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Farmer-driven research to improve food and nutrition security

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Biodata for speakers

Jean-Pierre Busogoro – Belgian Development Agency (BTC), Rwanda

Jean-Pierre Busogoro is an Agricultural Scientist working presently for the Belgian Development Agency (BTC) to implement the FFS approach in Rwanda to support the agriculture transformation plan. From 2009 to 2011, he worked for BTC to set up an IPM strategy which allowed initiating successfully the innovative FFS approach currently used in Rwanda. Between 1993 and 1998, he conducted research studies at the Gembloux Agricultural University where he got a PhD degree in Plant Pathology before undertaking a post-doctoral study at the University of Namur (Belgium). Since 2000 up to 2008, he worked as a lecturer at the Gembloux Agricultural University where he was in charge of research and teaching activities in the area of biotechnologies and crop protection. Through all the researches he conducted, Dr Busogoro contributed to develop appropriate methods to control pests and diseases in banana, cassava, potato and common bean in tropical conditions. His current involvement in BTC development projects allows him to equip smallholder farmers with required skills and attitude for participation in agricultural research to develop locally adapted solutions which create conditions for sustainability.

Dyborn Charlie Chibonga – NASFAM, Malawi

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. NASFAM pioneered the establishment of The Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa (ACE) in 2004, entered into Fairtrade production of peanuts in 2005 and won the Yara Prize for an African Green Revolution in 2009.

Mr. Chibonga holds a Masters Certificate in NGO Management and M.Sc. in Landscape Ecology Design and Maintenance from Wye College (University of London). He also has a B.Sc. (Credit) and Diploma (Credit) from Bunda College of Agriculture (University of Malawi).

Anne Floquet – JOLISAA, Benin

Anne Floquet is an agronomist. She has been working for three decades in West Africa, especially in Benin, studying local farming systems and practices, developing innovations in soil fertility management with producers, facilitating citizen participation in communal development as well as citizen evaluation of public services and training development officers and researchers for both development and research organisations – a.o. GIZ, University of Hohenheim together with INRAB and IITA, CEBEDES NGO; NARs from the region. She is a French citizen and holds a PhD from the University of Hohenheim – Germany. As a senior researcher in the Lab for Social Sciences and Development Dynamics (LADYD) at the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin, she is leading or taking part in several collaborative projects on innovation systems and on how to support specific innovations (yam based systems, local food based innovation systems, etc.). Such projects also host many young agronomists and contribute to their

training. One of these is the EU-funded JOLISAA project, the results of which will be shared at the briefing.

Bernard Guri – CIKOD, Ghana

Bernard Yangmaadome Guri, was born in Ghana and holds an MSc in Development Studies from the Institute for Development Studies in The Hague. He also holds a Diploma in Rural Policy and Project Planning from the same Institute. He obtained a Bsc degree in Agricultural Science from the School of Agriculture in the University of Cape Coast as well as a Diploma in Education in the same University. Bernard Guri is currently a doctoral student at the Institute for Development Studies in the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. Bernard is a development practitioner with special interest in Indigenous knowledge and institutions development. He co-founded the Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture (ECASARD) as well as the Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD) of which he is the current Executive Director. Bernard is the Regional Co-ordinator of COMPAS Africa as well as Chairman of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) based in Addis Ababa. He is now a visiting lecturer at the COADY International Institute of the St Francis Xavier University in Canada where he teaches courses in Local and Indigenous Knowledge for Community-Driven Development..

Bernard has many publications of his field experiences and research work on *the role of indigenous institutions in local governance, local economic development and natural resources management which may be found at www.cikod.org.*

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.

Chris Macoloo – World Neighbors, Kenya

Holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in geographical/environmental sciences from Cambridge University, UK and is a Fellow of Cambridge Commonwealth Society. He has a master's degree in planning and development from the University of Nairobi. Chris was a visiting graduate student at McGill University in Montreal Canada in 1982/83 academic year. Dr. Macoloo has had extensive academic career spanning over 20 years at the University of Nairobi, Kenya where he has risen to the position of an Associate Professor. Chris has published widely in international referred journals such as *Housing Studies, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Development and Change, Geoforum, Third World Planning Review*, among others.

Dr. Macoloo has also extensive experience in the development sector. He is currently the Regional Associate Vice President for World Neighbors in Africa based in Nairobi Kenya. World Neighbors is an international development agency with headquarters in Oklahoma City in the US and intervening in the fields of agriculture, natural resources management and health in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. He has also worked for other development organizations such as Practical Action (formerly ITDG), and SNV/Netherlands Development Organization. Chris occasionally undertakes consultancy work in development issues, and is married with two children.

Marianne Meijboom – INSARD

Marianne Meijboom, MSc Tropical Land Use, Wageningen University, works with ETC Foundation in the Netherlands since April 2013. She has over 15 years' experience in analysing and developing non-wood

forest product value chains, community-based natural resource management, payment for environmental services, protected area management and biodiversity conservation, mainly in Asia and particularly in Vietnam (8 years) and Bhutan (5 years). She is especially interested in supporting local communities to strengthen their own efforts to end poverty by promoting fair and sustainable use of natural resources. Within ETC, she is member of the Prolinnova (Promoting local innovation in agriculture and natural resource management) team and coordinator of INSARD (Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development), an EU-funded project that seeks to involve a broad range of African and European civil society organisations in influencing the formulation and implementation of agricultural research in Africa so as to make research more relevant for smallholder farmers.

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 nongovernmental 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.

Charity Osei-Amponsah – CoS-SIS Programme, Ghana

Charity Osei-Amponsah is a Ghanaian, trained as an agricultural economist but now focuses on issues of agriculture and rural development sociology. She has researched with small-scale fishmongers to understand their processing activities and also investigate the determinants of poverty among the largely female fishmongers in the Tema and Accra metropolis of Ghana.

Charity worked with the Institute of Economic Affairs, a policy think tank in Ghana as a research officer and was involved with the evaluation of Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy 2003-2006. She is now a PhD fellow of the Convergence of Sciences programme at The Wageningen University and The University of Ghana. She conducted a transdisciplinary research on improving the quality of palm oil from artisanal processing enterprises in Ghana, which will be defended in December.

Her interests are in the use of ethnography, participatory and innovation system approaches to address social, technical and institutional constraints of smallholders to help reduce hunger and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa.

Bernard Rey – DG DEVCO, European Commission

Bernard Rey is a doctor in Veterinary medicine by training and holds a Master of Science in Economics of Development. He started his career in the International Agricultural Research Institutions in Mexico, the Netherlands and Ethiopia. He subsequently joined the European Commission and served in the Delegations of the European Union in Nigeria, Kenya and Madagascar in charge of the EU Rural Development and Agriculture portfolios in these countries. He was the Head of Development Cooperation of the EU in Kenya until August 2012 until he was promoted to be the deputy head of unit for 'Rural Development, food security and nutrition' in DEVCO, Brussels.

He is the Chair of the Executive Committee of the ALIVE Platform (African Livestock Platform) managed by the International Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union, and represents the Commission as chair of the development partners of the AU Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program

Niels Röling – University of Wageningen, The Netherlands

Dr. Niels Röling has (co-)supervised some seventy PhD projects. Trained at Wageningen University and in the USA (PhD), he is interested in interactive and learning-based approaches to innovation. His work initially focused on extension but shifted to knowledge systems and social learning for sustainable natural

resource management and smallholder development. Since 2002, he has worked as the science consultant for the Action Research programme Convergence of Sciences – Strengthening Innovation Systems (CoS-SIS) in Benin, Ghana and Mali. He is married to Janice Jiggins and lives in a small village in the Netherlands. Relevant publication:

Houkonnou, D.; D. Kossou, S.; Leeuwis, C.; Nederlof, N.; Röling, O. Sakyi-Dawson; M. Traoré; and A. van Huis (2012). An Innovation Systems Approach to Institutional Change: Smallholder Development in West Africa. *Agricultural Systems* 108 (2012): 74-83

Cees van Rij – Agriterra on behalf of AgriCord, the Netherlands

Van Rij holds a BSc degree in Tropical Agriculture (1993, Larenstein, University of Applied Science, the Netherlands) and an Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) (2008, Nyenrode Business University – the Netherlands). First of all and before anything he is a farmers' son, being born and raised at a mixed dairy – arable farm in Rockanje in the southwest of the Netherlands. He has not lost track of his agricultural roots ever since and worked for five years in Ecuador as an advisor to the National Federation of Peasant Organisations (FENOCIN) and for one of its regional chapters. He was involved in the development and supervision of programs on agricultural farmer-led extension, agro-tourism and savings & credit. In 2002 he started working for Agriterra. As a liaison officer he developed and facilitated capacity building programs of farmer organisations in East and Southern Africa and South America. Since 2011 he and his team (14 fte) are *making cooperatives bankable* by providing tailored business development services to cooperatives and other forms of farmer-led companies in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Xavier Verboven – ACP Follow up Committee, European Economic and Social Committee

Xavier Verboven spent his career working for the Belgium Socialist Trade Union, “The Belgian General Federation of Labour” (FGTB). As a jurist, he was from 1970 to 1983 a member of and also Director of the team of advisers to the Union. From 1984 to 1989, Xavier Verboven was National Secretary of the Textile Federation of the Socialist Union. During the years 1990 to 1995, he was National Secretary, and from 1996 to 2003, General Secretary of the Flemish Socialist Union. In 2004, he became General Secretary of the National Confederation of the Belgian General Federation of Labour, a post which he held until 2006. From 1990 to the present, Xavier Verboven has been an adviser of the “European Economic and Social Committee” (EESC). He is the current President of the EESC's ACP-EU Follow-up Committee.

Ann Waters-Bayer – Prolinnova, ETC Foundation, Netherlands

She focuses on institutional aspects of agricultural innovation processes that enhance local adaptive capacities. In the Prolinnova (Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management) network, she supports multistakeholder platforms in 21 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Under Prolinnova, she coordinates the Rockefeller Foundation project CLIC–SR (Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research: strengthening community resilience to change) in Eastern Africa and the joint work with the CGIAR Research Programs AAS (Aquatic Agricultural Systems) on assessing the impact of farmer-led research and CCAFS (Climate Change, Agriculture & Food Security) on SOcial Learning LINKing Knowledge with Action (SOLLINKKA). She is also a member of the ETC team in the EU-funded project INSARD (Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development) which seeks to strengthen the voice of civil society in ARD in Africa and Europe.