



IDEA

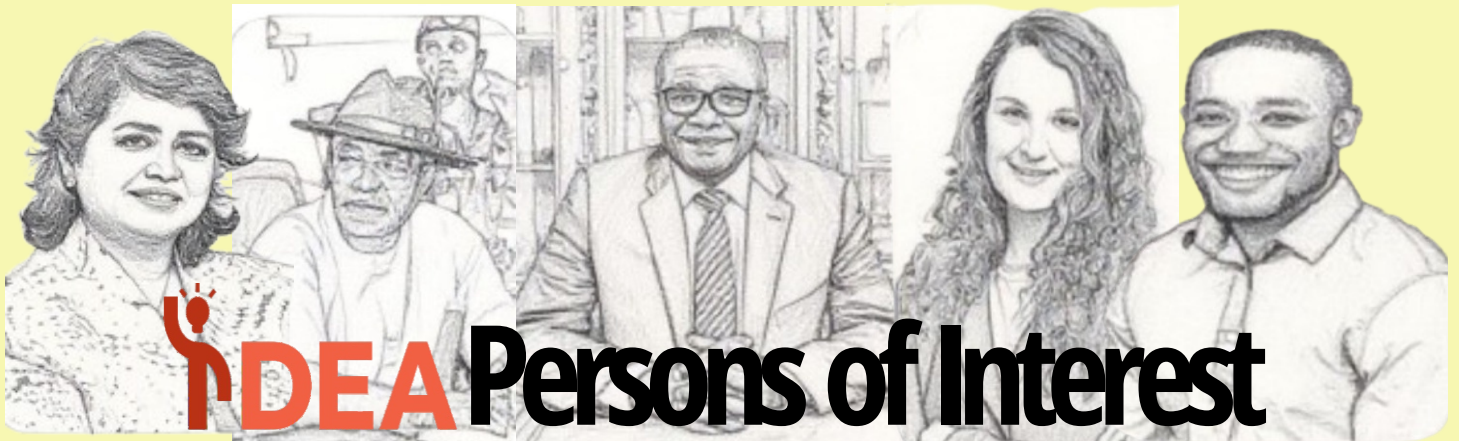


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BACKGROUND

Africa's contributions to global knowledge have not always been documented by Africans.

We were taught in school that Mungo Park discovered River Niger, probably because his travel book was the first documented narrative about River Niger around 1796. IDEA TV's IDEA Persons of Interest aims to correct this type of myth by recognizing and celebrating Africans and friends of Africa whose work in various fields have impacted African communities and beyond.

IDEA TV'S IDEA PERSONS OF INTEREST

IDEA TV, the innovation television in Africa, is more than a channel. We shine a spotlight on ideas, breakthroughs and systems shaping and inspiring knowledge-based development in Africa through innovation and entrepreneurship. IDEA Person of Interest (IPI) program celebrates individuals that are positively impacting Africa's innovation and entrepreneurship landscape from health to agriculture to education to environment to cutting edge research outcomes, etc. Through this Honour, we seek to create awareness and awaken the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

IDEA TV'S IDEA PERSON(S) OF INTEREST (IPI).

OUR FIRST SET OF HONOUREES ARE,

- Christian Happi (Nigeria & Cameroon)
- Ameenah Gurib-Fakim (Mauritius)
- Godfrey Nzamujo (Nigeria & Benin Republic)
- Kwami Williams (Ghana & USA)
- Emily Cunningham (USA & Ghana).

Honourees are identified and prioritized by IDEA TV experts and advisers based on verifiable information in public domain based on these criteria:

- They should be Africans, Africans in the Diaspora or non-Africans who have made significant positive impact in Africa in identified areas.
- Their contribution must be evidence based and accessible through publications, policy documents, products and services.
- Their contribution must have impacted or have potential to impact society, policy or advancement of innovation in Africa.

Christian Happi, PhD. Professor, Molecular Biologist and Biochemist, Director and Founder Institute of Genomics and Global Health at Redeemer University Nigeria - Nigeria and Cameroon.

Christian Happi is recognized in this maiden edition of IDEA Person of Interest for his exceptional, and well documented research, innovation, training and capacity building in Africa on the genomics of infectious diseases, including Malaria, Lassa fever, Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), and Covid-19 as well as Human genomics.



Christian Happi is a Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biology and Genomics, and Founder and Director of Institute of Genomics and Global Health (IGH), formerly African Center of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID) at Redeemer's University, Nigeria. He holds an Adjunct Professor position at the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, Boston, USA. He has published over 230 peer-reviewed articles.

With funding from several international sources, he established IGH - one of the most respected genomics and global health institute in Africa. He has supported genomic sequencing of Human and Pathogens in 42 African countries and trained over 2,500 young African Scientists.

Happi has received many prestigious international and local Awards and Honours for his work. These include TIME 100 Most Influential People in the World and in Global Health (2025); Merle A. Sande Health Leadership Award (2011); Human Genome Organization Africa Prize (2019);

Organization Africa Prize (2019); Bailey K. Ashford Medal of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (2020); Al-Sumait Prize for African Development of the Kuwait Foundation for Advancement in Sciences(2021); and others.



**AMEENAH GURIB-
FAKIM, PhD, DSc.
PROFESSOR,
BIODIVERSITY
EXPERT,
ENTREPRENEUR,
6TH PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
MAURITIUS –
MAURITIUS.**

Ameena Gurib-Fakim is recognized in this maiden edition of IDEA Person of Interest for her exceptional work in Promoting Biodiversity Research, STEM Education especially for Girls, Climate Activism and Advocacy for Africa's development.



Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, served as the 6th and First Female President of the Republic of Mauritius. She is a Professor of Organic Chemistry, Biodiversity Scientist and an entrepreneur who founded the Centre for Phytotherapy Research.

Gurib-Fakim served as Chairperson of the International Council for Scientific Union for African Region. As a member of the Pan African Association of African Medicinal Plants, she coauthored the first African Herbal Pharmacopoeia. Also, she authored and co-authored about 30 books, book chapters and scientific articles in her field.

Gurib-Fakim was in the Forbes List of the 100 'Most Powerful Women in the world' (2016), and Top 100 Women in Africa (2017 and 2019). She served on the Science Advisory Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome (2022). Gurib-Fakim holds a PhD from the University of Exeter, UK (1987). She is fellow of the African Academy of Sciences.



Gurib-Fakim has received many prestigious Awards and Honours, including but not limited to: Order of the Commander of the Star and Key (2008) and Order of GCSK by the Government of Mauritius; Order of the Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Palmes Academiques by the Government of France (2010); Order of Francois 1er des Deux Siciles (2016); l'Oreal-UNESCO Prize for Women in Science (2007); African Union Commission Award for Women in Science (2009); American Botanical Council Norman Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award (2017); Order of St George at the Semperoperball, Dresden, Germany (2018); and others.

**GODFREY
NZAMUJO, PhD.**

**REV. FR,
PROFESSOR, AND
FOUNDER OF
SONGHAI FARMS
WITH
HEADQUARTERS
IN BENIN
REPUBLIC
NIGERIA AND
BENIN REPUBLIC.**

Godfrey Nzamujo is recognized in this maiden edition of IDEA Person of Interest for his revolutionary work in promoting Zero-Waste Agricultural system, supporting food security and training hundreds to thousands of Africans through his Songhai Farms.



Godfrey Nzamujo is a Professor, Engineer, Biologist and Philosopher. He served as a Research Fellow and Professor at the University of California, Irvine and at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California; and Associate Pastor, St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Laguna Hills, California. His present research and development interests include sustainable agriculture in the tropics and institutional framework, renewable energy - biogas, biofuels, rural energy development, microbiology and soil fertilization, energy and waste-water management.

Nzamujo's quest for a sustainable "zero waste" agricultural system to support food security in Africa was ignited by the drought and famine of the 1980s in Ethiopia. He returned from the United States and started the Songhai Farms from a small piece of land in Benin in 1984. Over four decades on, the Songhai Farms has become a sustainable zero-waste agricultural institution in Africa, supporting food security and the environment, creating jobs and training hundreds to thousands of farmers and students across Africa.

Nzamujo has received many Awards and Honours, including membership of the U.N. Independent Commission on "Africa and the Challenges for the Third Millennium"; the Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger; Jesuit Honors Award; Engineering Honors Award (California); UN South-South Cooperation best practices prize; and Special Achievement Award in Agricultural Entrepreneurship by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Nzamujo holds three PhDs - in Electrical Engineering and Computer Service from the University of California at Irvine, in Management Science at the International Institute for Advanced Studies, and in Economic Philosophy.



**KWAMI WILLIAMS,
AEROSPACE
ENGINEER, CO-
FOUNDER AND CEO
MORINGACONNECT
AND TRUE MORINGA
GHANA; AND EMILY
CUNNINGHAM,
ECONOMIST AND
CO-FOUNDER OF
MORINGACONNECT
AND TRUE MORINGA
GHANA - USA**

Kwami Williams and Emily Cunningham are recognized in this maiden edition of IDEA Person of Interest for their revolutionary work with the "Miracle African Tree" called Moringa, which they Converted into job creating, and sustainable, businesses in rural communities of Ghana.



Kwami Williams is an Aerospace Engineer and Entrepreneur. He moved to the US with his family at the age of Eight. By 2012, he had graduated from MIT in Aerospace Engineering and started a career at NASA. In 2013, Kwami Williams, and Emily Cunningham, a development economics student at Harvard, were in Ghana through MIT's D-Lab project. Their project on building processing technologies and supply chain network with local farmers earned them an award of USD5,000 from D-Lab to turn their idea into a business. This resulted to their company, MoringaConnect, in 2013.

In Africa, local farmers cultivate Moringa because the leaves have significant nutritional benefits, including high content of iron, proteins and calcium. However, these farmers could not earn a living by cultivating moringa due to lack of access to market. MoringaConnect, helped to connect farmers to consumers and create a global market for Moringa. It provides other services to farmer - including training, financing, child-care, medical care, and scholarships.

Subsequently, Williams and Cunningham incorporated the Moringa seed in their social enterprise and by taking the Moringa seed to MIT lab for analysis. There, they figured how to cold-press the Moringa seeds into a nourishing oil that is better than argan, jojoba, and shea. This led to the birth of True Moringa, an award-winning clean beauty brand that works directly with over 5,000 small farming families throughout Ghana to introduce moringa oil to the global market. To date, they have planted over 300,000 Moringa trees to prevent malnutrition and deforestation. They have built the largest certified organic Moringa farm in Africa.

"We like to joke that our goal is to prove that money does grow on trees," Williams says. Williams and Cunningham are planting 10 million trees this year through True Moringa, and enriching soil for 10X. Williams and Cunningham have received Awards and Honours for their work, including Best of Indie Beauty Expo, Best of NY NOW, Forbes 30 Under 30. Their work has recently been profiled by CNN and other news outlets.



MoringaConnect

ABOUT



At IDEA TV, we communicate IDEAs.

We welcome nominations for new honourees from the general public following our criteria. We welcome partners, advertisers and sponsors for our programmes. Contact us on our website, emails, Phone/WhatsApp and social media handles:



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