



Chikelu Mba

Dr Chikelu Mba is Deputy Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In this role, he contributes to the strategic leadership and delivery of FAO's global mandate to support Members in transforming crop production systems, so they are more efficient, resilient, inclusive and aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. He brings senior technical and policy expertise across crop improvement, sustainable production systems, seed systems, plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, agronomy and plant health, supported by a strong record in agricultural research for development, international technical cooperation and capacity development.

Over the course of his career, Dr Mba has held senior technical and managerial positions across the United Nations system and international agricultural research institutions. At FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), he served as Lead of the Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Team and Head of the Plant Breeding and Genetics Laboratory of the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre in Vienna and Seibersdorf, Austria. He previously held research and programme leadership roles with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture, now the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, in Colombia, and the National Root Crops Research Institute in Nigeria. A widely published expert in crop improvement, he is Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Crop and Food Innovation, Murdoch University, Australia, and has undertaken research sabbaticals in Switzerland, the United States and France. He is fluent in English, Igbo and Spanish, with conversational Italian, and holds a PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics, a Postgraduate Diploma in Education and a BSc in Botany from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.