Recognition Award for your Outstanding Contribution to Scientific Advancement in Namibia

Dr. Komeine Natanga receiving his award from Professor George Kanyama-Phiri, RUFORUM Deputy Board Chair

Dr Komeine K M Natanga’s nomination for outstanding contribution is perceived as one surpassing expectations in good practice of research at University of Namibia. To mention but a few attributes are: Firstly, his propensity to work with his peers and students as a team. Secondly, he is accredited for successfully taking on projects with passion and achieving results with limited resources at his disposal. Third, his on-going research is client-focussed and has received accolade from food chemists, process engineers and nutritionists among others; a response that is motivating and energizing his team even harder working. Among his current work is the Incorporation of pearl millet (Mahangu) into high quality products such as
muffins, bread and fat cookies expected to be more preferred than those made with 100% wheat flour. Another project is compositing powdered mopane worms flour with carrot and butternut in a dried premix soup to improve protein and vitamins content of *Cleome gynandra* vegetable. In future, he expects to do more. He quips that he has only begun- that what he is doing now is just a tip of iceberg.

**Ms Isabella Ueutele** based at the Zero Emissions Research Initiative (ZERI) of University of Namibia is recognized for her active role in mushroom cultivation and research. Besides her focus on molecular and chemical analysis of indigenous mushrooms, her work has also involved attention on *Ganoderma lucidum*; also referred to as a "supernatural mushroom". This mushroom is regarded today as the “herb of spiritual potency” as it is widely believed to symbolize success, well-being, divine power, and longevity! In fact, elsewhere in the world, a variety of commercial *G. lucidum* products are already available as powders, dietary supplements, and tea. Her use of molecular and biochemical tools for analysing indigenous mushroom production and products is an emerging technological strategy of high international repute. Research of this nature by outstanding young people like Isabella, will in no doubt not only contribute to the promotion of indigenous resources to value chain farming. It will also uplift such African resources to a global level just as is the case with *Ganoderma lucidum*-the supernatural mushroom. Therefore, Isabella’s recognition in her area of research warrants her recognition as a young outstanding female researcher who is sailing on the waves of the time.