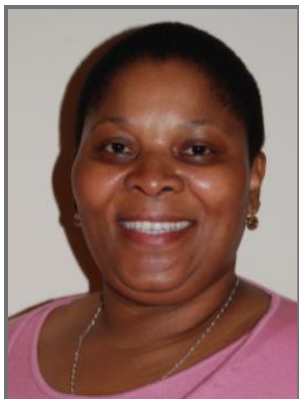


Multi Nation Program



Anati Canca | Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA
Executive Director, Technology Transfer, Agricultural Research Council (ARC)

A participant in several international negotiations, Anati Canca is responsible for the commercialization of the South African Agricultural Research Council's scientific output, and for formulating and executing strategies for intellectual property management, knowledge management, and agricultural economic services. In addition, she has served on numerous scientific and science-related boards and councils, and as an advisor to research centers at South African universities. Although trained as a scientist, she has moved into leadership and managerial aspects in the scientific arena. On her fellowship, she explored opportunities to use agriculture as a tool for economic development, with a particular focus on the theory and practice of technology transfer and the use of agricultural extension programs and offices.

Ms. Canca visited several prestigious international agriculture programs, which took her primarily to rural parts of the U.S. Her one trip to a city was her first destination – Washington, D.C. While there, she met with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Agency for International Development, The World Bank, and the Council on Governmental Relations. She left with a strong foundation of knowledge about technology transfer, and about the role of the American government in technology transfer issues. Ms. Canca's fellowship travels took her to Michigan State University, where she was hosted for several days by Johan Brink, a South African professor who had previously worked at the South African ARC. During her visit to MSU, she also had the opportunity to meet with USA Fellow Ben Bartlett, who arranged for her to visit an agricultural extension session. During her 3-day visit to Iowa State University, she gave a presentation that was webcast explaining the work that she does in South Africa. Other universities that prepared multi-day schedules for Ms. Canca were Cornell University and University of California.

Two of the highlights of her fellowship were visits with USA Fellows: Hope Pjesky met Ms. Canca at the airport in Oklahoma City, after which they set out on a 3-day, fast-paced tour of Oklahoma's agricultural institutions. Ms. Canca was particularly interested in the work of the Noble Foundation, where Steve Rhines provided her with new insights on the plant patent system used in the U.S. Ms. Canca's final destination was Portland, Maine, where USA Fellow Marge Kilkelly and her husband Joe introduced her to agriculture professionals in Maine and pampered her with some relaxing hospitality. Ms. Kilkelly and her husband also hosted a dinner for Ms. Canca at their home, where they were joined by USA Fellow Jay Nutting.

Ms. Canca returns with plans to pursue collaborative ventures with some of the institutions she met, and to initiate new projects based on some of the ideas she generated while on fellowship. She looks forward to reviving a Memorandum of Understanding between the South African ARC and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to jointly prepare proposals for research on climate change and human capital development. With Iowa State University, she hopes to follow up on several projects, including a collaboration to modernize and enhance extension agent skills in South Africa. One of the concepts that she hopes to replicate in South Africa through an ARC training program is that of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). In addition to the resources she has available in South Africa, she plans to seek opportunities to build relationships with USA Fellows to develop the CSA concept in South Africa.

Of the fellowship as a whole, Ms. Canca noted that the opportunity came at a perfect time in her career: "The theme of the fellowship as discussed at the opening seminar - leading change - was topical for me and my current position. This is a new position at the ARC and entails introducing significant changes in the practice of technology transfer, requiring sound leadership skills."

Leaders bettering the world around them.