



ZIMBABWE HUB FOR AGRIFOSE2030 HOLDS A THEORY OF CHANGE (TOC) WEBINAR FOR FACULTY AND RESEARCH STUDENTS AT CHINHOYI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

On the 13th of November 2025, the Zimbabwe Hub of AgriFoSe2030, housed under Chinhoyi University of Technology, hosted a research webinar on the Theory of Change (ToC) research framework. The webinar was especially beneficial to research students from across various disciplines within the institution, particularly inducting them into adaptive ways in which ToC can be customized as a results-driven and outcomes-oriented template for research within the context of translating science to practice amongst communities where research finds effectual interventions.

The webinar facilitator, Dr. Isabel Vogel, highlighted how the Theory of Change framework has gained a lot of traction in curriculum design as academic research ought to be measured by its impact in matters of sustainability and livelihoods in different jurisdictions. In this regard, emphasis was on how ToC-inspired research was driven by the endeavour to foster a change in attitudes, behaviours, approaches and ways of life amongst communities that researchers conduct their researches in.

The webinar fitted in perfectly with some of the flagship projects currently being conducted at Chinhoyi University of Technology under Professor Robert Musundire, the Zimbabwe hub leader. One such initiative is the Black Soldier Fly (BSF) project, a novel and innovative project that has immense potential as a sustainable and low-cost protein source for animal feed and for waste management. Supported by initiatives like the FAO's FISH4ACP programme, CUT conducts research, trains farmers and extension officers, and has established demo sites to demonstrate the benefits of BSF larvae. The project aims to reduce reliance on traditional feed ingredients, boost the aquaculture sector, and contribute to waste reduction and climate resilience in the community.

With a clear set of outcomes like cost-compression, environmental stewardship, inclusivity amongst small holder farmers and adherence to the merits of a circular economy, the ToC webinar turned out to be an enlightening experience that resonated with the focus driving the Zimbabwe hub. Pursuant to the initial ToC workshop that Chinhoyi University of Technology had held for various research champions chosen from different schools and units at the Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration and Management (ZIPAM) on Friday 13th June 2025, the 13th November 2025 webinar came in as a follow-up capacity building initiative to consolidate and augment the research framework principles and to explore scope for operationalising the template adaptively even in areas that were not directly within the scope of Agriculture.

With the physical main site of the workshop being the Deans Boardroom at Chinhoyi University of Technology, the webinar adopted a blended approach that saw some faculty and students participating remotely via zoom. It was attended by over 40 participants including DPhil and MPhil students under the Vice Chancellor's Scholarship, Postgraduate candidates and Early Career Researchers. These were drawn from various disciplines including, Agriculture, Art, Wildlife, Natural Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Material Sciences, Health Science, Business Sciences among others. Overall, the webinar highlighted the value of ToC in enhancing research uptake, research use, and research impact. It foregrounded ToC's role as an enabler of planning, monitoring and accountability, particularly from the perspective of research's mandate to clarify and obtain stakeholder buy-in for collaborative change-driven projects.