



MAKING DONOR FUNDING MORE CATALYTIC



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.



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.