



PAN AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

PASAE Fellowship Membership

PASAE Fellowship Induction:

A Celebration of the Outstanding and
Revolutionary Members of PASAE



Introduction

We are pleased to celebrate a significant milestone in the history of the Pan African Society of Agricultural Engineering (PASAE) as we recognize and honor the outstanding contributions of our esteemed members.

Following the 15th Council Meeting's decision to implement the provision for elevation to Honorary Fellowship grade, we are proud to induct members who have made exceptional contributions to Agricultural Engineering.

As outlined in the PASAE Constitution, Articles 4.1(vii) and 9(i), this honor is bestowed upon individuals who have demonstrated remarkable dedication and service to the profession.

In line with the President's proposal, we pay tribute to pioneer members who have established and nurtured PASAE and have continued to serve the organization and the profession with distinction. Their tireless efforts have shaped the society into what it is today, and we are grateful for their commitment. This article celebrates the induction of these exceptional individuals, highlighting their achievements and contributions to Agricultural Engineering, as we gather at the 7th PASAE Conference in Morocco, Fez.





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The Inductee List

Below are the faces and brief bios of the PASAE members that the current PASAE Council have unanimously decided to confer with the PASAE Fellowship Membership Grade:



Prof. L. Opara



Prof. J. Smithers



Prof. E.H. Bartali



Prof. M. Faborode



Prof. E. Bobabee



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Prof. N. Banadda



Prof. L. Gumbe



Prof. F. Alonge



Prof. A. Taylor



Prof. B. Adewumi

Professor Umezuruike Linus Opara

Emeritus Professor of Agricultural Engineering at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, Linus Umezuruike Opara was the pioneer president of PASAE from 2018 to 2021, being a foundation member since 2012. As a distinguished agricultural engineer, prolific global researcher, educator and mentor, he has made significant contributions to the profession globally, holding fellowships in several cognate professional bodies. He served as the President of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR) and still holds honorary positions till today and also serves on the advisory boards of other international organizations, including the Horticulture Innovation Lab. He is currently the Director/Centre Head of the UNESCO Category II Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria. With over 200 publications and 150 international conference presentations, Emeritus Professor Opara's work focuses on food security, value addition and agricultural transformation. As a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, he continues to inspire and lead in the field of Agricultural Engineering.

Professor Jeff Smithers

Professor Jeff Smithers is a renowned expert in water resources research and innovation, and is a foundation member of the Pan-African Society for Agricultural Engineering, serving as the Pioneer Secretary-General from 2018-2024. He holds the nMngeni-uThukela Water Chair at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and with a wide range of research interests, including hydrology, soil and water conservation, and agricultural engineering, he has made significant contributions to the field and the profession. A registered professional engineer and Fellow of the South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers, Professor Smithers serves on various councils and committees. He currently leads the National Flood Studies Programme in South Africa, aiming to update and modernize flood estimation and risk assessment methods. Through his work, Professor Smithers continues to advance water resources research and innovation in South Africa and beyond. He has been profoundly instrumental to the growth of PASAE and continues to mentor and guide in this regard.



Professor El Houssine Bartali



Professor El-Houssine Bartali is arguably the father of Agricultural Engineering in Morocco, and has served the profession in several positions globally, including as Honorary President of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR). This esteemed member has been a part of PASAE since inception in 2012 and served on the 1st Council from 2018-2021, demonstrating diligent stewardship. A renowned researcher, educator and mentor, he holds a PhD in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University and has authored books on traditional storage structures. With over 38 years of experience in Agricultural Engineering, he has worked on various projects in several parts of the world, including infrastructure development, water management and food security. He has received notable awards, such as the Best Paper Award and Certificate of Appreciation for editing the CIGR Handbook of Agricultural Engineering. As Vice President of ANAFIDE, he continues to contribute significantly to the profession and the growth of PASAE.

Professor Adewale Adewumi

Professor Babatunde Adewale Adewumi is a distinguished agricultural engineer, pioneer member of PASAE since 2012, and member of the 1st Council from 2018-2019. He was a pioneer member of the faculty of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Nigeria, where he has demonstrated exceptional leadership, research and mentorship skills. He holds the fellowships of other professional bodies. Professor Adewumi has published extensively, with over 129 articles, 2 books and 4 book chapters to his name, showcasing his expertise in plant and soil sciences, Agricultural Engineering and food processing. As a renowned educator and researcher, he continues to inspire and contribute significantly to the profession.



Professor Lawrence Gumbe



A towering figure in Engineering ecosystem in Kenya, Professor Lawrence Gumbe is a distinguished academic, practicing engineer, and political analyst with extensive experience in industrialization and agricultural mechanization. He chairs the board of the “Engineering Kenya Journal”, as well as the editorial board of the Journal of Engineering in Agriculture and the Environment of KeSEBAE. He holds a doctoral degree from Ohio State University, USA, and is a Registered Professional Consulting Engineer in Kenya. Prof Gumbe is a Fellow of several learned societies, including the Kenya Society of Environmental, Biological and Agricultural Engineers (KeSEBAE) and the Institution of Engineers of Kenya. He has taught at various universities, including the Technical University of Kenya, Kenyatta University, and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. With a vast consulting portfolio spanning multiple countries, Prof Gumbe is a renowned expert in engineering, agriculture, and environmental management. He has served PASAE in several positions since 2018, when he has also been on Council, and he continues to serve with distinction and great commitment.

Professor Akindele Alonge

Professor Akindele Folarin Alonge is a distinguished agricultural engineer, past president of CIGR, and council member of PASAE since 2022. He is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Uyo, Nigeria. As a renowned expert, he has published over 150 papers and delivered 55 invited lectures, showcasing his expertise in agricultural engineering. He holds fellowships in prestigious organizations, including the Academy of Engineering of Nigeria and the International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers. Professor Alonge has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Kishida International Award of the American Society for Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ASABE) in 2025, and has served as a visiting professor at international universities. His dedication and contributions to agricultural engineering have earned him global recognition, making him a pride to the profession and PASAE.



Professor Emmanuel Bobobee



Professor Emmanuel Bobobee is an Associate Professor of Agricultural Machinery Engineering at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana, from where he recently retired but remains very active in machine design and development. With extensive experience in agricultural engineering, equipment development, and cassava production mechanization, he has consulted for prominent organizations like IFPRI, FAO, and the World Bank. Prof. Bobobee is the inventor of the innovative TEK Mechanical Cassava Harvester and the "Tek Groundnut Cracker Winnower" machine. He has received several awards for his inventions, including the 1st Engineering Excellence Award from the Ghana Institution of Engineers and a Newton Fund prize from the Royal Academy of Engineering. Prof. Bobobee's goal is to share his knowledge and experience with the youth to bring positive change to the agricultural sector in Ghana and beyond. He has served PASAE in several positions particularly from 2019-2023, when he was on PASAE Council, and he continues to serve with distinction, zeal and great commitment.

Mr. Alastair Taylor

Eng. Alastair Taylor is a distinguished global agricultural engineering professional, an active member of PASAE since 2016, and a council member from 2018-2024. He supported PASAE's growth with considerable dedication which resulted in his researching for and authoring the PASAE Report on Agricultural Engineering in Africa, which showcased the unique features and capabilities of the profession. With over 40 years of experience in agriculture, engineering and AgriTech, Alastair has worked in education, inspection and leadership roles, including serving as the CEO of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers of the United Kingdom. He came into PASAE with considerable expertise as a chartered engineer of the Engineering Council of the UK. He continues to contribute to the development of professional engineering standards and registration processes. As an Incorporated Engineer and Chartered Environmentalist, Alastair remains committed to promoting engineering excellence and supporting African food security initiatives, and remains an asset to the profession.





Professor Michael O. Faborode

Professor Michael Faborode is the current President of PASAE, a council member since 2019 and a distinguished academic and professional engineer. He previously served as Vice Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and Secretary-General of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities. Prof Faborode is a Fellow of several prestigious institutions, including the Nigerian Academy of Engineering, the African Engineering Education Association, and the International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers. His research interests include biomaterial properties, bioprocess engineering, and technology policy. A recipient of numerous awards and highly published, Prof Faborode is a strong advocate for academia industry collaboration and innovation. A painstaking mentor, his dedication to the growth of PASAE through the participation of students and young engineers is quite motivating and inspiring.

Late Professor Noble Banadda (Post Humous):

The late Professor Noble Banadda was a distinguished engineering professional and council member of PASAE from 2018 until his untimely passing in 2021. As a prominent Ugandan biosystems engineer and researcher, he made significant contributions to the field, including innovations like the Bulamu Ventilator and biodegradable face shields against covid-19, which ironically eventually took him away. Professor Banadda was a trailblazer, becoming the first Sub-Saharan African to earn a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Katholieke University Leuven, the Netherlands. During his tenure at Makerere University, he served as Chair of the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, leaving a lasting legacy of service to Uganda and the continent. His selfless dedication, innovation and mentorship will be remembered and celebrated through this well-deserved Fellowship award, in addition to the establishment of PASAE-Uganda in 2024, as the first official chapter of PASAE, a testament to what he stood and worked for in his lifetime. May his gentle soul continue to Rest in Peace.



Conclusion

In conclusion, the Pan African Society of Agricultural Engineering (PASAE) takes great pride in celebrating the induction of its esteemed members into the Fellowship membership grade. This prestigious honor recognizes their outstanding contributions to the field of agricultural engineering, dedication to the profession, and commitment to advancing the Society's mission.

As we gather at the 7th PASAE Conference in Morocco, Fez, in collaboration with ANAFIDE, we honor these exceptional individuals who have shaped the landscape of agricultural engineering in Africa and beyond. Their achievements serve as a testament to the power of innovation, collaboration, and service, inspiring future generations of agricultural engineers to strive for excellence. We congratulate these distinguished Fellows and look forward to their continued contributions to the profession and the Society.





PASAE Contact Information



<https://www.pasae.org.za/index.html>



administrator@pasae.org.za



secretary@pasae.org.za

