

Innovative donor approaches to sustainable finance for food systems transformation

24 July 2023 | 18.00 - 19.00 CEST | VIRTUAL ON ZOOM

Co-organized by the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development and the Shamba Centre for Food & Climate.



Opening and Context Setting



Tritstan Armstrong

Co-Chair, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD), Senior Sector Specialist, Agricultural Development and Food Security Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) – Australia

Tristan Armstrong is Senior Sector Specialist Agriculture and Food Security at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He holds a PhD in plant genetics and has worked for over 15 years in agriculture, rural development, biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Indonesia, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Tristan is currently co-chairing the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development.

Blended Finance: Simple Concepts - Complex Language



Tuleen Al Khoffash

Senior Partnership Officer (GPR), Private Sector Financing Program (PSFP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Tuleen Al Khoffash joined IFAD in April 2023 as a Senior Partnership Officer (GPR), Private Sector Financing Programme (PSFP).

Prior to IFAD, Tuleen was working in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as a Principal Manager in the Donor Co-Financing Department. In EBRD, Tuleen was managing a portfolio of Blended Finance tools (Funded Guarantees, First -Loss Risk Cover, and Local Currency Support) in conflict countries and high-risk markets, such as Ukraine and West Bank and Gaza. Prior to this, she worked as Program Management Specialist in the Economic Growth Office with USAID in Jordan, where she designed the first private sector concessional agreement in the tourism portfolio in Jordan. During her service in USAID, Tuleen was awarded by the United States Government *Meritorious Award* for an innovative financial structure and contractual design for the first Non-Revenue Water Project in Jordan

Tuleen also worked in several UN organizations including UNDP (Iraq). She possesses a M.Sc. in Poverty Reduction and Development Management from Birmingham University and an M.Sc. in Public Financial Management from SOAS University in London.

Panel Discussion

Moderator



Oshani Perera

Co-founder and Director of Programmes, Shamba Centre for Food & Climate

Oshani has 16 years' experience providing advice and advocacy in 25 countries, on sustainable infrastructure, nature-based solutions, public procurement, sustainable finance, foreign direct investment, ESG, and sustainability reporting. She co-founded the Shamba Centre for Food and Climate to find systemic ways to make food systems more sustainable.

Before setting up the Shamba Centre, Oshani worked with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), McKinsey & Company, KPMG, and UNEP. She brokered and co-designed a landmark partnership between IISD, the Global Environment Facility, the MAVA Foundation, and UNIDO on Nature-based Infrastructure. She also co-designed the Sustainable Asset Valuation (SAVi), which uses systems dynamics and project finance to calculate the risks and externalities of infrastructure projects. To promote blended capital for sustainable ventures, Oshani also co-designed an inventory of over 100 credit enhancement products. Oshani has served on expert groups of the European Union, the OECD and the International Olympic Council.

Oshani holds a BSc in Business from Cornell University/University of St Gallen, a MSc in Economic Policy from the University of Strathclyde and an MSc in Environmental Technology from the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine.

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Panelists



Tshewang Dorji Climate Change Specialist, Global Environment Facility

Tshewang Dorji is a Climate Change Specialist at the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Prior to joining the GEF, he was a Policy Analyst focused on Least Developed Countries issues with Climate Analytics, providing strategic advice to the Chair of Least Developed Country (LDCs) Group and managing operations of the Office of the LDC Chair at the UNFCCC process.

He was also a negotiator from LDC Group since 2014 at the UNFCCC process. He started his career with the Bhutanese Government in 2005 as an Environment Officer and has worked extensively in climate change and sustainable development in Bhutan and globally.



Hans Hoogeveen Independent Chairperson of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Hans Hoogeveen was elected as Independent Chairperson of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in June 2021. He is Ambassador and former Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to FAO, WFP and IFAD (2016-2021). As Chairperson of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests Bureau, his leadership resulted in an international instrument deemed a landmark achievement by the UN Secretary-General following fifteen years of encumbered international negotiations – a highly noteworthy accomplishment within the forum, which earned Hoogeveen a UN award. He is one of the founding members and current co-Chair of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA). In addition, he is a founding member and current co-Chair of Champions 12.3, an international coalition of eminent commissioners and CEOs of companies, international organizations and NGOs, which focus on a 50 per cent worldwide reduction on food losses and waste by 2030.

Hans Hoogeveen has authored a book on Sustainable Development Diplomacy as well as a number of articles on sustainable development and natural resources policies. He has received the following awards: Commander of Gregorius (Holy See), and Commander de l'Orde Grand-Ducal de la Couronne de Chene (Luxembourg).



Iris Krebber Head of Food Security, Agriculture and Land, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Iris Krebber is the Head of Food Security, Agriculture and Land – Development Policy and Strategic Programmes, at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). Her responsibilities include policy, programmes, evidence and engagement around food security and agriculture in an era of climate change as set out in the [Agriculture Development Policy](#), land governance, and sustainable food and agriculture investment. She is also the FCDO's GDPR focal point.

Iris also leads on the [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program \(GAFSP\)](#). She co-chaired its global Steering Committee and chaired the Donor Committee for the IFC-led GAFSP Private Sector Window until the regular rotation in May 2022.

Prior to joining the Civil Service, Iris spent 10 years working for [Welthungerhilfe](#), the largest German INGO working on global food security, agriculture and rural development. She was Regional Director in the Greater Horn and worked in a number of capacities in various African countries, on eradicating hunger and sustainable agriculture and rural development. Prior to that, Iris worked in the private sector. Iris also serves on the Advisory Board of the [Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment](#).



Christopher Wayne Associate Director, Investing in Agriculture, Acumen Fund

As Associate Director, Investing in Agriculture, Chris shapes Acumen's position and direction in smallholder agriculture, supports local teams to source and structure agriculture transactions, and designs systems to share agricultural intelligence.

Chris joined Acumen in 2021, and previous to that he served as Director of GrowNYC Farmer Assistance, where he oversaw business development technical assistance programs for small family farms. Chris holds a Master of Science in Sustainable Management from Columbia University.