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**Realising the Promise of Agriculture for Africa's Transformation**

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In the context of the Africa-EU Summit of Heads of State*

**Biodata of speakers**

**Patricia Amira – Moderator and Journalist**

A recognised television, radio & media personality on the African continent, Patricia Amira is most known for creating and hosting her own syndicated pan-African talk-show, 'The Patricia Show'. Renowned for her character and capacity to connect with people on a meaningful level, Patricia is also an engaging Master of Ceremonies and Moderator both in Kenya and abroad. Listed in Forbes Africa 'Top 40 Most Powerful Media Personalities' (Oct 2011), Patricia has won various media awards including the 2013 Women Inspiration and Enterprise (WIE) Award for inspirational journalism that has helped effect positive change. Patricia is based in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Ousmane Badiane – Director for Africa, International Food Policy Research Institute**

Dr. Ousmane Badiane is the Africa Director for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). In this role, he coordinates IFPRI's work program in the areas of food policy research, capacity strengthening, and policy communications in Africa. He is also in charge of IFPRI's partnerships with African institutions dealing with the above areas. Dr. Badiane, a national of Senegal, was Lead Specialist for Food and Agricultural Policy for the Africa Region at the World Bank from January 1998 to August 2008. He previously worked at IFPRI as Senior Research Fellow from 1989 to 1997, when he led the institute's work on market reforms and development. While at IFPRI, he taught, as adjunct professor, at Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies from 1993 to 2003. Dr. Badiane received a Masters Degree and PhD in agricultural economics from the University of Kiel in Germany.

**Achille Bassilekin–ACP Secretariat**

Achille Bassilekin III is Assistant Secretary General in charge of Sustainable Economic Development and Trade. As a career diplomat, Mr Bassilekin III joined the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Cameroon in 1993 as Desk Officer in the United Nations and Multilateral Cooperation Department and was appointed Service Head in the Department of Asian Affairs in 1997. Prior to his appointment, he was Deputy-Head of the Permanent Delegation of the ACP Secretariat Office in Geneva (2008-2010). His work is focused on multilateral trade, commodities, agricultural development, environment and climate change as well as trade related issues such as customs cooperation and market access. He also coordinates activities with the ACP Geneva Office. Mr. Bassilekin graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Law from the University of Yaoundé. He is a graduate of the International Relations Institute of Cameroon, from where he earned Master's degree as well as a Doctorate in international relations. He also holds a Master's in International Trade from the International Studies Institute at Complutense University in Madrid. A respected international trade specialist, he is the author of several articles and research papers. Before joining the ACP Secretariat, Mr. Bassilekin was working with the UNDP, UNECA and civil society organisations.

### **Isolina Boto – Manager, CTA Brussels Office**

Isolina Boto is the Manager of the CTA Brussels Office. CTA is a joint ACP-EU organisation, part of the Cotonou Agreement, providing access to information and knowledge, facilitating policy dialogue and strengthening the capacity of agricultural and rural development. Isolina has more than 20 years of experience in development working for the European Commission, various ACP embassies and NGOs in areas related to food security, rural development and trade. Within CTA, she worked in various positions at headquarters, especially on co-funded technical programmes implemented at regional level. Since 2004 she heads the CTA Brussels Office, dealing with policy issues related to the ACP-EU cooperation in the field of agricultural and rural development and part of CTA policy group dealing with regional trade. She coordinates and organizes the regular Brussels Development Briefings on topical development policy issues (<http://brusselsbriefings.net>). The office produces a daily news service highlighting key policy areas of ACP-EU cooperation on trade, fisheries, climate change, food security and development policy (<http://brussels.cta.int>).

### **Abebe Haile Gabriel – African Union Commission, Ethiopia**

Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, an Ethiopian national, is currently the Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission whose Headquarters is in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. He is responsible for managing the department's portfolios which cover agriculture, food security, rural development, environment and natural resources. Prior to his appointment as Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Dr. Abebe had been serving the Commission of the African Union in various progressive capacities including as Director of the AU Specialized program on Semi-Arid Food Grains Research in Africa (SAFGRAD) based in Burkina Faso, and as Head of Rural Economy Division, which was the focal unit for formulation and adoption of the AU Policy Framework on Pastoralism in Africa, as well as the AU Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy in Africa, among others.

### **Daniel Gad – Managing Director, Omega Farms**

Daniel Gad is the owner and Managing Director of Omega Farms Plc. a leading vegetable production farm in Ethiopia. Omega Farms is engaged in the production and export sales of pre-packed exotic high value vegetables to the EU & UK markets. Prior to returning to Ethiopia his homeland, Daniel Gad had a career in the telecom industry with AT&T for 18 years. In his last assignment as Vice-President and Client Partner, he steered the development of AT&T Solutions and secured a \$1.6 billion outsourcing contract with JP Morgan. In 2003, Daniel Gad returned to Ethiopia where he was born and raised and established MetroLux Flowers, a company that produced and exported large T-Hybrid roses to direct high value markets in the EU, Russia, and the Middle East. Most recently Daniel Gad led the national project funded by PepsiCo aimed at improving smallholder productivity in the production of Chickpeas. Currently Mr. Gad is working on the development of a large scale PPP project with several hundred small holder farmers in Ethiopia in collaboration with and assistance of development partners of Ethiopia as well as the development of an Aquaculture business. Mr. Gad serves as a board member of the Ethiopian Horticulture Cooperative, as well as being an active member of the World Farmers Organization (WFO) and is the Treasurer and Board Member of the Ethiopian Post Harvest Network Organization. Just recently Mr. Gad was appointed by the EU Parliament as a member of the ACP-EESC (Africa Caribbean & Pacific-European Economic & Social Committee) for a three year term.

### **Michael Hailu – Director, CTA**

Michael Hailu, an Ethiopian national, is the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) based in the Netherlands. CTA is a joint institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union working under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. Mr. Hailu has over 25 years of professional experience in agricultural research and development in Africa and Asia. Prior to joining CTA in mid-2010, he held senior leadership positions at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) based in Nairobi, Kenya and at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia. Mr. Hailu has led the development and implementation of CTA's 2011-2015 strategic plan

refocusing the Centre's work on three priority themes—supporting agricultural policies and strategies; enhancing inclusive value chains; and strengthening capacities of ARD institutions and networks in knowledge management and ICTs.

He has degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and Addis Ababa University. He has also been trained in strategic leadership at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

### **Jørgen Ole Haslestad – President and Chief Executive Officer of YARA**

Mr. Haslestad has served as President and CEO since October 2008. Previously he held several senior management positions in Siemens AG, 1994–2008, most recently as CEO of the Group's Industry Solutions Division, Germany. Before joining Siemens, he served as Managing Director of Kongsberg Offshore AS, Norway, 1986–94; Project Engineer and Project Manager of the oil division, Kongsberg Vaapenfabrikk AS, Norway, 1980–86. He holds an M.Sc degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Norwegian Institute of Technology (NTH). Mr. Haslestad served as a board member of Yara, 2004–08.

### **Theo De Jager – President, SACAU**

Theo de Jager received his D. Phil from the University of Pretoria in 1988 and has nearly twenty years experience in organized agriculture. He has farmed in the Tzaneen district since 1997, and currently is President of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), Vice President of Pan African Farmers' Forum Organisation (PAFFO) and also serves as Deputy President of Agri SA. Prior to this, Mr. De Jager spent 12 years with the South African National Intelligence Service (1984-1996) and two years as Chief Information Co-ordinator in the office of the State President 1987 – 1989. Mr. De Jager is also actively involved in education and has served as a visiting lecturer at the SA National Defence College in Conflict Studies since 1991. He has published a Book of verse: two solo volumes and contributions to eleven volumes. He is Married to his wife Karin and they have three children: LT, Rachel and Kristi.

### **Frank van Ooijen, Corporate Director Sustainability & Communications – FrieslandCampina**

Frank van Ooijen has almost 30 years of experience in Corporate Communication, Issue Management and Corporate Social Responsibility program management with a focus on the international agro-food and fast moving consumer goods sector. In his business career he has fulfilled positions with *Rabobank Group* (VP Corporate Social Responsibility with the international vendor finance affiliate *De Lage Landen*), feed-to-food multinational *Nutreco Holding* (CSR Officer & Corporate Communication Director), international retailer *Laurus* (director CorpCom) and *Unilever* (various positions in global issues management and communications at the London and Rotterdam corporate centre).

Frank van Ooijen is a political scientist who started his career as a newspaper journalist before stepping over to the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs* in The Hague to become a communications officer with a focus on Development Cooperation and Third World matters.

Frank van Ooijen studied Political Sciences & International Relations at the Radboud University in Nijmegen in the Netherlands, participated in a research program of the International Labour Office (ILO) in the informal sector in Mexico City, followed a post-doc in International Relations at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague and is a regular lecturer at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Frank van Ooijen is married and has three children.

### **Roberto Ridolfi, Director for Sustainable Growth and Development at DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid.**

Twice Ambassador/ Head of delegation to the European Union, Mr Ridolfi was first in Suva where he served from 2005 to 2007. There he was in charge of all the relations of the European Union with 15 countries and territories as well as with the Pacific Forum. Later, in 2011 he was appointed in Uganda by HRVP C. Ashton where he served till September 2013. In between, during his duty as head of unit of Europe Aid F3, he managed programmes dealing with Environment, Food security, migration and asylum as well as the One-Billion-Euro Food Facility in 50 countries. Mr Ridolfi joined the European Commission

in 1994 and took up duty in the European Delegation to Malawi as infrastructure and development advisor dealing with infrastructure, transport and health.

**Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission**

Her Excellency Tumusiime Rhoda Peace is the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union (AU). Prior to this, she has held various senior positions in the Government of the Republic of Uganda, including Commissioner for Agriculture Planning and Commissioner for Women and Development. She holds a Bachelors' Degree in Agricultural Economics, a Masters Degree in Economics, Planning and Managing Rural Development, and a Diploma in Women and Development. She has mobilised and closely worked with other Pan African Institutions and Development Partner Agencies in all those areas to secure and provide support to AU Member States. Her efforts have yielded increased responses in the framework of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Programme (CAADP). From one country which had signed a CAADP Compact over a period of four years to 26 within less than 2 years. She spearheaded the coordination of Africa's preparations for global climate change negotiations and the formulation of a continent-wide climate change strategy in addition to steering Africa's preparation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan in line with the global Hugo Framework. Her expertise and experience as well as commitment have won her a number of key positions on regional and international organisations, such as membership of the High-level Advisory Panel of UNISDR, Advisory Board of Expo 2015 dedicated to the Theme: Feeding the Planet, Energy For Life, Governing Board of the International Fertiliser Development Centre (IFDC), Chair of the African Fertiliser Financing Mechanism (AFFM), Chair of the Alive Platform for livestock development in Africa, among others. She continues to serve the African Union and its Member States.

**Paulus Verschuren, Special Envoy Food and Nutrition Security for Development- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands**

Paulus Verschuren studied biology at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands and graduated in 1980. In 1981 he joined the research group Biosciences, Nutrition and Safety of the Unilever Research Laboratory, Vlaardingen, The Netherlands, as an animal pathologist where in 1985 he became Section Manager of the section Pathology and Animal Care. In 1989 he was transferred to Unilever Head Office in London (UK) where he was deputizing the Head of Environmental Safety Assurance responsible for the overall Unilever Product Safety Assurance and the environment. From 1992 until 1996 he was the Executive Director of the European branch of the International Life Sciences Institute in Brussels. In 1996, he rejoined Unilever as Member of the Management Committee of the Unilever Nutrition Centre based at the Vlaardingen Laboratory. In 2000 he was appointed as Director External Relations and Deputy Director of the Unilever Health Institute. In addition to this position he became Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Life Sciences Institute – ILSI Europe and member of the Executive Committee of ILSI International. Until 2010, he headed the Partnership Development Group in Unilever Foods. He chaired the GAIN Business Alliance from 2005 to 2010. Currently Paulus Verschuren occupies the position of Special Envoy Food and Nutrition Security for Development, for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands.