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Agricultural Resilience in the Face of Crises and Shocks

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Biodata of Speakers

Achille Bassilekin III – 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.

Thijs Berman - Member of the European Parliament

Thijs Berman is a Member of the European Parliament on behalf of the Dutch labour party, Partij van de Arbeid (PvdA) and he is Head of the Dutch delegation of the Socialist and Democrats (S&D) group in the European Parliament. His roles within the Parliament include: Chair of the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan, Full member of the Committee on Development, Full member of the Committee on Human Rights, Substitute member of the Delegation to the ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Substitute member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Substitute member of the Committee on Budget Control. Thijs Berman is currently the rapporteur on the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), this instrument is being revised in the context of the new Multi Financial Framework (MFF) of the European Union for 2014 to 2020. DCI covers the development cooperation of the EU with Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and South Africa and for 2014 until 2020 the budget will be between €20 and €23 billion.

Dominique Burgeon - FAO

Dominique Burgeon, a national of Belgium, holds an M.Sc. Diploma in Agricultural Engineering from the State University of Gembloux, Belgium, and a post-graduate degree in International Relations and European Integration from the State University of Liège, Faculty of Law, Belgium. He started his career as project engineer in the French social protection system (Mutualité Sociale Agricole) dealing with matters related to the prevention of work hazards in the forestry sector. Mr Burgeon joined FAO in 1994 in the FAO Representation in Syria. From 1998 to 2003, he served in the Emergency Operations Service where he contributed to the Organization's response to complex emergencies in Central Africa and the Sudan. In 2003, he was transferred to the FAO Office with the United Nations in New York. In August 2006, he returned to FAO headquarters in Rome, where he led, amongst other activities, FAO's operations to overcome the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. In April 2010, he was appointed Senior Adviser, Office of the Deputy Director-General (Operations) until his appointment as FAO Representative in Bangladesh in July 2011, overseeing one of the largest country programmes of the Organization putting in practice the concepts of disaster risk management for food and

nutrition security and leading changes for the integration of emergency and development programmes. In November 2012, he was appointed Director of FAO's Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, and the Coordinator of the new Strategic Objective on Resilience entitled: "Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis" affecting agriculture, food and nutrition.

Sir Gordon Conway - Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London

Gordon Conway is a Professor of International Development at Imperial College, London and Director of Agriculture for Impact, a grant funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which focuses on European support of agricultural development in Africa. From 2005-2009 he was Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department for International Development. Previously he was President of The Rockefeller Foundation and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex. He was educated at the Universities of Wales (Bangor), Cambridge, West Indies (Trinidad) and California (Davis). His discipline is agricultural ecology. In the early 1960's, working in Sabah, North Borneo, he became one of the pioneers of sustainable agriculture. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2004 and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2007. He was made a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George in 2005. He is a Deputy Lieutenant for East Sussex. He was recently President of the Royal Geographical Society. He has authored *The Doubly Green Revolution: Food for all in the 21st century* (Penguin and University Press, Cornell) and co-authored *Science and Innovation for Development* (UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS)). His most recent book *One Billion Hungry: Can we Feed the World?* was published in October 2012.

Federico Fadiga – Red Cross / EU Office

Federico Fadiga graduated in Political Science at the LUISS University of Rome in 1998. He holds a Master's Degree in International Humanitarian Assistance (NOHA). Federico joined the Italian Red Cross as a volunteer in 1995 and started working at its international department in 2004, becoming head of office for international relations in 2010. Prior to joining the Red Cross/EU Office as food security advisor in April 2012, Federico has been representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to the FAO and WFP in Rome from 2005 to 2012. Federico has a wide field experience with the Red Cross Movement and NGOs both in development and humanitarian assistance operations. He is in the roster of the UN Food Security Cluster as information manager.

Michael Hailu – CTA, The Netherlands

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.

Girma T. Kassie – CIMMYT

Girma T. Kassie is an Ethiopian agricultural economist working for the international maize and wheat improvement center (CIMMYT) based in Harare, Zimbabwe. He has more than 16 years of experience in agricultural research, development and teaching at different levels in Eastern and Southern Africa. He received his PhD in World food economics from the Department of Food Economics and Consumption Studies at the University of Kiel in Germany. His research and publications focused on valuation of attributes of genetic resources using both stated and revealed preference approaches. His current research focuses on agricultural risk, applied choice analysis, and economic impact of research and development investments. Since March 2009, he has been working as the socio-economist of the award winning Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa (DTMA) project in Southern Africa; i.e., Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Thierry Kesteloot - Oxfam

Master in sociology, Thierry Kesteloot has worked for several years for NGOs in different countries in South East Asia and in Haiti, mainly in rural development programmes. On his return to Belgium he started to work for Oxfam as programme officer for the South-East Asian region.

After completing additional training in rural economy, he became policy advisor on food and agriculture. He covered different issues ranging from WTO agricultural negotiations, patents, agricultural policies, including EU CAP reforms, sugar and dairy reforms, policy coherence for development. Lately he worked more the issue of food price volatility and social protection, including the facilitation of the civil society participation at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Over the years he has worked in support of farmer's organisations and social movements worldwide.

Jean-Francois Maystadt - IFPRI

Jean-Francois Maystadt is a post-doctoral researcher at the International Food Policy Research Institute, also affiliated to the Center for Institutions and Economic Performance (LICOS, KUL, Belgium). He obtained his PhD from Universite catholique de Louvain (UCL) and his MSc from the London School of Economics (LSE). He is a development economist specializing in the study of Conflicts, Climate Change and Forced Migration. His current research is related to the causes and consequences of conflicts and forced migration in Central Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo), Eastern Africa (Tanzania, Somalia, Sudan, Horn of Africa) and the Arab world. He has also recently published a paper on weather variations and migration in Sub-Saharan Africa in the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*.

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. He has been the EESC rapporteur for opinions on the Soil Protection Framework Directive, the Communication on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, agriculture and food safety in the context of the Euromed partnership, and the Action plan for Environmental Technology – to mention but a few. Staffan also coordinated the EESC's work on the Lisbon Strategy and later on the Europe 2020 strategy. 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.

Samuel Otsile Outlule – Embassy of Botswana

Mr. Samuel Outlule is Ambassador of Botswana to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of Delegation to the European Union, a position he assumed in 2011. He is concurrently accredited to France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands. A career diplomat, foreign policy and international relations specialist, Ambassador Outlule joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Botswana in 1982 as a junior officer and rose through the ranks to become Assistant Director and Head of Africa and the Middle East, later Director of International Relations. In 2000 he assumed the post of Senior Private Secretary to the President, speech writer and Clerk to Cabinet, a position he held for five years. Ambassador Outlule served in Botswana's diplomatic Mission's in Zimbabwe, the United Kingdom and also served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, from 2005 – 2008. He was concurrently accredited to Cuba, Guyana and Jamaica. In 2008 he was appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also served for one year as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture.

Rajul Pandya-Lorch - IFPRI

Rajul Pandya-Lorch, a Kenyan citizen of Indian origin, is head of IFPRI's 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture, and the Environment Initiative, a global initiative that seeks to identify solutions for meeting world food needs while

reducing poverty and protecting the environment. She concurrently serves as Chief of Staff in the Director General's Office. Rajul has facilitated four major international conferences on (1) "Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health," in New Delhi, India, on February 10-12, 2011; (2) "Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People", in Beijing, China, on October 17-19, 2007; (3) "Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020", in Kampala, Uganda on April 1-3, 2004; and (4) "Sustainable Food Security for All by 2020", in Bonn, Germany on September 4-6, 2001. She recently led a major project, "Millions Fed: Proven Successes in Agricultural Development" that documents evidence on policies, programs, and investments in agricultural development that have significantly reduced hunger.

Rajul earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Wellesley College and a master's degree in public and international affairs from Princeton University.

Chris Reij - WRI

Chris Reij is a Sustainable Land Management specialist of the Centre for International Cooperation, Free University Amsterdam and a Senior Fellow of the World Resources Institute in Washington. He works in the Sahel since 1978 and is currently facilitator of "African Re-greening Initiatives", which supports farmers to adapt to climate change and to develop more productive and drought-resilient farming systems (www.africa-regreening.blogspot.com). The approach of this initiative is to scale up the growing number of agroforestry successes in drylands. Chris has co-authored several publications about farmer innovation in African agriculture, successes in African agriculture and land management and about the transformation of agriculture and environment in the Sahel.

Denis Salord – EC/DG DEVCO

Denis Salord is Head of the Unit, "Regional Programmes Sub-Saharan Africa and ACP-wide", within the European Commission (Directorate General Development and Cooperation).

Denis Salord is a graduate from the Paris Institute of Politics and holds a postgraduate diploma in Public Law and a degree in History. He joined the European Commission in 1980 as an administrator within the General Secretariat, where he completed the first part of his career. He was in charge of the Customs Union and taxation for the French Commissioner for four years during the establishment of the internal market and then continued his career within the Directorate Generals of the European Commission, responsible for external relations, cooperation and development – initially as an assistant to the Director General, then as head of several units and operational and legal services.

He is now responsible for the cooperation with ACP countries, as Head of Unit for the Regional Programmes Sub-Saharan Africa and ACP-wide within the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation, EuropeAid.

Philippe Thomas – EC/DG DEVCO

Philippe Thomas is Head of the sector Food Crisis within the European Commission, for the "Rural development, Food security and Nutrition thematic unit" (Directorate General Development and Cooperation). He trained as economist and as veterinary doctor and worked for 20 years in several sub Saharan African countries with food security, animal and human health and also public expenditure issues. He has been working for the European Commission for the last 10 years and 13 years for the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. Among his responsibilities, he is in charge of the EU Food Facility and of issues related to the link between food crisis and development (LRRD, resilience, DRR, etc.).