

Short bio of Dr. Irene Kadzere, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland, December 2024

Dr. Irene Kadzere is currently a senior scientist in the Department of International Cooperation at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Switzerland, where she also serves the role of FiBL's Africa Ambassador. Dr. Kadzere has over 30 years of experience collaborating with multidisciplinary teams on strategic agricultural research and development projects and initiatives related to nutrition-sensitive agriculture focused on smallholder farming in Sub-Saharan Africa with the aim of informing practice, decisions, and policies. She fosters co-creation and driving food systems transformation and healthier diets through sustainable agricultural research and development innovations, including capacity enhancement, mentorship, and fostering strategic networking. Before joining FiBL in 2012, she worked for the UN FAO's Regional Emergency Office for Southern Africa where she served as the Regional Emergency Agronomist around prevention, response and early recovery strategies from agricultural disasters and shocks. She also worked for the CGIAR's World Agroforestry Centre/ICRAF in Zimbabwe where she led the country component of the programme on domestication of indigenous fruit trees and later became the Country Representative for ICRAF in Zimbabwe. In the Zimbabwe Ministry of Agriculture, she worked on horticulture, focusing on fruit tree production, including indigenous fruits. She holds a Masters of Advanced Studies (MAS) degree in Nutrition and Health from the Department of Health Sciences and Technology, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich; a PhD in Pomology and Postharvest Management from Cornell University, USA; an MSc in Irrigation Water Management from Silsoe College, Cranfield University, UK; and a BSc in Agriculture Honours from the University of Zimbabwe.