



BRUSSELS POLICY BRIEFING N. 54

Sustainable agriculture: where are we on SDGs implementation?

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

Wednesday 27th February 2019, 9h00-13h00

European Commission, Charlemagne Building,

Rue de la Loi 170, 1040 Brussels

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

BIODATA OF THE SPEAKERS

Gurbir S. Bhullar – Group lead Tropical Agriculture, FiBL

Gurbir Bhullar is a Senior Scientist and Program Leader (for [Farming Systems Comparison in the tropics](#)) at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), in Frick, Switzerland. His research projects focus on agro-ecological and environmental sciences. For the innovation and scientific quality of his work he was awarded with '[SFIAR award 2014](#)' by the Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research. Gurbir earned his 'Doctoral degree' and Postdoctoral experience from the Department of Environmental Systems Science, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich. Prior to PhD, he obtained a 'Bachelor in Agricultural Sciences' and a 'Masters in Agronomy' from Punjab Agricultural University, India. He has an extensive experience of conceiving, conducting and managing empirical studies both in the field as well as under controlled environments. During doctoral research, He studied more than two-dozen European wetland plant species for their effect on greenhouse gas emissions and developed a novel methodology for estimation of plant-mediated transport of methane from rhizosphere to atmosphere. In his short postdoc, he demonstrated the proof of concept for developing an innovative and climate resilient cropping system, aiming at mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions from paddy farming, which was highly appreciated and awarded with the [SFIAR Award 2014](#).

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.

Patrick Caron – Chair, UN High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition

Patrick Caron is a veterinary doctor, PhD in development geography. He is a specialist of farming systems and territorial dynamics, with a special focus on livestock farming. International Director at Montpellier University of Excellence - MUSE (<http://muse.edu.umontpellier.fr/>), he has been appointed Vice President for International Affairs of the University of Montpellier in January 2019. He joined CIRAD in 1988 where he has been Director-General for research and strategy from 2010 to 2016, after having served as scientific director for the "Territories, Environment and People" Department of CIRAD (2001-2004) and as "Environments and Societies" Department director from 2007 to 2010. His works relate to the analysis of the role of agriculture and livestock in rural transformations, particularly in Brazil, Southern Africa and the Near East. He is a member of many institutional and inter-institutional bodies. He is in particular chairing the Scientific Council of AgroParisTech and a

member of the French National Council for Development and International Solidarity. In 2015 he chaired the Organizing committee of the Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture (Montpellier, France), in 2016 of the international conference Agrichains and sustainable development and in 2017 the international conference on Living Territories. He has been appointed as the Chair of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in November 2015 and once again in November 2017 (until 2019).

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.

Asfandiyar Khan – Statistical Unit, FAO

Arbab Asfandiyar Khan is working as an economist with the Economics and Statistics Division at FAO HQ (Rome) since 2016. Where he is working closely with the core team and other cross-functional teams, countries and international organizations on methodological development of SDG indicator 2.4.1 "Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture" and internationally harmonized definition of the rural/urban areas. He is a citizen of Pakistan and has two Master's Degrees; "Economics & Development" and in "Economics, Money and Banking" from Pakistan. He has a rich professional career in both private and public sectors. He has worked in a multinational conglomerate in Kuwait as Manager Business Development and Strategy for 5 years and at Telenor Pakistan (Telecommunication company) as Business Intelligence and research Executive for 2 years. Prior to joining FAO, he served for 2 years as Director, Regional Accounts Wing (Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Department) of the Provincial Government of Khyber Pkhtunkhwa (Pakistan).

Muchiri Nyaggah – Executive Director, Local Development Research Institute, Kenya

Muchiri serves as the Executive Director at the Local Development Research Institute (LDRI), an action-oriented think tank supporting efforts of African Union member states to end extreme poverty, end hunger and reduce inequalities. LDRI's work is focused on the role of agricultural transformation in these efforts, especially the capability of states to have available to them, and

share openly, data and statistics for decision-making. Muchiri is also a Senior Fellow at the Results for Development Institute where he provides guidance on data for decision-making projects. His work contributes to the strengthening of efforts to leverage data and data-informed strategies to solve real-world problems. Muchiri has worked in technology and innovation consulting for twenty years, six of which have been spent focusing on open data and open government in Africa as a driver for improving development outcomes. He has keen interest in the implementation of Africa's development agenda, its impact and how developmental states can deliver better outcomes for Africa's people.

Daniel Ohonde – Chief Executive Officer, AECF, Kenya

Daniel is a seasoned development finance professional with more than 25 years-experience of global senior leadership in private sector enterprise development, partnership and resource mobilization, management consulting, manufacturing, logistics and oil & gas across Africa. He also has significant prior operations experience at the African Development Bank Group. Prior to AECF, Daniel was the CEO of an SME funding micro-finance entity focused on deepening financial inclusion. His diverse experience cuts across both the public and private sector, with strong interest in SME development. He has lived in West, East, North and Southern Africa. He is a mechanical engineer and holds an M.B.A. in strategic management and an MSc in finance.

Stefano Prato – Managing Director, Society for International Development (SID)

Stefano Prato (Italy) is the Managing Director of the Society for International Development (SID) and the Editor of SID's Quarterly Journal "Development". He is the coordinator of the Civil Society Financing for Development Group and member of the Editing Team of the annual Spotlight Report on Sustainable Development. He currently serves as Co-Chair of the Steering Group of HLPF Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism. He served as one of the Advisors to the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Personalities for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He is also the co-coordinator of the global Civil Society Nutrition Group and member of the Editorial Board of the Right to Food Watch. He is a very active participant of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) of the Committee on World Food Security and co-facilitates the CSM Working Groups on Nutrition, Sustainable Agriculture & Livestock and SDGs. His most recent areas of interest address the democratization of global economic governance, the architecture of nutrition governance, the corporate capture of food, agriculture and nutrition, and the political economies of inequalities, particularly in the African context. Before joining SID, he was actively engaged in several Italian development cooperation NGOs as well as social development volunteer-based organizations. He graduated in Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration "La Sapienza" of Rome, Italy. In his spare time, he pursued a second University degree in veterinary medicine and completed his PhD in Animal Health, Food Safety and Livestock Management while also enjoying a limited practice of veterinary medicine.

Carin Smaller – Team Leader Agriculture & Investment, IISD, Co-Director, CERES 2030

Carin Smaller is Senior Advisor and Team Leader on Agriculture and Investment at IISD. She has 17 years experiencing living and working in several developing countries, including Tanzania, Namibia, Nepal and India, advising governments and communities on sustainable development. She was director of the Trade Information Project in Geneva which provided advice to developing country trade negotiators on the agriculture negotiations for the Doha Development Round. She joined IISD nine years ago and since then has advised dozens of governments on how to maximize the benefits from foreign investment in the agriculture sector. She holds a bachelor of laws and a bachelor of political science from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Modibo Traoré – Director of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mali

With two Masters Degrees in Animal Health and Production (obtained respectively in Kyiv and Paris), and a Doctorate in Sciences from the University of Paris XII Créteil, Mr Traoré has held important positions both in his native Mali (where he was successively Director of the Regional Centre for Agricultural Research in Niono, National Director of Livestock, Minister of Rural

Development and the Environment, Mali's Ambassador to Beijing...), and on the African and international stage (he was successively Director of the African Union Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources, FAO Regional Representative for Africa, Assistant Director General of the FAO's Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, FAO Representative to the African Union and Ethiopia, and cumulatively FAO Regional Coordinator for East Africa). Mr Traoré is currently Director of Multilateral Cooperation at the Malian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. As a committed contributor to the transformation of the agricultural sector in Africa, and a privileged observer of how it has evolved over the past three decades, Mr Traoré has accumulated a wealth of personal and institutional experience in the development and implementation of agricultural and food security policies, which can help inspire new actors in coordinating the implementation of SDG 2 on the ground.