His Excellency Dr. the Honourable Chelston W.D. Brathwaite holds a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Agricultural Science from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. He was the "Student of the Year" on the St. Augustine Campus of the University in 1965. He subsequently, earned the Master of Science degree (M.Sc.) and a Doctorate (Ph. D) in Plant Pathology from Cornell University, USA. He holds a Diploma in Agricultural Development with Distinction from the University of London. He has completed courses in Executive Management at the Central American School of Management (INCAE) and pursued a course in Leadership for Senior Executives at Harvard Business School.

He was a lecturer and Senior lecturer at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of the West Indies from 1971 to1981. Dr. Brathwaite joined the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) of the Organization of American States in 1981 as Regional Agricultural specialist for the Caribbean and became Director General for the Institute in 2001 and served in that capacity until 2010. He is the first and only person from the English speaking Caribbean to serve as Director General of this institution based in Costa Rica, which provides technical and policy advice to the 34 countries of the Organization of American States in food and agricultural development.

He served as IICA Representative in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Executive Secretary of a program to foster cooperation in agriculture among Caribbean and Latin American Countries (CARILAC). He recently joined the University of the West Indies (U.W.I.) as Interim Director of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture.

Dr. Brathwaite is recognized for his administrative, technical and institutional leadership in international agricultural development, having worked in the U.S.A, Italy, Kenya, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica and Mexico.

He has been serving as Barbados' Ambassador to the People's Republic of China since February, 2014.