



**University  
of Manitoba**



## **Canada Africa 4R Solution and Precision Nutrient Management – Online Series**

**Monday February 1, 2021 | 8:00 am – 9:30 am (EST)**

### **Moderator and Speakers Bios**



Ed Rege is Founder and CEO of ECI-Africa. He is also the Facilitator of the Online series. He is one of Africa's foremost practitioners in institutional development; strategic planning, design and implementation; facilitation of complex multi-stakeholder processes, including program development and implementation processes, leadership and management capacity building, and executive coaching and mentoring. He has over 35 years' experience in agriculture, having worked in different capacities – as university trainer, CGIAR researcher and science leader. Over the last 15 years, Ed has been pursuing his passion in Organizational Development focusing on leadership and management, building on his many years' experience in managing programs in complex global multi-institutional contexts. He is the founder and CEO of ECI-Africa and Emerge Africa. Ed holds a PhD in Genetics, M.S. in Animal Science, and BSc. in Agriculture. He

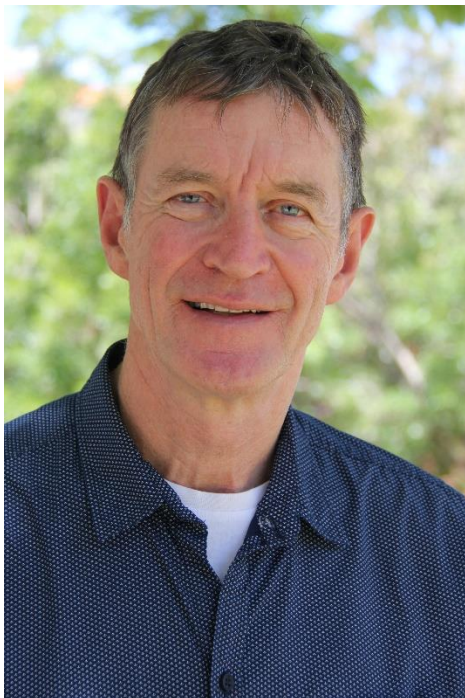
has also additional training in Organizational Development from various institutions. Prior to founding ECI-Africa, Ed was the Director of the Global Biotechnology Program of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). Ed strongly believes that individual and institutional capacity (in both hard and soft skills) holds an important key to unlocking the performance of agriculture in Africa, and making the required transformation happen.



Dr. Ruth Oniang'o is a professor, researcher, African Food Prize Laureate and holder of Kenya's Silver Star and Distinguished Service Medal. Ruth founded Rural Outreach Africa (ROA) in the early 1990s and continues to be a clear and profound voice in research for development as an international consultant and speaker. As the founder and editor of the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND), Ruth seeks to improve policy and decision-making through the dissemination of significant scientific findings and emerging technologies in the field.

Rural Outreach Africa works in western Kenya, harnessing the intellectual resources of universities in Kenya and connecting them to communities, to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor. Through ROA programs, Ruth Oniang'o has transformed the lives of many rural poor families in the districts of western Kenya and the environs. ROA interventions have addressed a variety of issues including nutrition and food security, wealth creation, women economic empowerment, youth employment, environment, health, water and sanitation including HIV/AIDS, housing, education, and poverty.

Currently she advises on issues of food and nutrition, from a rights perspective for vulnerable groups: resource poor women, children and those living in poverty and with disability. She is passionate about research for development, mentoring and giving a voice to African scholars in the field of food systems to share their expertise on how to solve Africa's food problems. Her best moment is when she is with smallholder farmers in their farms and homes sharing and exchanging knowledge. She is also passionate about passing the baton to the next generation, through mentoring, both virtually and in person.



Simon Cook is an inter-disciplinary scientist with research interests in digital and precision agriculture, global sustainability and the development of sustainable global food and water systems.

Trained at Universities in the UK, he moved to CSIRO Australia in 1990 to lead a research team developing precision agriculture for the Australian grains, wine and sugar industries. In 2000 he moved to the International Center for Tropical Agriculture [CIAT] in Colombia, where he led global-scale research programs to support agricultural development in Latin America, Africa and Asia. This included running projects for the Challenge Program for Water and Food and later the program on Water, Land and Ecosystems, where he was the inaugural director.

In 2016 he returned to Australia to take up professorships at Curtin and Murdoch Universities as the Western Australian Premier's Fellow, where he initiated research on digital agriculture and on-farm experimentation. He lives in Perth, Australia and Cali, Colombia.