



MENTEE

Dr. Cecilia Rolence China

Founder, CEO, AfriTech Organic Leather



Tanzania

Dr. Cecilia Rolence China, a distinguished leather technologist with a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering from the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST). She is the Founder and CEO of AfriTech organic Leather and Serves a Lecturer at NM-AIST. Her expertise in leather industry stems from her extensive experience and collaborations with renowned institutions like FILK Research Institute of Leather and Plastic Sheeting in Germany and CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute in India. Dr. Cecilia's innovative approach has led to a patent method for producing organic-based leather processing chemicals using locally available materials. As a result, she is actively involved in leather products' business and conducting technology transfer trainings for several Tanzanian SMEs to promote sustainable leather processing methods.

AfriTech Organic Leather

AfriTech Organic Leather, founded in 2021 by Cecilia China, is a pioneering social enterprise driven by a mission to transform Tanzania's leather industry. The start-up brings innovative research findings to life, addressing the needs of SMEs in leather processing. Their focus is on sustainable, eco-friendly practices, challenging traditional norms for efficiency, environmental responsibility, and cost-effectiveness. They advocate non-toxic tanning, ethical sourcing, a circular economy, and job creation for underserved communities, all while crafting high-quality leather products. AfriTech purpose is to make a positive impact on both the environment and the communities that its serves.



MENTOR

Lauren Martin

Senior Director Government Relations and Policy,
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