Jude Cobbing

Senior Program Manager, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute
Research Assistant Professor, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
jcobbing@nebraska.edu
LinkedIn

Education

- Ph.D. Groundwater Management, Nelson Mandela University, 2017
- M.S. Hydrogeology, University College, London, 2001
- B.S. Geology and English, University of Cape Town, 1993

Professional Experience

- March 2025 – Present – Senior Program Manager and Research Assistant Professor, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska
- June 2024 – March 2025 – Deputy Director, Feed the Future Innovation Laboratory for Irrigation and Mechanization Systems, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska
- October 2020 – May 2024 – Advisor, WASH Governance and Infrastructure, Save the Children, Washington DC
- May 2017 – September 2020 – Consulting hydrogeologist, Washington DC
- March 2015 – April 2017 – Consulting hydrogeologist and PhD student, Washington DC
- June 2010 – February 2015 – Groundwater team leader, SLR Consulting, Johannesburg, South Africa
- August 2007 – June 2010 – Senior hydrogeologist, Water Geosciences Consulting, Pretoria, South Africa
- June 2005 – June 2007 – Hydrogeologist, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pretoria, South Africa
- November 2000 – March 2005 – Hydrogeologist, British Geological Survey, Wallingford, England
- May 1996 – September 2000 – Teacher, book shop manager and M.Sc. student, London, England
- March 1995 – April 1996 – Rural Water Resources Project Manager, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Selected Outputs:

Publications and Multimedia

Journal articles, book chapters, reports

2025

- Jayasekera D.H. and **Cobbing**, **J**., December 2025. Book review: "Groundwater Management in India: Physical, Institutional and Policy Alternatives" (Second Revised Edition) By M. Dinesh Kumar and O. P. Singh Atlantic Publishers & Distributors (P) Ltd, 2025, 442 pp. ISBN13: 9788126940387. In: *Water Economics and Policy*, (2025) 2580004 (4 pages).

Briefs, infographics, blogs, newsletters

2026

- **Cobbing, J**., May 2026. "Growing connections: Agricultural innovation and partnerships in India," Blog. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2026/05/growing-connections-agricultural-innovation-and-partnerships-in-india

- **Cobbing, J**., April 2026. "Growing out of poverty: The crucial role of small commercial farming in Africa," Blog. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2026/04/growing-out-of-poverty-the-crucial-role-of-small-commercial-farming-in-africa

2025

- **Cobbing, J**., Knutson, C., and Rimšaitė, R., December 2025. "Agriculture and water rights on tribal lands in the United States." Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2025/12/agriculture-and-water-rights-on-tribal-lands-in-the-united-states.
- **Cobbing, J.**, November 2025. "Naivasha: A thriving hub of agribusiness and research potential in Kenya's Rift Valley," Blog. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2025/11/a-thriving-hub-of-agribusiness-and-research-potential-in-kenya--rift-valley.

Videos and podcasts

2024

- Featured researcher "Opportunities of Irrigation and Mechanization." Daugherty Water for Food Podcasts, July 23, 2024, https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/our-work/communication/podcast.

Presentations and Engagements

2026

- International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence in Shaping Agriculture and Allied Sectors for Sustainable Food Security, Siksha O Anusandhan University, 9-10 March, 2026, Bhubaneswar, India. Keynote presentation: "Agriculture, water use, and Africa-India-USA collaboration".

2025

- Great Plains Water Conference 2025. Invited judge for student poster competition. University of Nebraska Omaha, 18-19 September, 2025.
- Third International Conference on Earth and Environmental Sciences, 18-20 August, 2025, Durban, South Africa. Two presentations: "Transboundary Water Cooperation" and "Water for Food and Water for the Environment: Trade-off or Opportunity?". Also chaired plenary panel.
- "Nourish and Flourish: How to Enhance Agricultural Water Management to Feed 10 Billion People on a Livable Planet." Invited Consultant, July 8 2025, World Bank, Washington DC.
- "Smallholder agricultural water management: Tackling myths, Moving forward." Organizer, Water for Food Global Conference, April 30 2025, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Lincoln, NE.
- Ghana study tour for Yeutter Institute undergraduate student fellows. Organizer (with E. Anders, N. Brozović, R. Rimšaitė, C. Gerlach, N. Lefore), March 15-22 2025, Ghana.

2024

- 2024 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue, Delegate, October 28-31, Des Moines, Iowa.
- "Africa's Irrigation Landscape." Presenter and Panelist at the 9th African Water Week, October 16, 2024, Cairo, Egypt.
- "The Innovation Lab for Irrigation and Mechanization Systems." Speaker at the Nebraska Water Center Conference, October 10, 2024, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Africa Food Systems Forum 2024, Delegate, 3-6 September, 2024, Kigali, Rwanda.
- World Water Week, Delegate, 24-29 August, 2024, Stockholm, Sweden.

Selected External Support:

- Central Kansas Water Bank review, Rimšaitė, R**.** (PI), Brozović, N., **Cobbing, J.,** Mieno, T., and Schoengold, K., *Kansas Department of Administration*, $135,880; 2025-2026.
- USDA support of the Drought Monitor, Svoboda, M. (PI), Fuchs, B., Rimšaitė, R. (economic analysis task lead), Brozović, N., **Cobbing, J.**, Haigh, T., Knutson, C., Mieno, T., Smith, K., Tadesse, T., and Wardlow, B., *USDA-OCE*, $1,280,000; 2025-2026.

Selected Professional Development, Awards, Media Coverage:

Media Coverage

- Coverage of March 2026 presentation in Bhubaneswar, India by United News of India March 12, 2026, "AI's impact on agriculture depends on strong data foundations: Experts" https://uniindia.com/news/east/agriculture-ai-experts/3771893.html

Professional Development, Mentoring, Board Engagement

- Climate Bonds Initiative. Invited Industry Working Group Member advising on Climate Bonds Certification for water projects. January, 2026.
- University of the Free State, Free State Province, South Africa. External examiner for MSc thesis: "*Assessing the impact of groundwater abstraction on the central Sandveld aquifer systems, South Africa*." November, 2025.
- University of Pretoria, Gauteng Province, South Africa. External examiner for MSc thesis: "*Mapping natural hydrogen, soil gases and water isotopes in Mpumalanga Highveld pans, South Africa*." November, 2025.