



Brussels Rural Development Briefings

A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues

Briefing n° 19 Youth and rural development in ACP countries

Wednesday 16th June 2010 – 8h30 – 13h00

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

Biodata of speakers

Joris Baecke - CEJA

Joris Baecke was elected in 2009 to lead CEJA, The European Council of Young Farmers. As President of CEJA, which gathers some 26 young farmer's organizations from across Europe, he works to highlight the issues affecting young people in the agricultural sector. He has held a wide range of roles in agricultural organizations and national committees in his country, being a delegate to CEJA from his national young farmer's organization, NAJK. Previously he was a Member of the Board of Agriterra, a dutch agri-agency for development. A young agri-entrepenuer, he runs an arable crop which produces potatoes, onions, sugar-beets, grass for seed production, wheat and flax. From the age of 18, he has been mainly responsible for plant healthcare, fertilization and administrative matters concerning cross-compliance and GlobalGAP certification at his farm in the Southwest of the Netherlands. Parralel to the responsibilty on his family farm, he took a degree in Agronomy at Wageningen University.

Marc Debois – European Commission/DG Development

Marc Debois is an agronomist and chemist by training from the University of Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL-Belgium. During its career of some 20 years in the Commission, he has acquired expertise in various policy areas such as chemicals, environment, agriculture and development policies. He is currently Deputy Head of Unit at the Directorate General Development of the European Commission (Unit "Sustainable management of natural resources"). In the last years, he has been particularly in charge of rural development, food security and agricultural research files, among which the negotiations of the EU Food Facility, the multiannual programming of the EC food security thematic programme, the 2010 Commission Communication for a renewed EU Food security policy, and related international issues (Global Donor Platform on Rural Development, G8, CGIAR reform, FAO reform etc).

Michael Hailu – Director of CTA

Mr. Michael Hailu, an Ethiopian national, is the new Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). Mr. Hailu has over 25 years of professional experience working in Africa and Asia in communications and knowledge management in agriculture and related areas. Prior to joining CTA at the end of May 2010, Mr. Hailu was Director of Communications and a member of the Senior Leadership Team of the World Agroforestry Centre based in Nairobi, Kenya. From 1999-2007, Mr. Hailu lived and worked in Indonesia as Director of Information at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Mr. Hailu has degrees in Information Sciences and Economics from the University of Pittsburgh in the United States and Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He has also been trained in strategic leadership at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Bruno Losch – World Bank

Bruno Losch has a Ms in Political Science and PhD in Economics. He is Research Director at CIRAD (Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement) and Senior Economist at the World Bank, Sustainable Development Department - Africa Region. In Cirad, he was in charge of the “Family Agriculture and Globalization Programme“(1998-2002) where he developed a broad range of research and operational work on farmers support, rural producers’ organizations, multifunctionality of agriculture, and public policies. After a visiting position in the Institute of International Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, he was seconded to the World Bank in 2005 where he has been in charge of the coordination of the *RuralStruc* program on the “*Structural Dimensions of Liberalization on Agriculture and Rural Development*”. This program, launched by the World Bank, French Cooperation and IFAD, develops a comparative approach on seven African and Latin American countries focusing on the processes of structural change in the rural economy. Its outcomes are contributing to the policy making and to the international debate on the future of agriculture.

Peter Mwaura – YPARD

Peter is from Kenya. He has a BSc. in Horticulture and a Master of Science in Horticulture from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya. He has also a Masters of Geographical Information Systems and in 2010 he got a Rothamstead African Fellowship Award at Wageningen University in The Netherlands. He specializes in Plant pathology (plant nematology and development of bio control agents for sustainable agriculture). His professional experiences include work as Horticulturist, trainer of farmers, research assistant at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology on Research, Production and Extension. Peter has carried out various consultancies. He is also part of the Steering Committee Member of Young Professionals’ Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD) whose offices are in Institute of Botany, Leibnitz University Hannover, Germany and he is also a regional representative of YPARD in Africa. From 2001 he is involved in Volunteer and Navigator- World School Network – an NGO based in Japan which has environmental activities in Kenyan schools.

Shari Niles - CaFAN

Ms. Shari Niles is a Policy and Research Officer for the Caribbean Farmers Network (CaFAN), where she is conducting research and analysis into the policy environment of agriculture and its relation to the small farm families and organizations in the Caribbean Region. She is also enrolled as a Student at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus Barbados, where she is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Law. With a Barbados nationality, Ms. Niles was born in Trinidad and Tobago and graduated Valedictorian from the Bishop Anstey High School in 2003. Ms. Niles has worked with several organizations throughout the past eight years and has developed managerial and supervisory experiences. She has excellent verbal and written communications skills and has demonstrated leadership capabilities. Ms. Niles also has experiences in marketing, administrative and logistical support, and language and sports education. Ms. Niles pledges her support to the work of development when she joined the CaFAN team of Volunteers in 2010, and aims to empower other youth and females within the network.

Kati Partanen – Young Farmer's Committee, IFAP

Kati Partanen is living in Finland, near the town Iisalmi. She has been President of Young Farmers Committee within the International Federation of Agricultural Producers since 2008. Between 2006 and 2008 she was the vice president of the same committee. She currently works as a farmer in her family's farm which produces pig meat, grains and has several forestry activities. Kati has a M.Sc in agriculture. Furthermore, she works as a substitute principal lecturer at Savonia University of Applied Sciences in the department of Natural Resources. She has been also working as a lecturer of agricultural economics for several years. Her motto is: "Agriculture deserves respect in all parts of the world. Agriculture is the key to make the future sustainable."

Anthony Kipkoech Saina – MIJARC

Anthony Kipkoech Saina is, since 2002, the National Chairman for Kenya of the Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth Movement (CARYM). He has always been actively involved in the Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth Movement representing it in various fora around the world and focusing on sustainable rural development. From 2001 to 2008 he was the Diocesan Chairman of CARYM. CARYM is a member organization of MIJARC/IMCARY, the International Movement for Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth. Since July 2009 Anthony is the Operations Officer, at the Family Bank Limited.

Edwin Anthony VOS – CTA Board

Mr. Vos is the Chair of the CTA Executive Board. He has more than 40 years of experience in development in the context of ACP countries. He has worked for FAO and UNICEF in areas related to Youth in Africa, especially in Madagascar. He has also worked on issues related to minorities' rights and genocides. He has worked for 26 years in the EDC Delegations in all regions of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Margaret Wachenfeld – UNICEF

Margaret Wachenfeld is the Senior Policy Adviser in the UNICEF Brussels office which is in charge of UNICEF's relations with the European Union institutions. Margaret works with the European Union institutions to ensure that children and youth are reflected in EU policy and development cooperation. Prior to working at UNICEF, Margaret was the principal human rights adviser for the International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group). Ms. Wachenfeld was also counsel at the Danish Institute for Human Rights for several years and lectured on human rights in Copenhagen. She received her PhD in human rights law from the University of Copenhagen, has a masters of law in international and comparative law, a juris doctor degree in law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology.

Peter Wobst, Senior Economist, FAO

Peter Wobst is Senior Economist and Leader of the *Rural Employment Team* of the *Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division* at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. His current work areas include decent work issues, youth employment creation, child labour prevention and migration with a strong focus on informal agricultural occupations in rural areas of developing countries. The work on decent rural employment considers gender dimensions as well as rural institutions and aims at the achievement of FAO's global goals of poverty reduction and the elimination of hunger. Upon joining FAO in 2008, Dr. Wobst was the Coordinator of the EC-financed *All ACP Agricultural Commodity Programme*, which aimed at strengthening stakeholders' capacities to develop and implement sustainable commodity strategies. From 2005-08, he was an officer at the European Commission, working at the *Sustainability in Agriculture Unit* of IPTS (DG JRC) in Seville and subsequently at the *Competitiveness and Economic Reforms Unit* at DG Enterprise and Industry in Brussels, where he worked on the assessment of Lisbon Strategy type structural reforms and the analysis of the EU energy and climate change package. Until 2005, Dr. Wobst worked for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC, which he joined in 1997.