

Hello from the Dahlia Resource Center at Washington State University

Hi! My name is Dr. Lindani Moyo and I will be serving as the Director of the new Dahlia Resource Center at Washington State University. The Center was made possible by the generous donation of the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation and the creation of the Carl F. and James J. Chuey Chair for Dahlia Research and Development at Washington State University (WSU). I report to Professor Hanu Pappu who holds the Chuey Chair. I will be providing periodic updates on the activities of the Center.

I recently completed the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular Plant Sciences, an interdisciplinary program at Washington State University, Pullman, WA. I have research experience in identification and characterization of plant viruses, developing detection tools and technologies, and studying the virus-host interactions at the biological and molecular levels. I am a native of Zimbabwe where I obtained by BS and MS degrees. I received a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue my Ph.D. and a Fulbright research grant award that enabled me to join WSU to pursue my PhD in 2015 under Dr. Pappu's supervision.

During my PhD, I received competitive travel awards to attend professional conferences from Alaska Airlines, American Phytopathological Society Foundation (Joseph P. Fulton Student Travel Award), Washington State Crop Improvement Association, WSU Molecular Plant Sciences graduate program, and WSU Graduate and Professional Students Association.

My plan for the Center includes identification and development of technologies useful to ADS dahlia growers, investigations into improving soil health such as fertility, quality, types and soil enhancement; pest management, including organic approaches. Communication of the progress in these areas to the ADS and its members will be carried out on a regular basis. One of the long term goals is to develop tools and technologies to produce clean dahlia stock.

Currently, I am heavily involved in the process of analyzing the viruses present in the leaf samples sent to the Clean Dahlia Center at the University. As we complete that work, I will be moving on to other key objectives for the Center and will keep you posted! I look forward to meeting you in a future dahlia meeting.