



Prof. Luke Kanyomeka



Prof. Kanyomeka receiving an award from HE Pohamba

A ZAMBIAN WINS AN ACADEMIC AWARD FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Prof. Luke Kanyomeka won a Meritorious Award for the best academic performance (*Scientist of the Year-2010*) for the second consecutive year. The 2010 award was presented to him by Namibia's President His Excellence Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba on 16th April 2010 at a graduation ceremony for the University of Namibia in Windhoek(see photo above). "The award is in recognition of the outstanding work he has done in improving agriculture in Namibia. This is an annual award presented by the head of state to a deserving academic for outstanding performance beyond his/her expected duties in academic work, research and publication, administration and community service.

Among the many projects Prof. Kanyomeka has initiated in the country, he started a novel project on rice production in Namibia. Despite the high water requirement for rice growing, Prof. Kanyomeka discovered a niche for this crop in a desert country, Namibia. He has since 2002 been conducting research in the seasonal wetlands of northern Namibia and the Zambezi River plains in the Caprivi Region of Namibia. This research has produced excellent results that have made it possible for rice farming to start in Namibia. Prof. Kanyomeka has gone further by embarking on rice farming technology transfer to farmers in northern Namibia. Today many small-scale farmers are growing rice and more are joining in taking up the new technology. Similarly, the Namibian government has revived their rice project that was dormant since 1986. The Namibian government contracted Prof. Kanyomeka, through the University of Namibia, to grow rice at this project. For the past two years there has been tremendous success at this rice

project. Rice is now grown at a commercial scale and the project is expected to further expand. Because of its potential contribution to increased food production and national food security this project has since been proclaimed a national project by the government of Namibia.

Prof. Kanyomeka is a Zambian from Nangoma Constituency, Mumbwa District of Central Province. He has over twenty years of experience in teaching at university level, agricultural research, community outreach and administration. He is currently an Associate Professor of Agronomy, Head of a University Campus, National Rice Project Manager in Namibia and Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Namibia. He teaches courses in Crop Science and Production at both undergraduate and post graduate level. He has initiated and successfully conducted several research projects in agriculture. From his research he has published several scientific papers in peer reviewed journals and conference proceedings and his outstanding work have been widely cited by several authors. Prof. Kanyomeka has spearheaded national projects that have made significant contribution to improving people's livelihood. He is currently leading a team of scientists in introducing rice farming in Namibia.