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FOREWORD

Agricultural production and productivity have increased considerably over the last fifty years with improved technologies and inputs. These gains are, however, currently threatened by many challenges including climate change, land degradation, improper farm management practices and use of agrochemicals including fertilizers. These challenges pose a serious risk to the productivity gains made over the last fifty years and, indeed, impinge directly on food security, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. There is therefore need to examine these issues broadly and to propose solutions that would ultimately improve food security on the continent.

This Special Edition of the Botswana Journal of Agricultural and Applied Sciences is therefore devoted to topics that examine agricultural practices that can be used for improving food security. Although the constraints are multi-faceted, the edition deals with topical issues such as deficit irrigation, the role of legumes, lime, molybdenum and *Bradyrhizobium* in crop production, honey production, camel management, phytochemical characteristics of edible anchote parts, use of growth hormones in pig production and knowledge of heavy metal pollution, as vehicles for improving food security in Africa.

The edition is divided into two parts, with part one comprising topical food security issues in Botswana. Part two comprises selected papers presented at the 17th Biennial Conference of the African Association for Biological Nitrogen Fixation held between 17th and 21st October 2016 in Gaborone, Botswana. The theme was “Solutions for food security in Africa through sustainable fertility management of ecosystems under climate change”.

Professor Flora Pule-Meulenberg

Chairperson

African Association for Biological Nitrogen Fixation

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