



**Brussels Rural Development Briefings: A series of policy meetings on ACP-EU development issues**

**Brussels Policy Briefing no. 25: Food Price Volatility: Implications for ACP countries**

*30<sup>th</sup> November 2011*

### **Biodata of Speakers**

#### **Carmel Cahill – OECD**

Carmel Cahill is Senior Counsellor in OECD's Directorate for Trade and Agriculture, where she is responsible for a wide range of strategic planning, coordination and communication activities covering food, agriculture and international trade issues. She was previously Head of the Policies and Trade in Agriculture Division, where she worked with an international team of economists and policy analysts on a broad range of domestic and international policy issues relating to food and agriculture; measurement and evaluation of support and protection levels; impacts of domestic and trade policy reform; decoupling; multifunctionality; and the study of the knowledge base and institutions needed for the design and implementation of effective policy reform. Before joining OECD in 1983, she held various jobs in the ministries of Agriculture and Finance in her native Ireland. She holds B. A. and M.A. degrees in Economics from University College, Cork and a Master of Science degree in Statistics from Trinity College, Dublin.

#### **Mamadou Cissokho – ROPPA**

Mamadou Cissokho is an agro-pastoral farmer in Bamba-Thialene Koumpentoum (Tambacounda), Senegal. He exploits 20 to 30 ha each year (pearl millet, sorghum, maize, peanuts). He is a member of Ententes des Groupements Associés, his association of farmers in Senegal, advisor for FONGS and honorary President of CNCR and ROPPA (Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa). The ROPPA has been established in July 2000 in Cotonou at the occasion of a meeting between a hundred of Farmers Organisations representatives. It currently represents the Farmers Organisations from 13 West African countries.

#### **Thomas Elhaut – IFAD**

Thomas Elhaut joined IFAD in 1983 and held various positions such as Regional Economist for Africa in the Economic Planning Department of the Fund. In 1994 he became the Lead Economist of the Programme Management Department. His main responsibilities included: operational policy and strategy for the Fund; and the strategic aspects of the planning and monitoring of the Programme of Work and Budget. From 2004 to October 2011 Thomas Elhaut was the Director of IFAD's Asia and Pacific Division. Beside his core responsibilities as manager of IFAD's operations (loan and grant funded) in the region, his main areas of strategic interest included the harmonization agenda and the need for new aid modalities and revisited operating models; regional cooperation within the Asia region; pro-poor policy and institutional change in a region characterized by high growth, effective rural poverty reduction, but continued concerns about human security, vulnerability of the rural poor and risk. Since 1 November 2011 Thomas Elhaut is the Director of Statistics and Studies for Development, in IFAD's Strategy and Knowledge Management Department. Besides his role as Director, leading analytical work on rural poverty and agricultural development, he also coordinates the gathering and publication of strategic intelligence on agricultural and rural development issues and advises IFAD's senior management on emerging issues of development and rural poverty.

### **Hafez Ghanem – FAO**

Hafez Ghanem – who holds a Ph.D in Economics from the University of California, Davis – is a development expert with extensive experience in policy analysis, project formulation and supervision and management of multinational institutions. He has worked in Africa, Europe, Asia, Middle East and North Africa. He joined the FAO in 2007 as the Assistant Director-General responsible for the Economic and Social Development Department where he is responsible for FAO's analytical work on food security, agriculture development, trade and markets, gender and equity, and statistics. It produces three FAO flagship publications: *The State of Food and Agriculture*, *The State of Food Insecurity* and *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets*. Prior to joining FAO, he spent twenty-four years at the World Bank where he started as a research economist and then senior economist in West Africa and later South Asia. Mr Ghanem has many publications in professional journals and was a member of the core team that produced the 1995 World Development Report.

### **Michael Hailu – 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.

### **Jean –Pierre Halkin – European Commission**

Jean-Pierre Halkin joined DG Development of Commission in 1986. From 1992 to 1997, he went to Côte d'Ivoire as Economic Adviser where he dealt with a broad portfolio which included notably rural development programmes focusing on value chains, regional trade, and access to market. In addition, Jean-Pierre Halkin was also in charge of the coordination of a vast food security intervention mitigating the impact of the Liberian war in four countries (Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Sierra Leone). Since then, he has been working in Brussels, in the field external relations where he occupied various posts including the coordination of the task force "Drugs/Money Laundering" or management of food security interventions in Asia. Jean-Pierre Halkin then shifted to more "organisational responsibilities" and was notably in charge of the Unit in charge a major reform of the management of thematic programmes, such as the Food Security Thematic Programme. In 2006, Jean-Pierre Halkin was appointed Head of the Unit in charge of methodological support for the following themes: Food Security and Nutrition, Rural Development and Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change. Since 2011, Jean-Pierre is in charge of the Unit in EuropeAid which is responsible for Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition. The Unit is responsible for policy development, methodological support and the management of financial instruments notably the Food Security Thematic Programme (€1.75 billion), the Accompanying Measures for the Sugar Protocol (€1.2 billion), and the Food Facility (€ 1 billion).

### **Adriana Herrera Moreno - Ministry of Agriculture, Mexico**

Ms. Herrera studied a B.A. in Economics at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico, ITAM and a Master Degree in Economics and Government at the Anahuac University in Mexico City. She has been working at the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food since 1994, holding several positions at different levels of responsibility related with trade and policy issues. She has been a trade negotiator with Colombia, the European Union, Peru, Japan and the U. S. At a multilateral level, Ms. Herrera has been a member of the Mexico's negotiation team at WTO agricultural meetings. She has been working with the World Economic Forum's Initiative for the New Vision for

Agriculture in 2011 in Mexico and recently in the technical team that developed the G20 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture.

### **Chris Moore - WFP**

Chris Moore is Deputy Director of Policy, Planning and Strategy at the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Prior to joining WFP, Mr. Moore served for more than a decade as an international trade negotiator in the United States Government, holding senior civil service positions in the State Department and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). Most recently, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Trade Policy and Programs, where he managed global food security, agricultural biotechnology and development matters and led economic negotiations in the G8 and with China and India. Previously, as Director for African Affairs at USTR, he negotiated the first ever U.S. trade and investment framework agreement with an African regional economic community and played a key role in the implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Mr. Moore is a graduate of Emory University and the London School of Economics.

### **H.E. Brave Rona Ndisale – Ambassador of Malawi**

Ambassadors H.E. Brave Rona Ndisale, Ambassador of Malawi in Brussels, and Chair of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors, holds an MS in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Florida and a PhD on Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota and a strong experience in the Agricultural field: with the national agricultural research system, in agricultural policy analysis, formulation and implementation, and with the international research at IFPRI. Her Excellency has also a wide institutional experience with FAO, the African development Bank and with many non governmental organisations. Her work at the Commission of African Union has strengthened her network with key stakeholders such as governments, Parliamentarians, Regional Economic Communities, international agencies and development partners. Ambassador Ndisale has also worked on policy advocacy to keep agriculture high on the agenda within the framework of the NEPAD/CAADP.

### **Staffan Nilsson - EESC**

Staffan Nilsson is President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), the EU's only non-political advisory body. Based in Brussels, it enables civil society organisations across Europe to take part in the EU policy- and decision-making process. "Engaging people for a sustainable Europe" is Staffan Nilsson's political message for his term of office. He is committed to ensuring maximum civic engagement with Europe's efforts to foster environmental, economic and social sustainability. Since 1995, when he became a member of the EESC, he has actively brought his expertise to bear on the work of the EESC, mainly in the fields of agriculture, sustainable development and international cooperation. Staffan coordinated the EESC's work on the Lisbon Strategy and later on the Europe 2020 strategy. He has invested his time and knowledge in EESC cooperation with civil society in non-EU countries, such as China, Brazil, the ACP group and Russia. A member of the EESC Joint Consultative Committees (JCCs) established with accession countries in the past, he currently plays an active role in the EU-Turkey JCC and the Euromed Committee. He has been a farmer in northern Sweden for more than thirty years now. In parallel with his farming business, Staffan has been an activist since his student years in the associative sector, and a long-standing leader in the Swedish Farmers' Federation and in other associations in the field of education and culture, development and aid.

### **Cédric Pène - WTO**

Mr. Cédric Pène holds Engineering degrees from the Ecole Centrale de Paris and Ecole Nationale of Rural Engineering Water and Forestry. From September 2001 to October 2009, Mr. Cédric Pène served as agricultural and environmental adviser in the Delegation of France within the World Trade Organization. He then worked in the Timber section, in the joint FAO/UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) until July 2010, where he was following the rules for trade for these products. He

is currently Counsellor within the Agriculture and Commodities department of the World Trade Organization, in the team in charge of negotiations of the Doha Round. During the year 2011 he has followed the work of the G-20 on the volatility of agricultural commodity prices.

#### **Tobias Takavarasha - NEPAD**

Dr. Tobias Takavarasha a Zimbabwean national (fluent in English) is currently, since 7 November 2010 the Senior Agricultural Policy & Investment Officer based at the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) seconded from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to support NPCA and the African Union Commission (AUC) in advancing implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and agriculture and food security related policy adjustments at national and regional levels. He holds a PhD. in Agricultural Policy (University of Zimbabwe, 1996), a Masters degree in Agricultural Economics (Leeds, UK, 1978) and a Bachelors degree (Honors) in Economics (Birmingham, UK, 1977). Before being seconded to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, he was the Director for Strategy, Monitoring and Evaluation at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) based in Nairobi, Kenya (2008-2010).

#### **Mylène Testut-Neves - Ministry of Agriculture, France**

Mylène Testut-Neves is an official with the French Ministry of Agriculture and has been trained as an agronomist (INA P-G, Paris, then ENESAD, Dijon). Her career began in 2001 when she started as a lecturer in an agricultural school in Valence, France. She followed this with two years as Young Expert official for the European Union Delegation in Montevideo, where her duties included monitoring European Commission cooperation projects involving Uruguay and MERCOSUR. This was followed by 4 years within the French Ministry of Agriculture where she dealt with public policies concerning biomass, renewable energy as applied to agriculture, and bio-sourced chemistry. For 2 years now she has served as Head of Unit within the International Relations Department of the Ministry, responsible for development and international organisations matters. This Unit has been in particular responsible for organising and preparing the agriculture works and meetings of the G20 under the French presidency. It also covers responsibilities associated with world food security (in particular through the relationships between the Ministry of Agriculture and the FAO and the CFS - Committee on world Food Security) and handles relations between the Ministry and sub-Saharan African countries.

#### **Maximo Torero - IFPRI**

Maximo Torero is the Division Director of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute, leader of the Global Research Program on Institutions and Infrastructure for Market Development and Director for Latin America. He has fifteen years of experience in applied research and in operational activities. In this capacity as director and research program leader, he directs the activities of an IFPRI unit that conducts research, with special emphasis on M&E of infrastructure and rural development interventions in urban and peri-urban areas through the use of randomized experimental design. Prior to joining IFPRI, he was a senior researcher and member of the executive committee at Group of Analysis for Development (GRADE). He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles, Department of Economics and held a postdoctoral fellow position at the UCLA Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR). He is also a professor on leave at the Universidad del Pacífico, and Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at University of Bonn, Germany.