



BRUSSELS POLICY BRIEFING N. 53

The next generation of farmers: successes and new opportunities

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

Tuesday 20th November 2018, 9h00-13h00

ACP Secretariat, Avenue Georges Henri 451, 1200 Brussels

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

BIODATA OF THE SPEAKERS

Débí sí Àràbà – Director, Africa Region, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

Dr. Adebisi (Debisi) Araba is a public policy and strategy specialist. He is currently the Africa Region Director at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), a member of the CGIAR, the consortium on international agriculture research. He also a member of the Malabo Montpellier Panel of experts, working together to enable better African and European government support of national and regional agricultural development and food security priorities in Sub-Saharan Africa. He was recently the Senior Manager, African policy engagement, with the CGIAR research program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, CCAFS, where he worked on establishing and strengthening institutional partnerships and connecting and aligning CGIAR research output with the needs of the private sector. He has also served as the Senior Technical Adviser on Environmental Policy to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in Nigeria, where he recently co-authored Nigeria's National Agricultural Resilience Framework and led global and national partnerships in the development of insurance and climate smart strategies for the agricultural sector. Debisi has a Doctorate degree from the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London, where his research focused on designing frameworks for incorporating evidence based research into environmental policy in developing countries, a Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, a Masters in Clean Technology from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne and a Bachelor's degree in Physical Geography from the University of Ibadan.

Tom Arnold – Chairman AGRI/DEVCO Task Force for Rural Africa

Mr Tom Arnold served for 12 years as Chief Executive with Concern Worldwide, Ireland's foremost humanitarian organisation. Following his retirement from Concern in 2013, he served in three high profile roles: Chairman of the Irish Constitutional Convention, tasked with recommending changes in the Irish Constitution; Interim Director of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, an international movement aimed at promoting improved nutrition, involving 59 countries, including 41 African countries; and Director General of the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA), Ireland's leading policy think tank.

Jennifer Bash – Co-founder and CEO of Alaska Tanzania Foods

Mrs. Jennifer Bash is an Agripreneur and a marketing expert committed towards making agriculture production a sustainable and profitable business, through empowering smallholder farmers by improving access to market information and adapting to global best practices of agricultural value chains. Ms. Bash is the co-founder and CEO of Alaska Tanzania Foods – www.alaskatanzania.com, which was established in 2011 to provide market linkages to local farmers, add value to locally produced agricultural products and markets multi product lines across Africa. Mrs. Bash is also the managing partner of AgriSoko, an ecosystem which provides farmers and microbusinesses with an access to financial products and services while also through a robust capacity building program; are equipped with the essential business development skills that are pertinent to their business growth. She is the founder of Mama Alaska Trust which inspires, empowers and equips a new generation of principled, disciplined and dynamic young business leaders in Africa. Ms. Bash dedicates herself to strategic collaborations with Agriculture stakeholders in public and private sector, aiming to improve

business economics and profitability across the agricultural supply chains. She holds a Bachelor degree in International Marketing from Baruch college, New York. She was recognized as East African Young Business Leader by All Africa Business Leaders Awards (AABLA2017). She is also the recipient of the 2016 Women's Award of Excellence in Agribusiness sector. Ms. Bash serves on the Ministerial Advisory Board of business registration and licensing agency (BRELA) and board of Trustees of the Tanzania Entrepreneurship Competitiveness Center (TECC). She is a VV GROW Fellow, Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women Alumni and a Member of The Africa List.

Iman Boot – Senior Expert, Directorate for Agriculture, European Commission

Iman Boot has been working for the European Commission for more than 15 years (Enlargement, the 2003 CAP Reform, Audit, Rural Development, Innovation). He was closely involved in the preparation of the current legal proposals for the Common Agricultural Policy. By training Iman Boot is an anthropologist having done fieldwork in Bhutan (on irrigation). Before joining the Commission he worked in various jobs in market research and data mining.

Isolina Boto – Manager, CTA Brussels Office and Coordinator of the Briefings

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.

Lotta Folkesson – Chair, Women Committee, COPA

Lotta Folkesson is Chair for the women's committee of Copa (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations). She is deputy chair of We Effect and is a member of the LRF Board of Directors, and has been a member of the women's committee of Copa since 2015. Lotta Folkesson comes from the Swedish Farm Organisation (LRF).

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'Études Approfondies (DEA) in Development Economics (MPhil equivalent), and a Diplôme d'Études 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.

Michael Hailu – Director, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (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.

Jannes Maes – President of the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA)

Born in 1991, Jannes Maes grew up on a Flemish farm (dairy cattle, sheep and arable crops) in Aalter, in the east of Flanders, and has been passionate about agriculture and horticulture since childhood. He focused on agriculture during his secondary education and later obtained a Bachelor's Degree in agriculture. Today, he works with his family on their dairy farm, cooperating with other farmers in collecting and processing their milk. For the past two years Jannes served as Vice President of CEJA, and before that as the international representative of Groene Kring, the Flemish young farmers' organisation, where he began to attend CEJA meetings. Jannes has been an active member of Groene Kring, representing it at both regional and national level.

Leonard Mizzi – Head of Unit Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition, Europeaid, European Commission

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.

Thang Nguyen-Quoc – Policy Analyst, Africa unit, OECD Development Centre

Thang is a Policy Analyst at the OECD Development Centre's Africa Unit where he works on the Centre's flagship reports on Africa – the African Economic Outlook (2015-17) and Africa's Development Dynamics (2018). He is also pursuing his PhD in Economics at Université Paris-Dauphine, studying the spatial distribution of industrial activities in Vietnam and in East Africa. Before joining the OECD, Thang worked for the World Bank, and the U.S. National Academy of Social Insurance. He obtained his M.Sc. in Economics from Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, and B.A. in Mathematics and Economics from Ohio Wesleyan University.

Akin Sawyerr – Co-founder of Agricultural Fresh Produce Growers and Exporters Association of Nigeria (AFGEAN)

Akintunde .O. Sawyerr (Esq) is Managing Partner ALTS Consulting. He is also an Executive Council Member of Nigeria Agribusiness Group Associates – Nigeria's foremost agricultural association. Akin was head of DHL Life Sciences for the Middle East North Africa and Turkey and led the setting up of DHL Express' cold chain for the Middle East from 2007 to 2010. His areas of expertise and interests are in Logistics and Supply chain in healthcare and food. Akin serves as the co-founder Executive Secretary of A.F.G.E.A.N. (Agricultural fresh Produce Growers & Exporters Assoc. of Nigeria). Akin was Director of Africa for Ebram Investments from April 2009 to June 2010 where he drove Private Equity transactions with several African Governments namely Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria. He worked with delivery infrastructure

partners such as Mace, Parsons, Arup, etc. As an adviser, since 2010 to DHL Aviation Sub Saharan Africa on their 'Out-of-Africa' Perishables Export Project, along with Adelanter (Belgium), Brussels Airport Authority, Fresh Trade Belgium and COLEACP. He also served as a consultancy services provider to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture In Nigeria on strategy for the promotion of the Export of Perishable/ Fresh Produce and the Presidential Committee on Fresh Produce Exports from Nigeria in 2013. Amongst many other Agricultural projects, Akin oversaw the design and implementation of the AFGEAN Farmers Market in Nigeria and is working on a novel supply chain model for moving of food from rural Nigeria to urban consumers.

Winston Stona – Associated Manufacturers Limited, Jamaica

Winston Stona Co-Founder of the Busha Browne's Company, an award-winning artisanal agro-processor and the first company to export Jamaican Jerk Seasoning, has over 40 years' experience in international sales, marketing and distribution of value-added products. He is recognised regionally and internationally for his contribution to brand development, product development and strategic marketing programmes in Agro-Industry, as well as being an international expert in the specialty food sector. In addition to his work on SME and Micro-Enterprise Development he has been a regular presenter and feature speaker throughout the region with respect to the International Specialty Food sector- and with particular reference to Caribbean Cuisine. He has actively participated in public discussions, conferences, trade fairs and workshops throughout CARICOM, North America and Europe promoting the social and economic value-added programmes related to a vibrant SME sector. He currently acts as Consultant in International Sales & Marketing for Associated Manufacturers Limited, who has recently acquired Busha Browne's Company and Walkerswood Caribbean Foods. In October 2017, he received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Specialty Food Association, which is a thriving community of food artisans, importers and entrepreneurs. A Director of The Jamaica Manufacturers & Exporters Association and The Competitiveness Company, he is deeply committed to regional development through export and travels internationally, sharing his passion for all areas of Caribbean culture.