

SPEAKER BIOS

OPENING SESSION



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.



H.E. Hussein Mohamed Bashe

Minister of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania

H.E. Hussein Mohamed Bashe is a Tanzanian politician and Member of Parliament for Nzega Urban constituency since 2015. In January 2022, he was appointed Agriculture Minister. Bashe holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing acquired from Mzumbe University in 2002. Bashe has accumulated vast experience in a number of senior leadership positions in three different sectors, the print media sector, banking sector and telecommunication sector where he worked as the CEO of New Habari (2006) Limited including newspapers of Mtanzania, RAI, The African, Dimba, Bingwa and Mwananchi Communication Limited. Bashe is a visionary and the brains behind the youth legacy programme – Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT). He is an influencer for youth and an advocate for private sector investment in agriculture. He is an avid believer of irrigation and block farms for youth and women, who by nature lack access to land and capital. He set the agenda 1030 which aims to achieve a 10% agriculture growth by 2030. Bashe was a Deputy Minister of Agriculture before being appointed the Minister of Agriculture in January 2022.



Brian C. Baldwin

Senior Advisor to the GDPR; Development and Agricultural Policy Advisor

Brian Baldwin, geographer and agricultural economist, held field posts with the UK's Overseas Development Administration in Sri Lanka and Zambia in design and evaluation of agricultural and rural development programs. Subsequently, he worked as an independent economist with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Industrialization Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the European Union (EU), and the private sector in the Caribbean, Thailand, Philippines, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana, and Zambia. He co-chaired the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, chaired the Multilateral Development Bank working group on Management for Development Results, and was the IFAD representative on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) working party on Aid Effectiveness, which evolved into the Global Partnership for Effective Development, and the Steering Committee of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). He continues to work as a development and policy adviser with both the public and private sector, including in Thailand, Ghana, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.

Moderator



Henry Bonsu

Journalist and Broadcaster

Henry Bonsu is a British Ghanaian journalist and broadcaster. He presents a night time current affairs show on Times Radio, focusing on politics, popular culture, international affairs and sport. He has also been a commentator for BBC News, ITV, Channel 5, Talk TV, TRT, MSNBC, Al Jazeera and News Nation. Henry studied Modern Languages (German and French) at Oxford University, then worked as a researcher, producer and finally as a presenter for BBC News and Current Affairs. He was also a presenter on Vox Africa TV. Henry has written columns for UK newspapers including The Times, The Guardian, the Voice, the Caribbean & African Times and the Daily Mail on Westminster politics, policing, popular culture and sport. These days Henry also works as an international moderator for multilateral organisations, ranging from the AfDB to the AU, AGRF, UNDP, IFAD Global Fund, WHO, UNDP, UNFCCC, FAO, and UNHCR. His specialist areas are international development, health, education, diversity and sustainability. He has hosted the African Banker Awards since 2008, travelling to major cities across the continent, including Marrakech, Abidjan, Kigali, Lusaka, Malabo, Accra and Sharm El Sheikh.



HIGH-LEVEL SESSION



Honorable Jeanine M. Cooper

Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Liberia

Honorable Jeanine M. Cooper was commissioned as Liberia's Minister of Agriculture in February, 2020. Since then, Minister Cooper has re-oriented the Ministry of Agriculture to focus on agri-business, partnerships, and coordination. She has formulated and is implementing a food systems approach with heavy focus on expanding food production, boosting agro-processing, supporting livelihoods, and improving farmers' access to finance and resources. Previously, Ms. Cooper founded FABRAR Liberia in 2009 and had been managing the company since January 2017. From a micro-milling operation, purchasing rice from smallholder farmers, FABRAR has grown to be Liberia's largest rice producer. Ms. Cooper served 13 years with the United Nations. Her last posting was as the Permanent Representative to the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa and Head of the Liaison Office for the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA). Ms. Cooper's career spans an additional 10 years of humanitarian work with international NGOs. She graduated from Michigan State University in 1982 with a double B.A. in Business Administration and in French and she has an MSc in Managing Rural Change from the University of London, Imperial College at Wye in 2004.



Marylaure Crettaz Corredor

Head, Food Systems Section, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Marylaure Crettaz Corredor is currently Head of the Food Systems Section at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is currently Head of the Food Systems Section at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which represents Switzerland in multilateral institutions, international organisations and networks, engages in global policy dialogue and manages innovative projects related to sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition. Marylaure has more than 20 years of experience in international cooperation. After 4 years at the International Committee of the Red Cross with missions in Rwanda, Kosovo and Colombia, she joined in 2003 the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. She has since then consolidated her experience in natural resources management, rural development, agriculture and food security, climate change and economic development. She held different positions with geographic foci (Andes, West Africa), was a regional advisor in Latin America and was Counsellor and Head of SDC, at the Swiss Embassy in New Delhi.



Namukolo Covic

Director General Representative to Ethiopia, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), CGIAR Ethiopia Country Convenor and Regional Director for East and Southern Africa

Namukolo Covic (Zambia) is ILRI Director General's Representative to Ethiopia, CGIAR Ethiopia Country Convenor, and CGIAR Regional Director for East and Southern Africa. She has served as a Senior Research Coordinator at the IFPRI on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) in different African countries. Her extensive experience straddles the interface of policy, dynamics of agriculture and food systems, and related interventions. She has been involved in numerous activities, collaborating with national governments, regional and continental bodies, and various non-state actors to drive food systems transformation and nutrition initiatives. Namukolo has worked extensively with the government of Ethiopia and other stakeholders on different fronts of food systems and nutrition, including the development of food-based dietary guidelines and their adaptation to pastoralist settings, and the development of Ethiopia's food systems transformation pathway. She has supported African Union's efforts on linking agriculture and nutrition in the Africa Union – Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). She leads the Governance Working Group of an Independent Expert Group that emerged from the UNFSS.



Sean de Cleene

International Systems and Partnerships Expert

Sean de Cleene is highly regarded internationally as a systems leader and for his work in brokering relevant transformational partnership and inclusive business solutions. As a member of the Executive Committee of the World Economic Forum, for nearly six years, he had executive oversight and responsibility for Food Systems, and at different times, for the Tech for SDGs portfolio, the Sustainable Development Investment Partnership (SDIP), Nature portfolio, Climate Governance Initiative, Hoffman Tech and Environment PhD Fellows, and Civil Society Engagement. Sean recently chaired the UN Food Systems Summit Innovation Lever of Change. Sean brings a lot of experience catalysing multifaceted investment partnerships like Grow Asia, Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania, and the Beira Agricultural Growth Corridor or more recently Food Innovation Hubs in India, Vietnam and Colombia, or as the Co-Chair ad interim, together with the Chair of the OECD DAC, of the Sustainable Development Investment Partnership. Previously he held positions as Senior Vice President Global Initiatives, Strategy and Business Development for Yara International, Vice President of Business Development, Inclusive Finance and Strategic Partnerships at AGRA.



Boaz Blackie Keizire

Head of Policy, Advocacy and Food Systems, AGRA

Boaz Blackie Keizire is the Head of Policy, Advocacy and Food Systems at AGRA. He also Heads the Africa Food Prize Secretariat. Boaz holds Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics from Makerere University and University of Sussex UK, a BSc in Economics from Makerere University and a Diploma in Fisheries Policy, Planning and Management from United Nations University, Iceland. Boaz has over 15 years working in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resource Policy, Planning and Analysis and Rural Development. He is a Food Systems Champion and a 2017 Fellow for the Aspen New Voices Fellowship Boaz Keizire, a Ugandan national, is an expert in agriculture and natural resource policy issues, planning, analyses as well as rural development. He has a deep understanding of what it takes to strengthen and support African-led institutions by sustaining a bold agenda for agri-food systems. Boaz used his extensive national and regional networks and experiences to translate and influence positive actions at continental level by raising the profile of the African Union Commission to mobilize the global community and African Member States towards agricultural transformation through CAADP. Specifically, Boaz has been instrumental in using country specific models and examples to change the quality of leadership of CAADP provided by the African Union Commission.



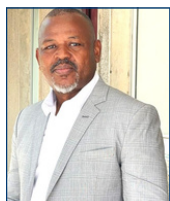
Wilma van Esch

Head of Food Security and Nutrition, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Wilma van Esch is the Head of Food and Nutrition Security at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. She has extensive experience in agriculture and development, having worked for both the ministry and the United Nations, in multiple positions and across many countries such as Ghana, India, Tanzania, and Kenya.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS LEAD SPEAKERS



Jean Ives Bonzi

Coordination Officer, Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC), Somalia

Jean Ives Bonzi, a national of Burkina Faso, worked for the United Nations since 2005, actively championing a diverse array of development, reintegration, recovery, and rehabilitation initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Liberia, Kenya, and Colombia. He is an ardent advocate for empowering youth and advancing environmental initiatives that particularly benefit women. Beyond his United Nations service, Jean Ives brings invaluable insights from his leadership roles in international relief and development organizations within the NGO sector. Notably, he served as a Program Officer for Africa with Plan Nederland, actively participating in the establishment of a global food security expertise centre in collaboration with several European universities. Additionally, his contributions extended to Guatemala where he worked closely with small-scale Guatemalan Papaya producers in the realms of production and export to the United Nations. With over two decades of experience in peace operations, development programs, and international cooperation, Jean Ives Bonzi is currently serving in Somalia. In his present role, he plays a pivotal part in facilitating the coordination of development aid actors, including government agencies, the United Nations, and donors such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank.



Sheryl L Hendriks

Director of the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK

Sheryl L Hendriks is the Director of the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK. She is a food system and food security expert with extensive experience in policy analysis and programme design as well as food security monitoring and evaluation systems. Professor Hendriks is engaged in high-level global food security policy think tanks and panels, is influential in food security and nutrition policy circles in Africa and actively supports food policy reform in African countries. She has made a significant contribution to capacity building for food security in Africa, having trained, mentored and supervised graduates and professionals from over 18 African countries, establishing a large network of graduates. Professor Hendriks holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Natal.



Bernard Lehmann

Chairman, Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN)

Bernard Lehmann is an Agricultural and Food Economist. He acts as Chairman of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts at the UN Committee on World Food Security and Nutrition (CFS), as member of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust. He is also Chairperson of the Foundation Council of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and Chairman of the Science Policy Interface of the Swiss Academy of Science. Previously, Lehmann was a Full Professor of Agricultural Economics and the Head of Department of Agricultural and Food Science at ETH Zurich. Then, he served as the Director General of the Federal Office for Agriculture and President of Agroscope (the Swiss Confederation's center of research in the agricultural, environmental and food sciences). He served as delegated State Secretary for international Agricultural and Food Systems affairs. His expertise is bridging Science with Policy and Society in the domain of Sustainable Food Security and Nutrition.



Sophia Murphy

Executive Director, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)

Sophia Murphy is a food systems and international economy expert with 30 years of professional experience. Sophia is the Executive Director of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), a policy and advocacy organization based in Minneapolis, with small offices in Washington, D.C. and Berlin. She joined IATP from the Economic Law and Policy Program at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), where she served as research director and advisor on agriculture, trade and investment. She was part of a three-year project called Ceres2030 that assessed the evidence on effective interventions to end hunger, double the incomes of small-scale producers and reduce food systems' environmental footprint, and developed an economic cost model to look at the public investment needed for those interventions. She served two consecutive terms as a member of the steering committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts to the United Nations Committee on World Food Security. Sophia has a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University, an MSc from the London School of Economics in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries and a Ph.D. from the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia.



HIGH-LEVEL SYNTHESIS PANEL



Mia Beers

Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security

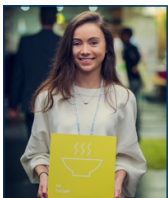
Mia Beers serves as Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security and is also the USAID Resilience Coordinator. Ms. Beers has a 30-year career in the international humanitarian and development sector and is a member of the Senior Executive Service. She previously helped build USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, where she established the Office of Global Policy, Partnership, Programs and Communications and coordinated key strategies around humanitarian policy; emergency classification levels; early recovery, risk reduction and resilience; and localization. Ms. Beers worked for USAID's regional office in East Africa managing development and humanitarian programs and for a NGO based in Somalia, coordinating capacity strengthening and multi-sectoral programs for local organizations. She has also worked for several non-profits on democracy and citizenship initiatives. Ms. Beers holds a BA in International Affairs from George Washington University and a MPA from American University's Key Executive Leadership Program. She is a graduate of the MIT Seminar XXI Program and the Foreign Service Institute's National Security Executive Leadership Seminar.



Ron Hartman

Director, Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Division, IFAD

Ron Hartman is IFAD's Director for Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization. He is responsible for leading IFAD's global engagement and multilateral relations including with the private sector; south-south and triangular cooperation, resource mobilization and funds management. Prior to his current position, Hartman served as IFAD Country Director and Representative at its South East Asia and the Pacific sub-regional office in Jakarta. With over 25 years of professional experience, including over 18 years with the United Nations, Hartman has acquired an extensive managerial and operational experience in over 25 countries. He has specialized knowledge in promoting sustainable socio-economic development and poverty reduction, public policy and partnerships. In 2011, Hartman was awarded the IFAD Presidential Award for outstanding performance.



Sophie Healy-Thow

Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN); Co-founder, Act4Food

Sophie Healy-Thow is a young Irish woman who is passionate about creating awareness about food security, particularly amongst young people. Sophie is the Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator for the GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition). She founded Act4Food, a global youth led campaign which aims to transform food systems. This campaign has been mentioned on Forbes magazine and is being implemented globally. Sophie serves on the Board of the leading international charity ActionAid UK and the Emergency Nutrition Network she was the co-chair of the UN Food Systems Summit Youth Liaison group. Sophie is one of the 10 women leaders featured in the Disney book 'Choose to Matter' by ESPN presenter Julie Foudy which encourages young women to find the leader within and was recognised by TIME magazine as one of the most influential teens. More recently she was named by Food Tank as a Young Person Inspiring Change Across the Food System and spoke at the Nobel Peace Prize and the launch of the EAT Lancet 2.0 at Stockholm +50. She is an excellent and inspiring communicator with strong leadership skills and a self-motivator with a drive and ambition to succeed.



Michael Taylor

Director, International Land Coalition (ILC)

Michael Taylor is the Director of the global secretariat of the International Land Coalition (ILC). ILC is hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a UN Agency in Rome, Italy. Michael is a citizen of Botswana, with a PhD in Social Anthropology. He has worked on human rights and environmental issues for 30 years across Africa and the rest of the world. The International Land Coalition is a global alliance of 300 multilateral and civil society organizations based in 90 countries. Its members represent over 70 Million land-users across the globe.



THEMATIC SESSION ON LAND GOVERNANCE



David Kaimowitz

Chief Programme Office, The International Land and Forest Tenure Facility

David Kaimowitz is the Chief Programme Officer at the Tenure Facility. He was previously manager of the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) at FAO, director of Natural Resources and Climate Change at the Ford Foundation, and Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), among others. He has published extensively on policies and other trends affecting forests and climate, land tenure, Indigenous Peoples, and rural livelihoods. He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Ward Anseeuw

Senior Land Tenure Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Ward Anseeuw, a development economist and policy analyst, is a senior land tenure officer and lead of the Land Tenure Team at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Previously, as a senior research fellow at the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), he was seconded from 2016 to 2023 to the International Land Coalition as the Global Lead Technical Specialist responsible for Data, Research, Knowledge Management and Learning; and from 2005 until 2016, he was seconded to the University of Pretoria, as a senior research fellow to the Post-Graduate School of Agriculture and Rural Development and as the co-director of the Center for the Study of Governance Innovations (GovInn) – which he founded in 2012. His work focuses mainly on issues of land and policies, agrarian and land reforms, large-scale land acquisitions as well as to participatory approaches of data generation, governance and advocacy regarding land.



Eva Hershaw

Global Data and Land Monitoring Lead, International Land Coalition (ILC)

Eva Hershaw is a land data and indicators specialist, currently serving as the global lead for land monitoring and data at the International Land Coalition, where she coordinates data collection, analysis and use of people's data for accountability through the LANDex tool. As part of her work at ILC, Eva is a co-chair of the Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environmental Defenders (ALLIED) and co-leads the ALLIED Data Working Group. She was trained as a geographer and journalist with a focus on Latin America and holds two master's degrees. Prior to her work with ILC, she was a visiting Fulbright researcher at the University of Brasilia.



Chris Penrose-Buckley

Senior Land Policy Lead, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

Chris Penrose-Buckley is a Senior Adviser on Land Policy at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and holds an MSc in rural development and agricultural economics from Imperial College London. He has over 20 years' experience in land governance, agricultural development and natural resource management in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



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Peter Beez

Program Manager and Regional Thematic Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

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.



Cecile Biccari

Managing Partner, Contrast Capital

Cecile Biccari is a Managing Partner at Contrast Capital. A sustainable finance professional with 20+ years' experience working alongside business leaders and investors to channel capital towards sustainable value creation (WBCSD, HSBC, RobecoSAM, Contrast Capital), her focus has always been on shifting mindsets and empowering decision-makers to integrate sustainability into their core business at strategic and operational level. She has worked with the Dow Jones Sustainability Index and the Principles for Responsible Investment to develop industry-leading benchmarks for corporates and financial institutions to improve their sustainability practices. Cecile has trained thousands of finance professionals in sustainability investing by developing courses for the PRI Academy and the CFA Institute. She recently wrote a children's book to make sustainable finance intuitive for the next generation. As an independent consultant, she advises large institutional investors and family offices to formulate and implement their sustainability investing strategies, with a strong focus on promoting sustainable livelihoods, nature-based solutions and resilience.



Fariza Chalal

Investment Officer, PROPARCO (AFD Group)

Fariza Chalal joined the Agence Française de Développement Group in 2008. She works currently as an investment officer within the PROPARCO's Manufacturing, Agro-industries and Services Division, with a focus on agricultural and agri-food projects. Former legal adviser in project and corporate finance, she has over 18 years' experience in private sector financing in developing countries, both in legal and financial structuring.



Paul Clements-Hunt

Founder of the Blended Capital Group, former Head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative (FI)

After heading UNEP-FI for 12 years, Paul Clements-Hunt founded The Blended Capital Group in March 2012 and remains Non-Executive Chair. He splits his time between home in Nairobi and London where he is a Director of Mischon Purpose, the sustainability arm of the UK head-quartered law firm, Mischon de Reya LLP. Paul, trained as a journalist, created his first company, Environmental Business Group (EBG) Co., Ltd in Bangkok, Thailand in 1992. For thirty years, through roles in business, the United Nations and as an entrepreneur, his focus has been on how to mobilize finance and capital at scale into sustainable development. Paul has private equity holdings in last mile impact businesses where digital, technology, and sustainability developments merge.

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Hamid Hamirai

Senior Advisor, Food Systems for the Future

Hamid Hamirai is a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience in finance, government advisory, and the food industry. His current role as Senior Advisor to Food Systems for the Future, in partnership with GFFN, involves leading the Public Finance Catalyst Group, with a focus on finance ministries. His background includes advising the Minister of Finance in Oman, serving on the investment committee of Oman's sovereign wealth fund, and holding a CFO position in Oman's largest dairy and poultry business. Hamid is also a co-founder of EHA Advisory, which offers consultancy services to sovereign wealth funds and institutional investors. His recent work includes the development of an Innovative Collaborative Funding Model for de-risking investments in good food transformation.



Agnes Johan

Head of Blended Finance, Rabo Partnerships

Agnes Johan is an agricultural economist by training and an experienced banker with a background in (structured) Trade and Commodity Finance. She is heading the Blended Finance team at Rabo Partnerships B.V. where the focus is on using blended finance as a tool to create impactful finance solutions for high(er) risk food and agri value chains with commercial banks. Rabo Partnerships is a dedicated impact-for-profit entity within the Rabobank Group active in: Advisory projects for Financial institutions in emerging markets with focus to unlock access to finance in rural areas; Equity investments in financial institutes in Latam and Africa; Smallholder farmer focused digital innovations; Blended finance solutions. The Blended finance team has set up the AGR13 fund in 2020- which is now an active fund placed outside of Rabo Partnerships. The team is involved in structuring transactions with clients, banks and impact funds (like AGR13) to combine the risk sharing element with commercial loans to create positive (social and/or environmental) impact. The core of her role is really to bridge the gap between impact funds/ public funds and commercial banks as both are equally important to achieve impactful solutions at scale.



Jean-Marc Kilolo

Economist, Innovative Finance & Capital Markets, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Jean-Marc Kilolo is an economist currently working in the ECA on Innovative Finance and Capital Markets in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He has previous experience working in the ECA Office for Central Africa in Yaounde, Cameroon. Prior to his role at the ECA, Jean-Marc held positions at various international organizations in Switzerland (ECE, ITC, UNCTAD) and Kenya (UNDRR), where he successfully led capacity building initiatives in 15 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, he has a wealth of teaching experience as a professor of mathematical economics at CCAM-UPC and UPN in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Jean-Marc's expertise has been recognized and published in esteemed peer-reviewed journals, including Economics & Politics, the Review of Development Economics, and the Review of World Economics. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from École polytechnique in France, an MBA from UQAM in Canada, and a Masters' and B.A in Economics from Université de Montréal in Canada and UCLouvain in Belgium, respectively.



Iris Krebber

Head of Food Security, Agriculture and Land, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

Iris Krebber is the Head of Food Security, Agriculture and Land – Development Policy and Strategic Programmes, at the UK's Foreign and Development Department. 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 GDPRD 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.



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Songbae Lee

Agricultural Finance Lead, USAID Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security

Songbae Lee joined RFS in 2020 as Agricultural Finance Team Lead, supporting USAID in its efforts to mobilize capital for agriculture. Before this role, he spent eight years at Calvert Impact Capital, a non-profit impact investing debt fund, where he was responsible for deal origination, credit assessment, and ongoing portfolio monitoring. Prior to that, he worked for Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein in their global energy investment banking group in New York City, Banc of America Securities in their real estate investment banking group in San Francisco, and Mercy Corps in their microfinance institution in Kyrgyzstan. He holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago and a B.S. from the University of Vermont.



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 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 codesigned 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



Andrea Zinn

Director, Council on Smallholder Agricultural Finance (CSAF) and Senior Manager Aceli Americas, Aceli Africa

Andrea Zinn is the Director of the Council on Smallholder Agricultural Finance (CSAF), a network of 20 lending practitioners promoting an inclusive finance market for farmer cooperatives and agri-SMEs. In addition to her role with CSAF, Andrea is the Senior Manager of Aceli Americas, providing advisory on adapting the Aceli Africa incentive model to mobilize private capital to agri-SMEs in Latin America. Prior to joining CSAF and Aceli, Andrea consulted on various donor projects focused in agriculture, including supporting IFAD's implementation of its new private sector engagement strategy, developing digital price risk management training for coffee cooperatives, and other initiatives funded by USAID, IFAD, GIZ, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the International Trade Centre. Through her previous work with Oikocredit, she focused on investments to high-impact agri-SMEs in sustainably-sourced value chains. Andrea is a former Fulbright Grantee to Malaysia and holds a BBA from Villanova University and an MSc in Sustainable Development from SOAS University of London.

Moderator



Carin Smaller

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

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.

THEMATIC SESSION ON RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



Annira Busch

Senior Policy Officer, Division Food and Nutrition Security, Fisheries, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Annira Busch is Senior Policy Officer in the division for “Food and Nutrition Security, Fisheries” at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). She oversees BMZ’s portfolio on fisheries and aquaculture and is working on G7 and G20 processes related to food security and nutrition. Prior to joining BMZ, Annira has worked for eight years with the German development cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on democratization, regional development, decentralization, good governance, prevention of violent extremism and biosecurity, including five years in GIZ projects in Tunisia.



Yukiko Arai

Director, a.i., Sectoral Policies Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Yukiko Arai is the Deputy Director and Officer-in-Charge of the ILO Sectoral Policies Department. Previously, she was the Director of the ILO Country Office for Argentina. She joined the ILO in 2001 and since then have worked as a specialist on child labour, poverty reduction, as well as issues related to business and decent work. In 2013, she took a leave of absence from the ILO to work as the Director of International Relations of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Bid Committee. Before joining the ILO, Ms Arai worked at the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC.



Genna Tesdall

Director, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD)

Genna Tesdall (she/her) is an agriculture systems thinker taking on projects to sustain the environment and people, now as the director of YPARD. She strives to be a servant-leader in order to foster equality between generations (and all delimiters of privilege). Before joining YPARD, she was the federal agricultural policy officer at the German Rural Youth Association (Bund der Deutschen Landjugend) (2020). As a Fulbright Researcher at the Humboldt University of Berlin (2018-19), she focused on youth involvement in agricultural policy, and was the former president (2013-14) of the International Association of Agriculture and Related Sciences Students (IAAS). She is a graduate of the global oriented Iowa State (2015) and Penn State Universities (2018) with a M.Sc. in Plant Pathology and International Agriculture and Development.



Ji-Yeun Rim

Senior Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Ji-Yeun Rim is a Senior Policy Analyst at the OECD Development Centre where she oversees the work on youth well-being, employment in agri-food systems and green transition in agriculture. She led the EU-OECD Youth Inclusion project, which supported the development of national youth policies in nine developing countries and global research on youth aspirations, youth entrepreneurship and rural youth livelihoods. Ms Rim joined the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2009 and has contributed to various workstreams related to social cohesion, youth employment and social protection. Prior to the OECD, Ms Rim worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN on local institutions, food security and rural development projects. Ms Rim has a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Master in Public Administration and Social Welfare from Kyung Hee University, and an Master in Business Administration from HEC-Paris.



Dorothy Makayoto

Chairperson, Ingo Agrichamps Youth Association, Western Kenya

Dorothy Makayoto is a passionate advocate for agriculture and the Chairperson of Ingo Agrichamps Youth Association. With a Bachelor's degree in Agribusiness Management from Kenyatta University, Dorothy is a dedicated individual with a strong commitment to rural youth development in Kenya. She's been trained in public policy by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and her leadership role in Ingo Agrichamps has given her a platform to advocate for rural youth employment and engagement in agriculture. This has led to opportunities for her to be elected the Kakamega County Youth Lead for the Resilient Agriculture that Works for the Young People (RAY) project by Practical Action Kenya. Despite her educational background, Dorothy has chosen to focus on fodder production and poultry farming as her main source of income. Her story exemplifies the dedication and passion she holds for agriculture, believing it's the key to a better tomorrow for the youth of Kakamega County. Her dedication, skills, and tireless efforts are driving change and empowering the next generation of agripreneurs in Kenya.

THEMATIC SESSION ON RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



David Warui Mwangi

County Director, Vocational Education and Training (Youth Training), Nakuru County Government, Kenya

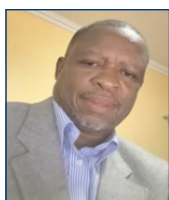
David Warui Mwangi is the Director of Vocational Training in Nakuru County Government. Nakuru is the third largest city in Kenya. He is responsible in designing, managing and implementing programs in the 34 Vocational Training Centers spread across Nakuru County. This role involves collaborating with various stakeholders including educators, industry professionals and government agencies to develop Vocational training Curricula ensuring the trainees align themselves with the current market demands and industry standards. Mr. Mwangi has a Master's degree in Educational administration from The University of Nairobi and has worked in the Vocational training department for six years. He was previously the Director in-charge of Sports in Nakuru county Government (2013-2017), National Chairman of the Kenya Youth Inter county Sports Association (2015-date), Chairman Secondary Schools Sports Association (2001-2007) and was a secondary school principal for fifteen years (1997-2012).



Haile Abebe

Programme Support Consultant, African Union Commission (AUC)

Haile Abebe is a Programme Officer- Youth in Agribusiness in the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is currently in charge of coordinating youth employment in agriculture and agribusiness activities and programmes, including facilitating the implementation of the African Agribusiness Youth Strategy (AAYS) activities at the continental level. He is also the African Union focal point for the Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA) Programme that the Commission is implementing in partnership with the FAO and UNIDO. Prior to joining the African Union Commission, he worked as a technical officer for a joint European Union and International Labour Organization (ILO) technical cooperation programme titled Strengthening the Impact on Employment of Sector and Trade Policies (STRENGTHEN) in Geneva, Switzerland. Haile holds a Master's degree in Public Policy with a special focus on Social and Innovation Policies from Sciences Po Paris, France.



George Yaa Mazuri

Chief Executive Officer, Ustadi Foundation

George Yaa Mazuri, currently the Chief Executive Officer of USTADI Foundation, is a project management development professional with over thirty-five years of demonstrated expertise in the management of development programs; designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation including people and financial oversight. His career includes working with partners (public and Private) and communities from low-income, urban and rural areas. George previously worked with the Danida Agricultural Business Development Programme as the Coast Regional Coordinator; Aga Khan Foundation, Programme Manager, Early Childhood Development (ECD); Programme Manager (KWAHO-SIDA-WATSAN-Kwale). George holds a Masters of Business Administration in Project Management degree from the University of the Valley, Mexico, a Bachelor's Degree in Project Management, a Diploma in Education. He is a Member of the Institute of Directors (K) (MIoD 1048) Kenya. He also served as a Director of the Kenya Coconut Development Authority – and Chairman of the Boards' Finance and General-Purpose Committee for 6 years, was the Board Chair of SCOPE (Strengthening Community Partnerships and Empowerment) a local NGO. Currently serving as the Chair Board of Trustees of YEHU Members Welfare Association.



Ileana Grandelis

Programme Officer, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO

Ileana Grandelis is a policy expert, specialized in rural development, and youth employment. She holds a MSc degree in Rural development, institutions and management of natural resources from the Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen (IAMM-CIHEAM), a MA degree in International and European Relations, and a BSc degree in Political Science and International Economy. She joined FAO in 2007 and is currently based in FAO Headquarters in Rome, coordinating the programme "Integrated Country approach for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agrifood system", funded by Sweden.