

# Innovative approaches to sustainable finance for food systems transformation

23 October 2023 | 13.30 - 14.45 CET  
Sheikh Zayed Center, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy and Zoom

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## Speaker Bios



### Tristan Armstrong

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

Tristan Armstrong 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 Chair of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development.



### Peter Beez

**Programme Manager and Senior Policy Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC)**

Dr. Peter Beez is a Senior Policy Advisor at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) since 2002, focusing on economic governance and private sector engagement and development. Before starting his role at SDC, Peter worked in both the public (University of Fribourg, Swiss Federal Finance Administration) and private sector (banks, consultancy, SMEs). Peter has performed short-term missions across Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Africa and is a graduate of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.



### David Dewez

**Managing Partner, Incofin IM**

David Dewez is a Managing Partner of Incofin IM and in charge of the Global Debt portfolio and People and Organization. David has been with Incofin IM since 2007 and brings over 22 years of investment experience in the financial services and agri-food sectors. In his role, David is a member of the Management Committee, and member of several Investment committees. In addition, David is a Board Member of Financiera Fundeser in Nicaragua and SAC Integral in El Salvador. Prior to Incofin IM, David worked for 7 years at ACCION International in the microfinance as part of the advisory team and specially taking the lead in setting up a new microfinance operation in Haiti with Sogebank and managing the ACCION Network, a network of renown microfinance institutions across different continents. David holds a Masters of Arts (Economics) from Université Laval, Canada.



## Siddharth Khadka

**Country Manager, Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA) Nepal**

Siddharth Khadka has over 15 years of extensive experience in the private and development sector with an emphasis on private sector and enterprise development, markets, and investment promotion. In the last 15 years, Siddharth has had a progressive career in large multinational private companies and development programs as a project manager, technical and management back stopper and program advisor. As a private sector development expert Siddharth specializes in SME and business development, service and financial markets, along with Investment Climate reform and Public Private Partnership. He has hands on experience of managing large development projects applying various approaches including M4P. Siddharth also has notable experience in designing and operationalizing Monitoring and Results Measurement (MRM) systems, complying with DCED standards and has previously managed MRM systems for various TVET and employment projects.



## Siddharth Krishnaswamy

**Head of Research, Analysis and Monitoring, East Africa Region, World Food Programme (WFP)**

Siddharth Krishnaswamy is the Head of Research, Analysis and Monitoring for WFP's East Africa Region; the regional office being based in Nairobi. In this role he supports a wide range of analysis (food security, vulnerability, food prices and markets; livelihood, resilience etc), assessments, programme monitoring and research across the various WFP country offices as well as regional analysis and partnerships. Prior to this he held a similar role for WFP'S Regional Bureau in Cairo (RBC) covering Northern Africa and the Middle East. He first started working for WFP in 2005. Between 2010 and 2014, he was part of the core group in FAO that designed the IPC (Integrated Phase Classification) system to classify food insecurity and later on served as FAO's Regional Advisor for Asia on the IPC. He holds a Master's degree in Rural Development from Cornell, as well as an MBA and a Bachelor's in Agricultural Science, both from India.



## Dr. Ivan Henry Meyer

**Minister of Agriculture and Leader of Government Business, Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Western Cape Government**

Dr Ivan Meyer is a senior member of the Western Cape Provincial Government. He was re-elected in April 2023 as the Federal Chairperson of the Democratic Alliance (DA) and serves as the Head of the DA's International Relations.

Agriculture is a very important role player in the Western Cape economy and Minister Meyer's Ministerial Priorities which include (1) Structured education, training and research; (2) rural safety; (3) market access; (4) farmer (and agri-worker) support; and (5) climate change.

Minister Meyer is passionate about rural economic development and works closely with industry role-players, to grow the economy and to create jobs in the Western Cape. Minister Meyer was a Senior Lecturer in Public Policy and Local Governance at the University of Stellenbosch. He has held various ministerial posts: Western Cape Provincial Minister of Finance, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, and Provincial Minister of Social Development. Minister Meyer was also a Senior Lecturer in Public Policy and Local Governance at the University of Stellenbosch. He holds an MA (1990) and Ph.D. degree (1996) in Public Administration from the University of Stellenbosch. He is very passionate about agriculture and created the famous hashtag "FortheLoveofAgriculture."

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## Oshani Perera

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

Oshani Perera 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 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.



## Dr Mogale Sebopetsa

**Head of Department, Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Western Cape Government**

Dr Mogale Sebopetsa is passionate about agriculture. Sprouting from a village in Limpopo, his initial inclination was not to choose agriculture as a career. However, with farming in his lineage, agriculture chose him. After starting his journey with a BSc degree in Animal Science, his career cultivated from lecturing at the University of Limpopo, to a position at the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and then the National Department of Agriculture and eventually the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. Prior to taking up the role as Head of Department, Mogale held the post of Chief Director: FarmerSupport and Development and has relished working at the Department since 2006. With over two decades in this sector, he sees himself continuing to serve as a civil servant in this sunrise sector. His motto remains, "You can't solve today's problems with yesterday's thinking", which inevitably requires one to continuously, seek knowledge.

## Moderator



## Carin Smaller

**Co-Founder and Executive Director, Shamba Centre for Food & Climate. Co-Founder of Hesat2030**

Carin Smaller has worked for over fifteen years advising governments, donors, and parliamentarians in more than 20 countries on public and private investment and trade in agriculture and food systems. She co-founded the Shamba Centre to continue her lifelong quest to end hunger and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. She was the co-Director and co-author of Ceres2030: Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger, a three-year research project combining artificial intelligence and economic modelling to find the most effective ways and costs to end hunger, double farmer incomes and protect the climate. She also co-authored the Guide to Negotiating Investment Contracts for Farmland and Water, published by IISD, the first attempt at a model contract for developing countries to attract foreign investment for agriculture, while reducing poverty and protecting the environment. She holds a LLB and a BSc in Political Science from the University of New South Wales in Australia.