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Major drivers for rural transformation in Africa: Job creation for rural growth

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Biodata of speakers

Elisabeth Atangana, President of PAFO and PROPAC

Elisabeth Atangana was elected in October 2010 in Malawi, the first President of the Platform of the Pan-African Farmers' Organisations (PAFO). She is a farmer by profession. Her involvement in community life, including the creation and animation of development associations, professional organizations and farmers began in 1979. Her experience and commitment have been marked nationally by: the establishment in 1980 of the Association of Women for Sustainable Development "Entre Nous" in the town of Esse; the establishment in 1991 of the Chain of Solidarity and support of Actions for Sustainable Development (CHASAADD-M), organization of integrated local development and vocational training center for farmers; and the creation of the Common Fund to support grassroots organizations (FOCAOB), a specialized tool in rural Finance created and managed by farmers themselves. Since 1998 she has been involved in the establishment of the National Peasant Movement through the National Coordination of Peasant Organizations of Cameroon (CNOP-CAM) and in the process of creating the PROPAC (sub-regional Platform of Peasant Organizations of Central Africa) in 2005. Taking into account the specificity of women and rural youth in policies and strategies for sustainable development is a priority for her as well as working to develop vocational training and employment for young farmers and rural people.

Paul Barera – Rwandan Network Center - RTN

Paul Barera is the founder and Executive Director of Rwanda Telecentre Network (RTN). Paul is also the Chairman of Knowledge Network of Community Telecentres (KNACT), an initiative led by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Recently, he was also designated as the first chair for NetAfrica initiative. Mr. Barera worked for the Rwanda government as Deputy Mayor in charge of socio-economic development in local administration in 1998. These duties gave him a passion for rural development. He started his career in Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) in 2004, when he founded the Nyamata Telecentre (Rwanda) in partnership with the Academy for Educational Development (AED). Since then, he is an active advocate of ICT for rural development in Africa, especially with regard to providing access to ICTs for rural and disadvantaged communities.

Mohamed Ibn Chambas - ACP Group of States

Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas is the Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group since 1 March 2010. He was the former President of the Commission and Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), from February 2002 to February 2010. As head of the fifteen-member West African regional organisation, Dr. Chambas successfully positioned ECOWAS as a model regional organisation in Africa. Under his guidance, the Organisation adopted a new strategic vision and embarked on a profound restructuring of its institutions to make them more relevant to the needs of member states in the regional development and integration process. Prior to heading the ECOWAS Secretariat, Dr. Chambas was a Member of Parliament in Ghana, where he served at various periods as First Deputy Speaker of Parliament and chaired various committees. He also held deputy ministerial posts in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Higher Education of his country. Besides Ghana, Dr. Chambas had worked in the United States including teaching at Oberlin College Ohio, and practicing law with The Greater Cleveland Legal Aid Society and the Cleveland, Ohio, Law Office of Forbes, Forbes and Teamor. He also served from 1997 to 2001 on the Cornell University Council, the first African to serve on the Council of the prestigious Ivy-league American University.

Dyborn Chibonga – National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi - NAFSAM

Dyborn Chibonga manages the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) as Chief Executive Officer. He has served in this role since June 1999, managing the membership association of over 100,000 farmer members and a staff of about 390 in 19 locations across the country. In his experience with NASFAM, Mr. Chibonga has led a dynamic team in taking the project from an initiative to becoming a model rural producer organization in Southern Africa. Mr. Chibonga is a member of the Trade Policy National Working Group (TPNWG) and part of the Malawi Government agriculture cluster for World Trade Organization (WTO) and EU-ACP EPAs negotiations. His general experience includes various board roles with both for-profit and non-profit organizations, task forces and committees dedicated to improving the lives of the underprivileged through their active participation. Prior to NASFAM, he served in a marketing and manager capacity with Agricultural Trading Company from 1994 to 1999. Mr. Chibonga will bring his experience to enable smallholders effectively and collectively produce these non-traditional crops for the demanding and sophisticated market.

Paul Dorosh – International Food Policy Research Institute - IFPRI

Paul A. Dorosh, an American citizen, is the Deputy Division Director of IFPRI's Development Strategy and Governance Division since July 2010. From August 2008 through June 2010, he was an IFPRI Senior Research Fellow and Program Leader of the Ethiopia Strategy Support Program in Addis Ababa. He worked at the World Bank from 2003 to 2008 as a Senior Economist with the Spatial and Local Development Team of the Finance, Economics and Urban Development Unit (2007-08) and Senior Rural Development Economist of the South Asia Rural and Agricultural Development Unit (2003-07). He has published research on agricultural markets, food policy, international trade, economy-wide modeling and the rural-urban transformation. He has lived and worked in Indonesia, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Ethiopia and has also conducted research in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Niger, Madagascar, Mozambique, and various other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Loretta de Luca – International Labour Organisation - ILO

Since 2009 Ms. de Luca is Coordinator of ILO's Rural Employment and Decent Work Programme (stimulating, coordinating and developing products supporting ILO work in rural areas ILO-wide), and Special Adviser on Employment to the Executive Director of the Employment Sector. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and an MA in Economics from Cornell University, United States; and a Licence in International Relations from the Geneva Graduate Institute for International Studies, Switzerland. Ms. de Luca joined the ILO in 1988 as Labour Economist in the Active Labour Market Policies Branch. In 1994-96 she was Senior Policy and Management Adviser to the Director of the Employment Department. In 1997 she was appointed Senior Employment Development/Strategies Specialist in ILO's Subregional Office for North Africa in Cairo; and after a few years as Senior Crisis Specialist in ILO's Crisis Response and Reconstruction Programme (2001-05), she returned as Director to ILO's Subregional Office for North Africa in Cairo (2005-09).

Elisangela dos Santos Araujo – Federation of Family Smallholders – FETRAF

Elisangela dos Santos Araujo, was born in 1973 in Velente, the State of Bahia, Brazil, daughter of farmers. She began her militancy at 12 years of age in the Rural Base Communities organized through the Liberation Theology movement of the Catholic Church. In 1992 she assumed the position of General Secretary of the Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais (STR) of Sao Domingos (Bahia), in 1995 she was elected President of the STR. From 1993 to 1994, Elisangela managed the Agricultural Department of the Unified Workers Confederation (CUT). From 1995 to 1997, she was Manager of the Agricultural Department of the CUT for Agrarian Reform. From 1998 to 2000 Elisangela she managed the Union Organization of the CUT (Bahia). Since 2000 Elisangela became the Managing Executive of the National CUT in Brasilia (Federal District). In 2005 she was elected General Coordinator of the Federation of Rural Workers of Brazil (Federação Nacional dos Trabalhadores e Trabalhadoras na Agricultura Familiar - FETRAF). She is State member directory of the PT (Bahia) Workers' Party, member of Council of Consea - National Council for Food Security and Nutrition- and Coordinator of the National Forum for Agrarian Reform and Justice in the Countryside

Michael Hailu - Director of CTA

Michael Hailu, an Ethiopian national, is the 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.

Peter Hazell – Imperial College London, School of Oriental and African Studies

Peter Hazell has devoted most of his career to research and advisory work on policy issues related to agricultural development. Initially trained as an agriculturalist in England, he completed his Ph. D. in agricultural economics at Cornell University. He joined the World Bank as a Young Professional in 1972 and held various research and research management positions at the Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) until returning to the UK in 2005. He is currently a Visiting Professor at Imperial College London and the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, and works as an independent consultant. Peter's extensive and widely cited publications include works on mathematical programming; risk management; agricultural insurance; the impact of technological change on growth and poverty reduction; growth of the rural nonfarm economy, the role of agriculture in economic development; and agriculture and the environment.

Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki – Chief Executive Officer – NEPAD

Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki of the Republic of Niger is the head of new NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), headquartered in Midrand, South Africa. He worked as a Professor of Public Administration in Niger and Venezuela from 1976 to 1987 before joining the Uranium industry in Niger as a Senior Executive. During 1996 and 1997 he was successively appointed Minister in charge of African Integration and Cooperation and Minister of Foreign Affairs. In November 1997, he was appointed Prime Minister, a function he held until January 2000. In August 2000, he set up the Analysis Centre for Public Policy. From 2000 to 2004 he was a guest Professor at the University of Paris XI, where he lectured on International Relations and Organizations; he also led research at the Research Center on Europe and the Contemporary World within that University. In 2004 he was appointed as the Executive Director of the Rural Hub, a multilateral Think-tank based in Dakar, Senegal, from where he was recruited as Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD. Dr. Mayaki is the author of the book entitled, "La caravane passe..." relating his political career.

Felicity Proctor – Independent consultant

Felicity Proctor has worked in international development throughout her career including with bilateral and multilateral agencies of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Bank and with internationally recognized academic and policy centres in both developed and developing countries. Since 2007, Felicity Proctor has worked as an independent consultant. Felicity Proctor began her career working in rural and agricultural diversification in particular horticulture export development including postharvest technology and marketing systems. She has wide experience of work in Sub-Saharan Africa in agriculture and rural development strategy formulation and in local economic development. She was the lead adviser to the 2010 International Conference on the Dynamics of rural transformation in emerging economies held in New Delhi, India.

Jo Swinnen – University of Leuven

Jo Swinnen is Professor of Economics and Director of the LICOS-Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance, a Centre of Excellence at the University of Leuven (KUL). He is also Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels, where he directs the programme on EU agricultural and rural policy. He was previously Lead Economist at the World Bank and Economic Advisor at the European Commission. He consults for the OECD, FAO, EBRD, UNDP, IFAD, and to several Governments and was coordinator of several international research networks on food policy, institutional reforms, and economic development. He is currently President—Elect of the International

Association of Agricultural Economists and a Fellow of the European Association of Agricultural Economists. He holds a Ph.D from Cornell University. Jo Swinnen has published widely on political economy, institutional reform, trade, agricultural and food policy. His latest books are "Political Power and Economic Policy" (Cambridge Univ Press), "The Perfect Storm: The Political Economy of the Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy" (CEPS), "Global Supply Chains, Standards, and the Poor" (CABI), "Distortions to Agricultural Incentives in the Transition Economies of Europe and Central Asia" (World Bank Publications), and "From Marx and Mao to the Market" (Oxford University Press -- and Chinese translation by Beijing University Press).

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.