinguished Visiting Scholar (DVS) 2025/26

during March 2026.



Prof Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda is a globally respected leader at the nexus of agriculture, climate, and sustainable food systems. Her recent roles reflect exceptional strategic influence, including Chair of the CGIAR Integrated Partnership Board (until mid-2025), Co-Chair of the Food Planet Prize, Extra-ordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria, Board Member of Nestlé, member of the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) Board, and Chair of Council of Zimbabwe's National University of Science and Technology.

Her peak global recognition includes fellowships at the Robert Bosch Academy (2025) and the University of Pennsylvania's Kleinman Center for Energy Policy (2024), influential publications in *Nature* and *Nature Plants*, and a pivotal role in shaping the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture adopted at COP28.

A committed Food Systems Champion, Prof Sibanda bridges farmers, science, and policy, amplifying smallholder voices worldwide. Her work has reached over 300 million people in 120 countries. She pioneered Theatre for Policy Advocacy and led the landmark 2009 “No Agriculture, No Deal” campaign that secured agriculture’s inclusion in UN climate negotiations. She also contributed to the EAT-Lancet Commission and has mentored generations of practitioners.

Her honours include the Africa Yara Food Prize (2013), South Africa's Science for Diplomacy Award (2015), the MS Swaminathan Global Leadership Award (2024), and recognition among the Top 20 Global Women of Excellence (2025). In December 2025, she received an Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Melbourne for global leadership in food security, agriculture, and climate resilience.

Prof Sibanda will deliver a series of DVS lectures to disseminate key insights and foster high-level dialogue “**Reflecting on the Agriculture, Climate and Sustainable Food Systems Policy Nexus**”. Furthermore, her schedule will include focused interactions with academics, senior researchers, and emerging researchers.

Date/s	City/Institution
4 March 2026	STELLENBOSCH The Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS)
5 – 6 March 2026	MBOMBELA University of Mpumalanga (UMP)
9 – 10 March 2026	THOHOYANDOU University of Venda (UniVen)
12 March 2026	PRETORIA University of Pretoria (UP)

More about ASSAf Distinguished Visiting Scholars

The Academy annually invites one or more distinguished scholars from abroad to present lectures at various higher education institutions around the country. The scholars are internationally prominent academics who are inspirational speakers and usually with an ability to bridge the divides between disciplines. The purpose of the Distinguished Visiting Scholar's Programme is to fulfill one of the Academy's strategic goals, viz. the promotion of innovation and scholarly activity. Through interaction with distinguished individual scholars from around the world, ASSAf aims to enrich and stimulate research endeavours at South African higher education and research institutions.