

Integration of South African knowledge with other knowledge systems

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Prof Yonah Seleti is currently serving the Department of Science and Technology in South Africa as Chief Director in the National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office. He is responsible for implementing the IKS Policy that the South African Cabinet adopted in 2004. One of the pillars of the policy is the interfacing of IKS with other knowledge systems.

Seleti has been at the core of the integration of African traditional medicines into one of the five Grand challenges of the "Ten Year Innovation Plan for South Africa". The "Farmer to Pharma" Grand challenge aims to bring together indigenous knowledge, the biodiversity and the biotechnology in building South Africa's bio-economy.

Before joining the Department of Science and Technology in 2006, Seleti worked for the Freedom Park Trust in Pretoria and the University of KwaZulu-Natal as Director of the Campbell Collections. He also taught as visiting professor at Tulane University in New Orleans and Roskilde University in Denmark. He has been a member of several ministerial committees, i.e. the national curriculum statement and history committee. He is chairperson of the Digital Innovation of South Africa, a digital library of liberation heritage. Seleti has published widely on historical themes covering the following countries: Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and South Africa.

