



BRUSSELS POLICY BRIEFING N. 55

Opportunities of blockchain for agriculture

Organised by CTA, ACP Secretariat, European Commission/DG DEVCO, Concord, BMZ

Wednesday 15th May 2019, 9h00-13h00

ACP Secretariat, 451 Avenue Georges-Henri, 1200 Brussels, Room C

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

BIODATA OF THE SPEAKERS

Chris Addison – Senior Expert, Data4Ag, CTA

Chris Addison is Senior Programme Coordinator for Data4Ag in the ICT4Ag team. He leads the “Blockchain in agriculture project”, which supports blockchain in agriculture across the ACP through knowledge exchange and experimental projects. He has worked with the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) for the last 6 years on digitalisation and developed CTAs Data4Ag project work. Previously he was at the International Food Policy Research Institute managing online communications and working on capacity building in Africa covering the websites and data portals. He worked as Director for OneWorld Europe serving a membership of 150 development organisations with internet services.

Erik Árokszállási – CEO, TE-FOOD International

Erik Árokszállási is the CEO of TE-FOOD International Gmbh (Albstadt, Germany) since 2018. A Hungarian national, he has led a range of IT and traceability projects in Europe and beyond. His background is in civil engineering and he speaks English, German, Italian and Hungarian. TE-FOOD is a farm-to-table fresh food traceability ecosystem on blockchain, covering all logistics and food quality activities and data management of the supply chain. It provides cost effective software and identification tools to make livestock and fresh food supply information transparent.

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>). She also implements field projects on policy and value chains in ACP countries.

Louis de Bruin – Blockchain Thought Leader Europe, IBM Global Business Services

Louis de Bruin is Blockchain Leader for IBM Global Business Services in Europe. Louis is driving many IBM Blockchain programs where IBM works with companies that are world leaders in their industry to install inherent trust and dramatically improve transparency in the ecosystem in which they operate. One of these programs is Global Trade Digitization, aimed to reduce the flow of physical documentation accompanying goods and the time required to clear goods from source to destination. He leads a number of Blockchain development projects and is also closely working with the Linux Foundation’s [Hyperledger Fabric](#) effort, an open source technology used by IBM to develop many enterprise grade Blockchains. He has been appointed to the Strategic Advisory Board of the [Centre for Resilience Engineering](#) of the four collaborating Technical Universities in the Netherlands. In this capacity he advises companies

on the use of Blockchain in the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals and the [Critical Infrastructure Protection Forum](#).

Theo de Jager – President, World Farmer’s Organisation (WFO)

Dr. de Jager is president of the World Farmers’ Organisation and former president of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU, 2013-2018) and of the Pan African Farmers Union (PAFO, 2014-2017). He is also chairman of the board of Agri All Africa, a board member of FANRPAN and serves on the board of Agri Limpopo, where he is responsible for land reform, transformation, farmer development and Africa Liaison since 2004. He has farmed in South Africa since 1997 (in the South African Lowveld region) with timber and subtropical fruits (avocados, mangoes and macadamia nuts) and also keeps goats.

Patrick Gomes –Secretary General, ACP Secretariat

Dr. Patrick Ignatius Gomes of Guyana was elected the new Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) at the 100th Session of the Group’s Council of Ministers, held at ACP Headquarters in Brussels on December 10, 2014. Prior to taking up his position as the Secretary General of the ACP Group, Dr. Gomes served as Guyana’s Ambassador to Belgium and the European Community and as Guyana’s representative to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Dr. Gomes also served as Chair of the Working Group on Future Perspectives of the ACP Group. He was the Dean of ACP Ambassadors in Brussels, and Chair of the Sub-Committee on Sugar and previously served as Chair of the Committee of Ambassadors, a decision-making body of the ACP Group. Dr Gomes has also worked for the United Nations as a senior adviser in Human Resources Development at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. He has authored numerous publications in the areas of development and social policy analysis and served as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Maastricht-based think tank, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). Dr. Gomes will serve as Secretary General for the ACP for the period 2015 - 2020.

Sander Govers – Moyee Coffee “FairChain”, Ethiopia

Sander Govers studied Business Economics at Nyenrode Business University and Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. After a short career in corporate finance, he embraced entrepreneurship and started his own companies in textiles and high-end fashion. Working across the world, he sourced materials in countries like India, China and Turkey and built a wholesale and retail company, including online sales. In 2016, Sander joined [Moyee Coffee](#) as Business Development and international Retail Manager to support its [FairChain mission](#): sharing value in the coffee value chain fairly and equally in order to increase living standards in the country of origin.

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

Annette Houtekamer – Expert in Inclusive Insurance, Ibisa

With a lifetime of experience in finance, insurance, reinsurance and development spanning across India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Senegal and South Africa. Annette is experienced in Inclusive Insurance and integrated risk management, building local capacity and mutual networks and institutions responsive to un(der)served markets. She is skilled in Social Science, Insurance and Economy and holds an MBA.

H.E. Mr Kaire Mbuende – Chair of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors and Ambassador of Namibia to the EU

Kaire Mbuende had distinguished diplomatic, political, and academic careers. He is currently (2016 -) Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to the Kingdoms of Belgium and the Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Mission to the European Union. He previously served as Namibia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (2006 – 2010), and he served as Executive Secretary of SADC (1994 – 1999). He served for two terms in the Namibian Parliament (1990 - 1993 and 2000 – 2005) and was Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (2002 – 2004) and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development (1990 – 1993). He lectured at the University of Lund in Sweden, University of Arhus in Denmark and was a Research Fellow at the Institute for Future Studies in Stockholm (1986 – 1989). He was also a Distinguished Fellow at the South African Institute of International Affairs in Johannesburg and a visiting Professor in African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at the University of Johannesburg.

H.E. Mrs Sheila Sealy Monteith – Ambassador of Jamaica to the EU

Her Excellency Mrs. Sheila Sealy Monteith arrived in Brussels in December 2017 to assume duties as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Jamaica to the Kingdom of Belgium and Permanent Representative to the European Union. She has concurrent accreditation to France, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Portugal and Spain, as well as to UNESCO and the OPCW. She was appointed Chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors from February to July 2018. A career diplomat, Ambassador Sealy Monteith has extensive experience within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, in the theory and practice of diplomacy at bilateral, regional and international levels. She has the benefit of advanced training and exposure in the formulation, implementation and management of foreign policy. Ambassador Sealy Monteith has a lifelong involvement in development issues and in understanding international organizations and their role in development. She continues to demonstrate active interest in human resource management policies and practices, and their contribution to supporting effective organizational behavior.

Pat Roy Mooney – Founder, ETC Group

Pat Mooney has recently retired as a co-founder and Executive Director of ETC Group – an international civil society organization headquartered in the Philippines and Canada that, since 1977, addresses the impact of new technologies as they may or may not be relevant to the global South and marginalized peoples. ETC has observer status with many UN bodies including FAO and the UN Committee on World Food Security, the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCTAD, UNFCCC and IPCC. ETC is recognized as having initiated and helped establish the FAO Seed Treaty and it is credited with achieving UN moratoria on Terminator Technologies in 2000, ocean fertilization in 2008, and all forms of Geoengineering in 2010. ETC is currently working with partners and governments to establish international regulatory mechanisms over synthetic biology. ETC represents civil society on the IPCC advisory technology committee and on the Secretary-General's Forum on Science and Technology for Innovation. Pat Mooney has honorary doctoral degrees from universities in Canada and Mexico and is the recipient of the Right Livelihood Award in the Swedish Parliament and the Pearson Peace Prize in Canada as well as the Giraffe Award given to compassionate risk-takers.

Alice Namuli Blazevic – Expert Blockchain and AI, KATS, Uganda

Alice is an Associate Partner at Katende, Ssempebwa & Company Advocates, specialising in Commercial transactions. She has over fifteen years' experience in Commercial Transactions, specialising in infrastructure projects, project finance, PPP's, and mergers and acquisitions. She also specialises in Technology law with a keen interest in Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cryptocurrencies and the law. She represents several Fintechs and Blockchain Technology based businesses which are reshaping the mode of doing business in Uganda and Africa as a whole. She is the chairperson of the Uganda Legal Tech Network and founder of the Legal Innovation Hub.

She also has experience in cross border transactions where she has advised various large multinational ventures within Uganda, and across East, South, West Africa and the United Kingdom. She has authored many articles on AI and Blockchain.

Wim Olthof – Deputy-Head of Unit Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition, Europeaid, European Commission

Willem (Wim) Olthof is Deputy Head of the Unit 'Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition' of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission. This unit deals with policy development and implementation of international cooperation related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

From 2014 to 2018, he was the Alternate Permanent Representative at the Delegation of the European Union in Rome dealing with FAO, IFAD and WFP. Before that, he worked in Brussels and held posts covering policy development on agriculture, food security and nutrition, as well as on geographic cooperation with the Horn of Africa, specifically Ethiopia. During this period he was closely involved in the development of the external EU food security policy, in the EU resilience initiative for the Horn of Africa, as well as in establishing the € 1 billion EU Food Facility. In the period 1996-2005, he was posted in the EU Delegations in Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Ghana.

Before joining the European Commission, Mr. Olthof has lectured at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, The Netherlands, and at the Universities of Zimbabwe (1989-1992) and Addis Ababa (1996-1997) on rural and regional development.

Andreas Pletziger – Senior Policy Officer, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Andreas Pletziger is senior policy officer in the unit international agricultural policy, agriculture and innovation at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). He studied macroeconomics and business administration at several German universities and in Sydney, Australia. During his studies, he founded "Weitblick", the largest student initiative on development cooperation in Germany. The initiative develops education projects around the world. Mr. Pletziger was Economic Affairs Officer in North Rhine Westphalia for the implementation of the European Regional Development Fund from 2009 to 2013 and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development for the following 4 years. Since 2017, he works for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Mischa Tripoli – Economist, Trade and Markets Division, FAO

Mischa Tripoli is an Economist in the Trade and Markets Division of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Prior to joining the Trade and Markets Division, he worked in FAO's Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Hungary, and as an economist in the United Nations World Food Programme. His areas of interest include trade and investment in agriculture; innovation and technology in agriculture; international trade policy; trade facilitation; export promotion; and value chain development. His academic background is in development economics and environmental studies, and he holds both Master's and Bachelor's degrees from Clark University in Massachusetts, USA.

Anthi Tsilimeni-Archangelidi – IT Business Analyst, Cargill

Anthi is a Business Analyst in the Data Analytics team of Cargill. In her current role she was involved in several blockchain initiatives, contributed to the development of agricultural digital products and is supporting Cargill's sustainability efforts.

Mrs Tsilimeni-Archangelidi holds a Master's Science degree in Management of Technology from the university of TU Delft and she additionally has a background in Chemical Engineering. She specialized in Supply Chain Management and during her master thesis she focused on the opportunities of Blockchain in Physical Trading of Soft Commodities.

She is passionate about bridging the gap between business and IT and is a systems thinker with knowledge in Innovation, Technology Adoption, Business Process Management and Agile Practices.