



DR MARY MGONJA

Dr Mary Mgonja is a Tanzanian national and currently the Managing Director for Namburi Agricultural Company that is registered in the United Republic of Tanzania since 2008. Mary is responsible for leading overall business operations, driving strategic growth, financial performance and regulatory compliance to achieve the mission and goals of the company. Namburi is engaged in crop varietal development, seed production, processing and marketing. As a plant breeder, provides leadership on product development and generation maintenance, product quality assurance, technology transfer and communication. Also take lead in proposal writing for collaborative activities with development partners.

Professional experiences include being a Tanzania Country Head for the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) from 2014 to 2016; and prior to that (1999-2013) has served as a Principal Scientist (Breeding, Genetics and Seed Systems Development) for the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); working closely with national program researchers in 14 countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) while based in Zimbabwe (1999-2003) and Kenya (2004-2013). Provided technical support to researchers in organizing regional variety testing, data analysis, developing country seed systems frameworks and seed policy reforms to improve efficiency in crop breeding. Has co-supervised 11 post- graduates students and 3 post-doctoral fellows. Has been a Governing Board Member for the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) for 7 years and for Plant Breeders Rights Office (PBRO) for 6 years. Won 2 awards (2018 and 2021) from the Tanzania Prime Minister on Excellency in Entrepreneurship in Agriculture.

Prior to working with ICRISAT, has been a Principal Research Officer with the Tanzania national program since 1976 to 1998 and as a breeder released 12 varieties for rice, sorghum and barley.

Mary Mgonja holds a PhD (1990) in Plant Breeding and Genetics from University of Ibadan-Nigeria/ International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) /and University of Birmingham. Mary held 2 Post Doctoral Positions with North Dakota State University - USA (1992) and with IDRC Ottawa Canada (1994).

Has 64 publications in agricultural research and policy systems and these include refereed journal articles, books, workshop proceedings, brochures, flyers and pamphlets.