



Brussels Policy Briefing n. 50 Growing food in the cities: Successes and new opportunities

Organised by CTA, ACP Secretariat, European Commission (DG DEVCO) and Concord

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ACP Secretariat, Avenue Georges Henri 451, 1200 Brussels
<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

BIODATA OF THE SPEAKERS

Angel Adelaja – CEO of Fresh Direct Produce and Agro-Allied Services

Angel Adelaja is a Nigerian innovator and community and change developer who formulates inclusive growth strategies for governments and organizations. Her major focus is women and youth empowerment, utilizing grass roots campaigns, technology, and innovation to assist these groups in solving global issues. Specifically developing good governance strategies to reduce health disparity, poverty, unemployment and boost agricultural and economic development. She is founder and CEO of Fresh Direct Produce and Agro-Allied Services, an urban farming and Ag-tech company. Fresh Direct is solving the problems typically seen in traditional farming using Container Farms. Using hydroponics and vertical farming within a shipping container, the Container Farms are able to grow directly in urban areas. This means that production is brought closer to market or AT market with ease. They bring together communities and technology and focus on engaging youth in agriculture with technologies that aren't back breaking. Angel studied Epidemiology at Michigan State University and Biology at Temple University but found interest in agriculture and entrepreneurship, which led her to start her own businesses. Even though she is trained as an Epidemiologist, she has always had a love for agriculture and promoting the opportunities available within the sector in Africa. As a youth who has entered the agricultural sector, her goal is to create pathways to ease other young people into profitable agricultural ventures to empower them with employment and strengthen them to also be successful employers of people. Not just focused on agriculture, but youth entrepreneurship in general, she is the owner of Zahara Empresa which owns Zahara Spa and Salon in Abuja. She is a World Economic Forum Global Shaper and a mentor to aspiring young entrepreneurs.

Richard Ballard – Co-Founder Growing Underground

Richard Ballard has started an agricultural revolution along with business partner Steven Dring in the form of Growing Underground. Located 100ft under the streets of London in disused WW2 Air Raid Shelter, this subterranean urban farm sustainably produces micro-greens using the latest LED technology. The duo are now delivering fresh hyper local produce, within just four hours of picking, to the London wholesale markets who supply the city's restaurants. Sustainably feeding the city from within the city, Richard is obsessed by all things green tech and the future of cities.

Isolina Boto – Manager, CTA Brussels Office

Isolina Boto is the Manager of the CTA Brussels Office. Isolina has more than 20 years of experience in development. She worked 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, in the Netherlands, especially on co-funded technical programmes on Agriculture and Rural Development 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. In that context, she coordinates and organizes the regular Brussels Development Briefings on topical development policy issues (<http://brusselsbriefings.net>). The office produces a daily news service on key policy areas of ACP-EU cooperation on trade, fisheries, climate change, food security and development policy (<http://brussels.cta.int>). Since 2016 she leads the CTA group on agribusiness development.

Peter Chege – Founder and CEO, Hydroponics Kenya

Peter Chege from Kenya, the founder and CEO, established the company in 2002. Initially, the company focused on supplying farmers with blended fertilizers after doing soil analysis. Over the years Peter Chege learned that many farmers frequently experience crop fail due to effects of climate change and diseases in the soil. He started producing hydroponic systems that enable farmers to grow food crops as well as quality fodder at a low cost, simultaneously providing them with the opportunity to grow more fresh produce per metre square by utilizing vertical farming. The idea behind this is highly innovative and best reflected by the greenhouses designed to maintain the right temperature without requiring temperature controls or artificial lightings. The greenhouses are constructed with water circulation in place, which means that water usage is significantly lower than alternative solutions. In addition to supplying their products, Peter offers training for farmers on the most suitable and efficient utilisation of the hydroponic systems. Hydroponics Kenya training facilities have a full-functioning hydroponics fodder unit, hydroponics food crops systems and livestock section located in Zambazi (Main Demo & Trial Centre), Maai Mahiu (Commercial Hydroponics Unit) Rwanda Kigali and Nepal.

Coumbaly Diaw – FAO Subregional Coordinator, Senegal

Ms Diaw is a Project Manager who returned to her country of origin after 10 years of experience in managing social and educational projects in Italy, and 8 years of experience as coordinator of a cooperation programme and operations manager for the mobilisation of resources between Senegal, Italy and Belgium with the programme FONDAZIONI FOR AFRICA. Since 2014, she has been coordinating the sub-regional micro-gardens programme for FAO, which is active in several counties in West and sometimes Central Africa, the technical cooperation project to increase food security and nutrition in the face of climate change at the level of food systems in cities and regions, and the South-South 'City to city' cooperation project on urban food policies in cities. She is also an alternate for the gender focal point of the FAO office in Senegal.

Ir. Henk de Zeeuw – Senior Advisor RUAF Foundation

Henk de Zeeuw is founder and former director of the RUAF Foundation-Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food Systems based in The Netherlands. He holds an MSc in agricultural sociology and planning of Wageningen University (1976). Before he developed an interest in urban agriculture, he worked for twenty years as a rural development expert in various countries for organisations like the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ETC Foundation. In the mid-nineties he initiated the RUAF network to create more attention and support for urban agriculture at international, national and local levels. He coordinated major international RUAF programmes like "Cities farming for the Future" and "From Seed to Table" that operated in 25 cities in 17 countries. He actually participates in the international team of RUAF as a senior advisor. He is the author of a numerous publications and academic papers. His most recently co-authored work 'Cities and Agriculture: Developing Resilient Urban Food Systems' (published by Earthscan-Routledge and accessible at www.ruaf.org/publications) is an experience and evidence-based 'state of the art' exploration of urban agriculture, providing policy makers, urban planners and urban agriculture practitioners an overview of crucial aspects of urban food systems and the role that urban agriculture can play in the development of sustainable, resilient and just urban food systems.

Viwanou Gnassounou – Assistant Secretary General, ACP Secretariat

Viwanou Gnassounou, from Togo, is an economist, financial expert and project manager with 17 years of experience in agricultural and natural resource policy formulation, aid programming, sectoral commodity export strategies, and trade. Before joining the ACP Management Team, he was co-manager of a Consulting firm, which provides support in the areas of development policies. He also set up and managed an agricultural products industrial processing company based in Togo. Mr. Gnassounou holds a Master's degree in Economic Analysis and Policy, a Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) in Development Economics (MPhil equivalent), and a Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées (DESS) in Economic Development and Development Project Management (MSc equivalent) from the Centre for Research and

Studies in International Development at the Université d'Auvergne, France. He is fluent in English, French and Mina (Togo), with basic knowledge of German. Mr. Gnassounou took office on 1 April 2015.

Leonard Mizzi – Head of Unit, Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition – Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission, Brussels

Leonard Mizzi is a Maltese national, having started working in the Maltese public administration (Office of the Prime Minister in the late 80s) then moving to the Maltese private sector between 1996-2006 where he was the first Director of the Malta Business Bureau in Brussels- the joint office of the Hotels and Restaurants Association and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Malta. Since 2007 he joined the European Commission (DG Agriculture and Rural Development), first dealing with ACP countries and development and then inter-institutional affairs. In 2017, he joined DG DEVCO. Dr. Mizzi is a graduate of the University of Malta, CIHEAM-IAMM (Montpellier) and has a Ph.D from Reading University, UK – with a specialisation in food demand economics. He has been a visiting lecturer at the University of Malta, Open University and Boston University and occasionally College of Europe (Bruges). He is the author of a number of articles, specialising in Euro-Mediterranean issues, Malta-EU relations, agribusiness in island states and agribusiness and SME development.

Dr.-Ing. Axel Timpe – Landscape architect and scientific assistant

Dr.-Ing. Axel Timpe, born in 1976 is a landscape architect trained at Leibniz Universität Hannover/DE (1997-2003) and Centre d'études Supérieures d'aménagement of Université Francois Rabelais de Tours/FR (1999/2000). He started his professional career at Lohrberg Stadtlandschaftsarchitektur in 2003, where he focused on regional open space strategies and urban agriculture/urban forestry, and has been a research and teaching associate at RWTH Aachen University's Chair of Landscape Architecture since 2010. He accomplished his doctoral degree "Designing Productive Parks – history and current practise of bio-based production in European parks" in January 2017. Axel Timpe had a coordinating role in COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe and is currently coordinating the transdisciplinary national research project CoProGrün. His research focus lies on the Green Infrastructure functions of Urban Agriculture and Urban Forestry and the potential and procedures to co-design and co-produce these with local stakeholders. His upcoming research projects are a horizon 2020 Innovation Action "Productive Green Infrastructure for post-industrial urban regeneration" and the Herrenhausen Conference "Urban Agricultural Heritage and the shaping of future cities" in 2019.