



BRUSSELS POLICY BRIEFING N. 57

Smallholder agriculture: key to food security/nutrition and sustainable food systems

Organisers: CTA, ACP Secretariat, European Commission/DG DEVCO
Wednesday 11th September 2019, 9h00-13h00
ACP Secretariat, 451 Avenue Georges-Henri, 1200 Brussels, Room C
<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

BIODATA OF THE SPEAKERS

Fatma Ben Rejeb – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Panafrican Farmer’s Organisation (PAFO)

Fatma Ben Rejeb from Tunisia, is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pan-African Farmers’ Organization (PAFO) since 2015. She has been working with Farmers Organizations for more than 20 years. She began her involvement in land and legal affairs with farmers and their grassroots organizations. Subsequently, she held the administrative and financial management then the international cooperation and the partnership management at the Tunisian national farmers organization. She has been Director of the North African Farmers’ Network, UMNAGRI. Fatma received a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Political Science, a Masters in Juridical Sciences and a Certificate of Specialized Studies in Political and International Studies. She is fluent in Arabic, French, English, Italian and basic knowledge in Spanish.

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.

Marco Dekker – Monitoring Evaluation Research and Learning (MERL) Manager, ICCO Cooperation

Dr Marco Dekker is the manager Monitoring Evaluation Research and Learning (MERL) for the STARS program (Strengthening African Rural Smallholders) by ICCO Cooperation. ICCO is an international NGO working in close to 40 countries with a strong focus on the economic empowerment of smallholder farmers. In his work in international development, Marco’s primary focus has been on learning, improving, and generating evidence for what works and does not work. ICCO works also on supporting finance and blending activities by mobilising finance in support of key economic activities of farmer’s organisation in various countries in the world.

Mamadou Goita – Executive Director, Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD)

Mamadou GOÏTA (PhD), a development socio-economist and specialist in education and training systems, is the Executive Director of the Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD). He worked successively with UNICEF in Mali, UNDP, Oxfam Solidarity Belgium, the World Social Forum and ACORD before IRPAD. He is a

researcher and teaches at the University of Ouaga II, at the ENEA of Dakar. He was Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Course on "Natural Resource Management and African Development", Director of CODESRIA's 2014 Governance Institute on Crises and Resilience in Africa. His research interests include agriculture and food, conflict prevention and management, market issues including territorial markets in recent years, extractive industry issues, migration, etc. He has worked on several studies and research in different fields on all continents of the world and is a member of several boards of directors. He is a member of the panel of IPES Food, a founding member of AFSA and sits on several boards including AMASSA (Green Africa Mali), USC Canada, Enda PRONAT, COPAGEN etc. He was a member of the HLPE team for the development of 6th CFS Report , "Investing in Family Farming". He developed the territorial market research methodology in the FAO / Terra Nova pilot project framework and other structures and participated in several briefings in Europe and Africa.

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.

Kola Masha – Managing Partner of Babban Gona, Nigeria

Kola is the Founder and Managing Director of Babban Gona, an agricultural social enterprise that provides key services to smallholder farmers that result in significant yield increases, around 2.5-3x the national average. Prior to Babban Gona, Kola was a Managing Director and CEO of a major subsidiary in the Notore Group, one of Nigeria's leading agricultural conglomerates, where he raised US\$24 Million to develop an integrated agricultural trading, production and processing business. Furthermore, he led the development and execution of Notore's commercial strategy across West and Central Africa, preparing the company to sell one million tons of fertilizer and establish a modern seed business. He led the effort to raise \$130 Million in equity and the restructuring of \$360 Million in debt. Kola holds significant leadership experience in venture capital, corporate finance, business development, marketing and operations, across four continents with multiple global companies, including GE, Notore and Abiomed. In addition, Kola has extensive public sector experience as Senior Advisor to the Nigerian Minister of Agriculture. In recognition for his leadership in driving positive change on the African Continent, he has received several global awards including the prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship, a leading leadership institute led by General Collin Powell and appointed to the Board of the African Enterprise Challenge Fund, a \$250 Million fund that awards grants and repayable grants to private sector companies to support innovative business ideas in agriculture, agribusiness, renewable energy, adaptation to climate change and access to information and financial services. Kola holds an MBA (Honors) from Harvard and a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Nora McKeon – Professor, Rome 3 University, Italy

Nora McKeon studied history and political science at Harvard University and the Sorbonne before joining the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, where she was responsible for opening up the institution to cooperation with organizations of small-scale producers and civil society. She now engages in research, teaching, and advocacy around food systems, peoples' movements, and governance issues. She closely follows evolutions in global food governance including the reformed Committee on World Food Security. She teaches at Rome 3 University

and the International University College of Turin. Publications include: Peasant Organizations in Theory and Practice (with Michael Watts and Wendy Wolford, UNRISD 2004), The United Nations and Civil Society: Legitimizing Global Governance? (Zed 2009), Global Governance for World Food Security (Heinrich-Böll Foundation, 2011), The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition: a coup for corporate capital? (Terra Nuova/TNI 2014) and Food Security Governance: empowering communities, regulating corporations (Routledge 2015). She has written numerous book chapters and articles including 'The Farmers' Movement and the Market Question in Senegal' in K.Ghimire, ed., Civil Society and the Market Question (Palgrave MacMillan 2005), 'Are Equity and Sustainability a Likely Outcome When Foxes and Chickens Share the Same Coop? Critiquing the Concept of Multistakeholder Governance of Food Security' (Globalizations Vol 14 2017 issue 3), 'Transforming Global Governance in the Post-2015 Era: Towards an Equitable and Sustainable World' (Globalizations Vol 14 2017 issue 4), 'Civil Society-Public Institution Relations in Global Food Policy: The Case of FAO and the CFS' in R. Marchetti ed., Partnerships in International Policy-Making (Palgrave Macmillan 2017), and 'Getting to the root causes of migration in West Africa: whose history, framing and agency counts?' (Globalizations Vol. 15 2018 issue 6).

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.

Elizabeth Nsimadala – Entrepreneur, President of Eastern Africa Farmer's Federation (EAFF) and President of the Pan Africa Farmers Organization (PAFO)

Elizabeth Nsimadala is the new President of the Pan Africa farmers Organization (PAFO) and President of Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF). Previously, she served four years as the Regional Women Representative at the EAFF and Treasurer Board Uganda cooperative Alliance (UCA) a member of EAFF. She also sits at the Governing Council of Africa fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) and Chairs the Governing Council of the Uganda Cooperative College in Tororo among others. Elizabeth is a successful agriprenuer and has been at the Centre of championing farmer – led Agriculture technology and innovation at the EAFF through the E-Granary initiative that virtually aggregates farmers for markets. She is a passionate cooperater and she spearheaded the push to have the regional law on cooperatives – The East Africa Cooperative Societies Bill 2015 through the East Africa Legislative Assembly. As a result of her efforts, she was recently awarded and Globally recognized by the World Farmers Organization (WFO) as one of the exemplary women leaders in Farmers Organizations' contributing to sustainable development.

Olusola Ojo - Expert, Rural Development, Food Security and the Environment ACP Secretariat

Olusola Ojo obtained his first degree (BSc.) in Forest Resources Management (with specialization in Fisheries Management) from the University of Ibadan in 1981, a Master's Degree in Fisheries Management in 1985, and a Master in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria in 1990. He started his working career as a Fisheries Development Officer with the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Agriculture where he functioned in various capacities, serving on programmes and projects on fisheries development, monitoring

and evaluation, IFAD Community Development Programmes, National Food Security Programmes, Environmental Impact Assessment Projects, National Medium Term Investment Programme of NEPAD Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and other Natural Resources Management Programmes. He joined the African, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) Group of States Secretariat in Brussels as the Expert in charge of Rural Development, Food Security and the Environment. With vast knowledge in development cooperation instrument management, he manages a number of Intra-ACP programmes within the framework of the European Development Fund in the area of Rural Development, Natural Resources and the Environment.

Roberto Ridolfi – Assistant-Director-General for Programme Support and Technical Cooperation at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Dr Roberto Ridolfi currently holds the position of Assistant Director-General, Programme Support and Technical Cooperation Department at FAO. He was appointed in January 2019, being promoted from the role of Special Adviser to the Deputy Director-General (Programmes) on Strategy and Financing Development, which he held in 2018, detached from the European Commission. From 2013 to 2017, Dr Ridolfi served as Director of the Directorate C – Planet and Prosperity under the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) at the European Commission. Dr Ridolfi joined the European Commission in 1994, after a 10-year experience in both academia and private sector. He began as Development Adviser at the EU Delegation to Malawi, followed by Namibia and Kosovo. He then coordinated the Public-Private Partnership unit for the enlargement of the EU. Head of the *EuropeAid* division, between 2004 and 2005 he managed programmes on environment and climate change, rural development, food security and migration, as well as the One-Billion-Euro Food Facility in 50 countries. Dr Ridolfi served as EU Ambassador and Head of delegation for the Pacific in Suva, Fiji from 2005 to 2007, and as EU Ambassador to Uganda from 2011 to 2013. Dr Ridolfi holds a MSc in Engineering, an MBA and a PhD in Architectural Technology.

Annick Sezibera – Executive Secretary, CAPAD, Burundi

Annick Sezibera is Executive Secretary of the Confederation of Associations of Agricultural Producers for Development (CAPAD) in Burundi. The organization was created with the aim of strengthening the capacities of farmers' organizations with the aim of pooling available human resources in rural areas to fight against poverty and support the emergence of peasant leadership. CAPAD works on: (i) the intensification of agriculture and livestock production; the promotion of the rural entrepreneurship and search of new markets; extension and advice services as well as knowledge management to the members and strengthening organisational capacities of the members, especially financial and administrative skills. Annick has demonstrated strong leadership skills strengthening the capacities of the members of CAPAD, finding new markets for agricultural products and designing strategic partnerships. She has also introduced ICTs use in many of the farmers groups with the view to optimise production and quality.

Ishmael Sunga – Chief Executive Officer, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)

BSc in Economics, University of Zimbabwe; Master's in Strategic Management, University of Derby, UK. Extensive experience in rural and agricultural development, small enterprise development, development planning and management, and organizational development. Former: research fellow, economist, programme manager, small enterprise adviser and as a development consultant. Since 2005, with Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU); currently, Chief Executive Officer. Ishmael has more than 30 years' experience, mainly in the development sector. Prior to his current position as head of a regional farmers' organization for southern Africa, he previously worked in various capacities for research and academic institutions, and for international development agencies. His experience covers southern Africa and other parts of Africa, the UK and Asia (India, Bangladesh and Sri-Lanka), and spans several areas, including agricultural development; rural transport; micro-hydro power; irrigation schemes; farm machinery; agro-processing; small scale mining;

light engineering, cooperatives, farmers' and other membership-based organisations. Ishmael has published a number of articles and publications.

Jan Douwe van der Ploeg – Adjunct Professor of Rural Sociology, China Agricultural University and Wageningen University

Jan Douwe van der Ploeg is Professor Emeritus of Wageningen University and Adjunct Professor in Rural Sociology at the College of Humanities and Development Studies (COHD) of China Agricultural University (CAU) in Beijing. He was previously involved in designing parts of the European Rural Development Policy (also known as Pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy). He is co-author of 'Investing in Smallholder Agriculture', the HLPE document of the Committee of World Food Security of FAO. On the request of the Secretary General of FAO he wrote, in the context of the International Year of Family Farming, 'Family Farming in Europe and Central Asia: History, Characteristics, Threats and Potentials', Working Paper no. 153, FAO/IPC-IG/UNDP, Brasilia (2016).