



Professor Tilahun Seyoum Workneh is an academic staff of the discipline of Bioresources Engineering of the School of Engineering, Pietermaritzburg Campus. He received his BSc degree in Agricultural Engineering from Alemaya University in 1990, MEngSc degree from the National University of Ireland (University College Dublin) in 1996 and PhD degree from The University of Free State in 2003. He has over 28 years of experience in multidisciplinary research of Agricultural and Food Engineering and teaching various courses in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Food Engineering, Food Science and Postharvest Technology, and Agro-Processing Technology curricula. His research interest includes heat and mass transfer, hybrid drying technology, non-thermal food processing and preservation technologies, thermal food processing and preservation technologies, optimization and modelling of food processes, postharvest technology and process engineering of fruits and vegetables, food quality and food safety engineering, engineered systems for food production, environmental modification and control for biological systems.

He has published over 100 articles in multidisciplinary research areas of food process engineering and postharvest technology, renewable energy and environmental control for biological commodities. He is a C2 NRF rated researcher. He has developed low-cost appropriate cooling technologies that assist in maintaining quality and in the extension of the shelf life of perishable commodities such as fruits and vegetables. He established tomato paste processing centres for cooperatives and an integrated agro-technology by combining pre-harvest and postharvest environmentally friendly treatments of fruit and vegetables. He also developed several anaerobic biogas digesters, solar water heaters for boarding schools and dairy farms. He is a fellow of the South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers (SAIAE), professional member South African Association of Food Science and Technology (SAAoFST), Ethiopian Society of Agricultural Engineers, Professional member American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE).