



Name: *Sithabile Tirivarombo*

Current Appointment: Lecturer - Botswana International University of Science and Technology

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Area of Research/Teaching

Water Resources Science i.e. Hydrology, Water Resources Management, Climate Change-Water Resources, Water Resources-Food Security, Environmental Impact Assessment

Biography/Tell us about yourself

I am a scientist with keen interest in water resources, climate change, food security and environmental sustainability. My academic qualifications include; a PhD in Water Resources Science from Rhodes University in South Africa, MSc. in Water Resources Engineering and Management as well as BSc. Hons degree in Chemistry both obtained from the University of Zimbabwe.

I have spent most of my career as an academic and a researcher. However, given my passion for water and its importance to nature and humankind, I realise that in addition to the science of the environment the social aspect cannot be divorced from the science especially if we want to see improvements in livelihoods and sustainable development. Also there is now general concession among scientists that climate change is happening and with it are the increased human and environmental threats. In southern Africa for example, the most recent or current El Nino event (2015/2016) has resulted in marked changes to climatic events which include little and untimely rainfall and droughts resulting in food insecurity, excessive temperature and associated health impacts. These threats are so obvious and vivid even to the general communities. Therefore I now give a new dimension to my research interests to integrate science and social dimensions as this will enable scientists to come up with solutions tailor-made to effectively address problems that communities actually face. I am excited about going out into communities and engaging them in some of our research work, in addition to understanding the dynamics between climatic variables and livelihoods, this will make scientific research more useful and tangible. Having a Chemistry background in addition to Water Resources Science and Climate Change puts me in a better position to address water related problems resources from a quality, quantity and climate change perspective.

As part of my career development and being of service to the community, I am involved in the following Botswana National Stakeholder forums whose activities are aimed as input to informed decision making in sustainability and development at national level.

- Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL), whose initiative is to mitigate the effects of climate change on land management and natural resources in southern Africa.
- Southern Africa Agricultural Models Intercomparison and Improvement Project (SAAMIIP)
- MESA SADC Thema, Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa
- United Nations Human Rights to safe drinking water and sanitation in Botswana, sharing views on rights to water and sanitation in Botswana

I have also been involved in the following activities/committees in Zimbabwe:

- Member: Standing Committee on Natural and Environmental Sciences for the Research Council of Zimbabwe. The role of the committee is to advise on priority research areas in natural sciences and the environment thus enabling it to take an informed position of advice to the government and in public debates on topical environmental issues.
- Chairperson: Resource Education Board, Makonde District with responsibilities to educate communities on sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.
- Chairperson: Mashonaland West Provincial Science and Technology Development Committee, to spearhead Science and Technology Development activities, advocate and promote the commercialization of science and technology innovations, create and foster synergies with various sectors and communities as well as mobilizing resources and allocating the Innovation and Commercialization fund to beneficiaries.
- Member: University Consortium on Endogenous Development, Zimbabwe Chapter, advocacy on the use of indigenous knowledge systems for national development.

I received the following awards which helped in the advancement of my research and professional career:

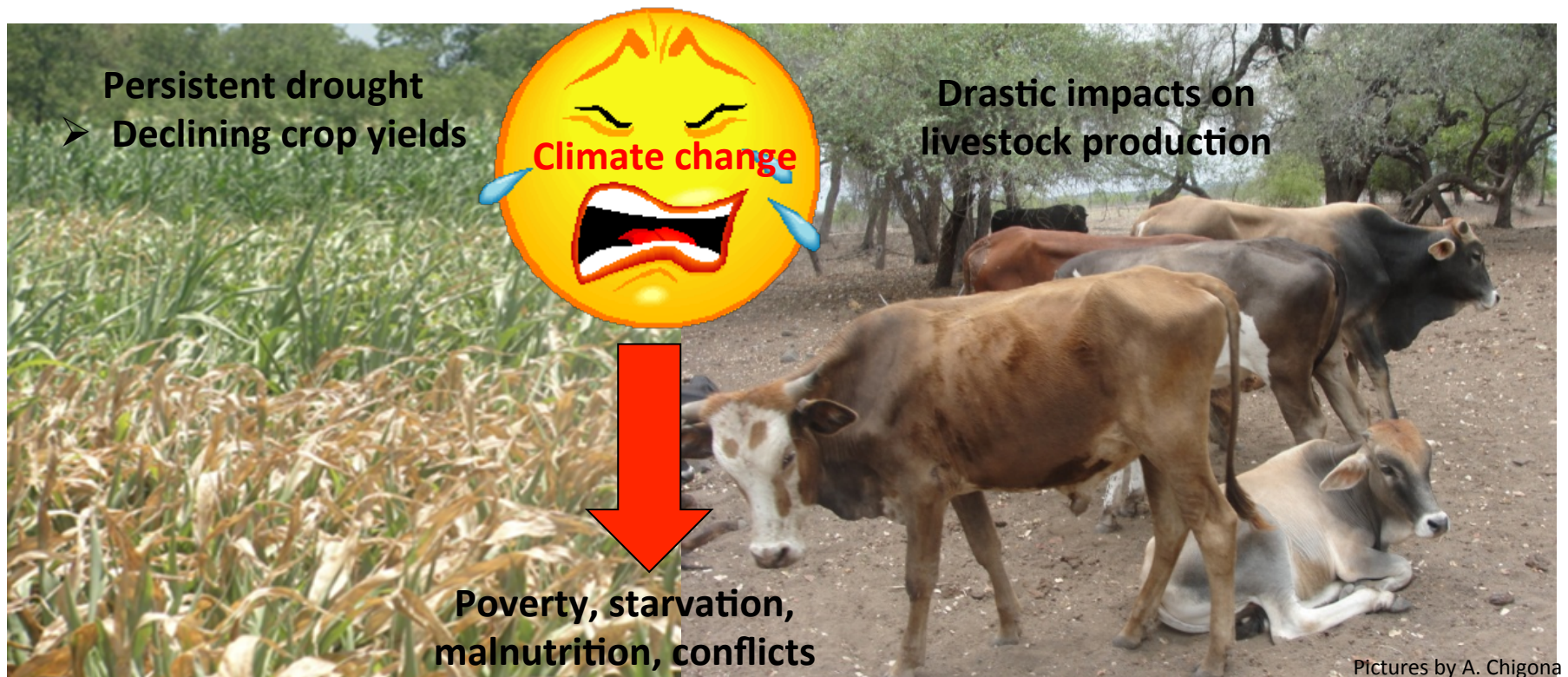
- Global African Initiative Fellowship awarded by Duke University and Carnegie-RISE (Regional Initiative in Science Education) as a visiting scholar to Duke University
- Carnegie/RISE scholarship for PhD studies
- Faculty for the Future Fellowship (for Women Faculty), Schlumberger Stichting Foundation
- WaterNet scholarship for MSc. study

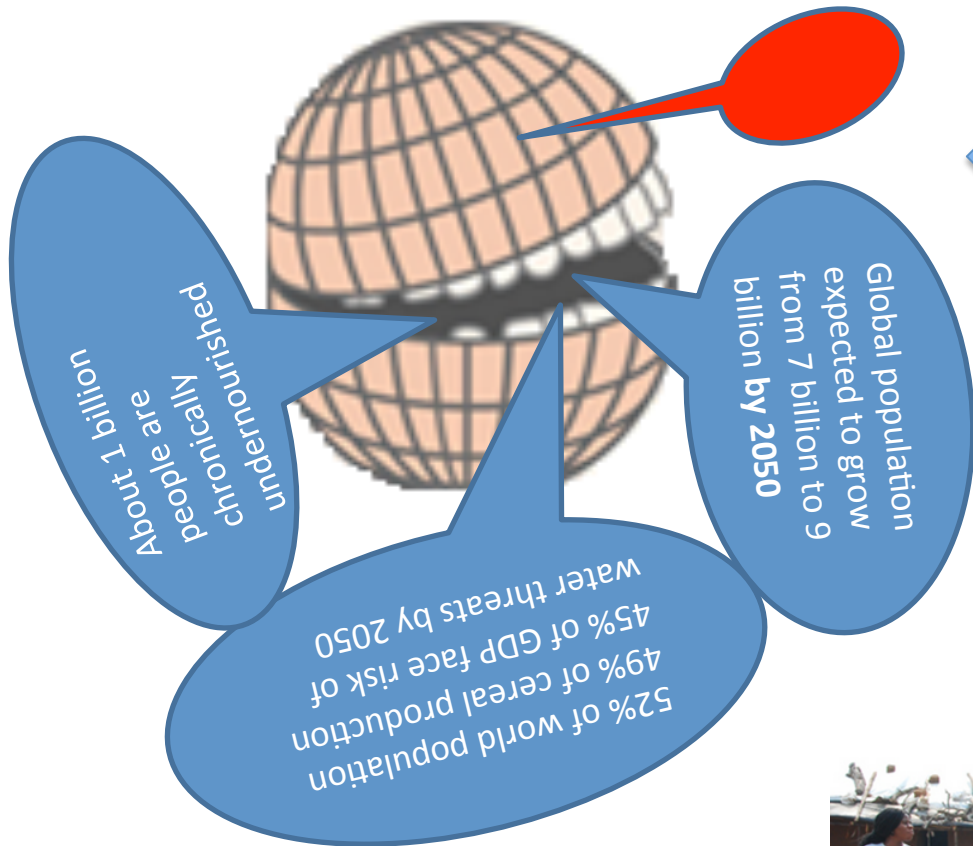
Sithabile Tirivarombo

Educational Background: PhD Water Resources Science, MSc. Water Resources Engineering and Management, BSc. Hons. Chemistry

Current Appointment: Lecturer-Botswana International University of Science and Technology

Research Interests: Environment and Sustainable Development with special focus on Water Resources and their implications on livelihoods in developing countries





A statistical nightmare



Picture Source: Unknown

Modified from food nexus, 2013