



**MUAST**  
MARONDERA UNIVERSITY  
OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

## MUAST, ZIMBABWE'S BERNADETTE JANI SHINES ON THE GLOBAL SCIENCE STAGE



[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/owsd\\_we-are-thrilled-to-introduce-the-top-3-winners-activity-7430600150630334466-gyir?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios&rcm=ACoAADUaDQIBIW56P76bMwfsUguRhV9aDVUDnkk](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/owsd_we-are-thrilled-to-introduce-the-top-3-winners-activity-7430600150630334466-gyir?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios&rcm=ACoAADUaDQIBIW56P76bMwfsUguRhV9aDVUDnkk)

Ms. Bernadette Jani, a lecturer in the Department of Environmental Science in the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUAST), achieved continental glory when she was crowned the 2026 Africa Regional Winner of the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation-Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (UNESCO-OWSD) Short Talks, Big Impacts* competition on 18 February 2026.

Following her Africa Regional triumph, Ms. Jani will now represent the continent at the Global Finale on 11 March 2026, competing against winners from Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, and the Arab Region. The entire motherland of Africa will unite in support as this daughter of the soil strives to bring home the coveted global trophy.

Her journey to the continental stage began on 16 December 2025, during the OWSD Zimbabwe National Chapter's 7th Anniversary Celebrations at Rainbow Towers Hotel, where she won first place in the national *Three-Minute Talks* competition among Zimbabwean women researchers. That victory propelled her to represent Zimbabwe at the Africa Regional round, where she once again emerged victorious.



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The *Short Talks, Big Impacts* competition showcases outstanding women scientists from across developing regions, challenging them to communicate the societal relevance of their research in just three minutes. Ms. Jani's award-winning presentation focused on climate-responsive occupational risk assessment tools for vulnerable workers in agriculture and mining, highlighting how climate change is reshaping workplace hazards and why safety systems must evolve to protect those most at risk.

This achievement underscores not only Ms. Jani's research excellence in environmental and occupational health, but also her growing reputation as a science communicator dedicated to making complex scientific ideas accessible, impactful, and globally relevant.

Ecstatic yet modest about her success, Ms. Jani reflected:

*"This achievement is not just personal; it reflects the depth of talent among African women scientists. What we often face is not a talent gap, but a visibility gap. Across the continent, brilliant researchers are doing transformative work, yet too often their science remains unseen and unheard. Platforms like this matter because visibility changes narratives—and when women scientists become visible, they become possible."*

MUAST proudly celebrates Ms. Jani as a shining example of academic excellence and scientific valour.