



## **POSTGRADUATE WORKSHOP ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS EPISTEMOLOGIES AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES**

The Department of Science and Technology-National Research Foundation Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (DST-NRF IKS) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, in collaboration with the Universities of Limpopo, Venda, South Africa and North West University, hosted a two-day postgraduate workshop on Indigenous Knowledge Systems Epistemologies and Research Methodologies on the Westville campus in August 2016.

UKZN's IKS Research Leader, Professor Hassan Kaya, indicated that the purpose of the two-day workshop was to help IKS post-graduate students and supervisors to have a common understanding of IKS worldviews, ways of knowing, research methodologies and value systems.

Kaya emphasised that, while relevance and excellence need to be pursued in IKS knowledge production, if there is a conflict between the two, the issue of relevance takes precedence.

The student's proposals or research projects were presented and interrogated in the context of Epistemologies and Research Methodologies.

Professor Muxe Nkondo of the Freedom Park Trust emphasised the importance of IKS contributing to sustainable development and social cohesion.

Professor Naftali Mollel, from the University of Limpopo, told students that listening is an important skill for researchers. He reiterated the significance of strengthening the relationship between industry, community and academia to mitigate the disjuncture between learning and living.

Dr Mayashree Chinsamy from the IKS Centre indicated that postgraduate students who hold scholarships from the Centre, were 'pioneers in IKS scholarship as they experienced the challenges of IKS research as a new area of inquiry'.

Professor MA Masoga, University of Venda, examined IKS epistemology and Professor S Shava (University of South Africa) looked at IKS in research and education.

Participants commended the workshop as having capacitated them to have better focus in their IKS research. Ruth Olusanya, a UKZN PhD candidate, who is researching the moringa tree (*Moringa oleifera*) as a "superfood" which is gaining popularity, said: 'The IKS workshop opened my eyes to what IKS research is all about.'

**[Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer](#)**