

# APBAConf2025 Kirkhouse Side Event

**Date:** October 8, 2025, | **Venue:** Elephant Hills Resort, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, Gwayi Room

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Kirkhouse Trust (KT) is a UK-registered charity, founded by Professor Sir Ed Southern, to enhance the productivity of legume crops of particular importance in African countries and India. Tropical legumes were chosen as a focus because some species can thrive in harsh conditions with minimal inputs. They supply vital protein and micronutrients, generate income through local markets, enrich soils by fixing nitrogen, and provide valuable livestock feed after harvest. KT's breeding projects focus on common bean, cowpea and Bambara groundnut.

In addition, through the Stress Tolerant Orphan Crop (STOL) initiative, we have supported co-ordinated international trials on neglected legume crops known for their resilience to heat and drought, as part of a wider strategy for climate change adaptation.

Our support is guided by three principles: research must be led by national scientists in their home institutions; projects must include a molecular biology component; and all projects are embedded within consortia, fostering scientific communities and promoting the sharing of knowledge and breeding tools. KT provides research grants, laboratories, equipment, training, and mentoring to enable scientists to apply modern tools such as marker-assisted selection in crop improvement programmes.

## Objectives of the session

- To review recent progress in KT-funded research projects, with particular emphasis on strengthening collaborations and the shared use of breeding resources.
- To identify opportunities for new partnerships.
- To mark the launch of the second phase of the STOL project.

## Speakers and moderators

- **Dr Kelwin Kamfwa**, University of Zambia, Zambia
- **Dr Esther Arunga**, University of Embu, Kenya
- **Dr Yayis Rezene**, Southern Agricultural Research Institute (SARI), Ethiopia
- **Dr Celestina Jochua**, Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique, Mozambique
- **Dr Travis Parker**, University of California, Davis, USA
- **Professor Juan Osorno**, North Dakota State University, USA
- **Mr Kuwabo Kuwabo**, University of Zambia, Zambia
- **Ms Swiwi Hamabwe**, University of Zambia, Zambia
- **Dr María Muñoz-Amatriáin**, University of León, Spain
- **Professor Michael Timko**, University of Virginia, USA
- **Professor Sean Mayes**, University of Nottingham, UK
- **Professor Florence Ifeoma Akaneme**, University of Nigeria, Nigeria
- **Dr Kuldeep Tripathi**, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, India

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