WELCOME

CRACKING THE NUT IS A FIRST-CLASS GLOBAL CONFERENCE FOR MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, INVESTORS, AND DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS, BRINGING TOGETHER PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO INCREASE COLLABORATION AND INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL MARKETS.

Muraholo! We are excited to welcome you to Cracking the Nut Africa: Improving Rural Livelihoods and Food Security, the first regional Cracking the Nut Conference. Through this event, we celebrate the culmination of multiple stakeholders coming together to crack the tough nuts of rural and agricultural livelihoods development, finance and food security in Africa.

The significance and timeliness of this issue is evidenced by the 360 participants who have convened here today to learn, share and discuss this important issue, which marks the largest and most successful Cracking the Nut Conference to date. While the conference will focus on issues specific to Africa, the nearly 40 countries represented here indicate that these challenges are not only of regional significance but of international importance as well, as improving food security and livelihoods for farmers in Africa is essential for the development of the continent as well as global supply chains.

Together, we will get to the heart of the issues that are most important to our audience, utilizing a multi-disciplinary perspective and participatory approach.

Anita Campion
President, AZMJ

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The Cracking the Nut Advisory Committee is pivotal in the planning process and success of the Conference. AZMJ is grateful for the participation and ongoing support of the Conference’s Advisory Committee Members.

- Judith Aguga Acon
- Herbert Asiimwe
- Kristin Beyard
- Anita Campion
- Amy Davis
- Nikolaus Eichman
- Milton Funes
- Laurent Gashugi
- Caitie Gibbons
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- Eric Rwigamba
- Marie Noelle Senyana
- Maurice Toroitich
- Anne Turner
- Josephine Umurerwa
- Nathan Van Dusen

MEDIA & IN KIND PARTNERS
CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

REGISTRATION
Entrance Hall
Tuesday: 7:30AM-6PM
Wednesday: 8AM-6PM

LUGGAGE ROOM
Ask at Registration Desk

CRACKING THE NUT BADGES
Required for all conference events

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
First come, first served
Arrive early to guarantee a seat

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION
There will be English to French interpretation for certain sessions
Look for the EN>FR symbol

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND
Use the maps on page 6 & 7
Meeting Room is over by the pool; take the covered walk way

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

REDUCING COSTS & RISKS OF SERVING RURAL CLIENTS
What technologies and methodologies can be applied to reduce costs of serving rural populations with financial products (savings, loans, insurance, etc.), business development services and agricultural extension services?

PREPARING FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF FUTURE LIVELIHOODS
What are the growth markets and skills needed for future jobs and business opportunities in the rural sector? How will globalization and innovation change the landscape for livelihoods in the future? To what extent are life skills and financial literacy important?

ENTICING INVESTORS TO KEY AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS
Who are the most likely investors for rural and agricultural market development? How can donors and governments incentivize them to make effective long-term investments that will create jobs?

PROPER FEEDING OF A GROWING POPULATION
How can Africans ensure they will produce enough food, of the right quality to feed their people a nutritious diet and avoid long-term negative implications of chronic food insecurity? What policies are needed to protect staple crops and rural incomes?

FACILITATING POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL CHANGES
What approaches and communication strategies are most effective in moving people to action? How can one convince the rural poor to commit to long-term strategies when they are faced with short-term crises?

EVENTS

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION LUNCH SESSION
This interactive session will discuss the roles that rural smallholders can play in agricultural development in Africa. Participants will explore to what extent smallholders should be encouraged to produce on their own land directly vs. renting their land to others on which to produce.

Room: Ballroom
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2014
Time: 11:45AM-1PM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION
Hosted by KCB Bank Rwanda
Join us for a networking reception hosted by KCB Bank Rwanda. The reception will begin with open networking and a traditional Rwandan dance performance. The evening will conclude with remarks from AZMU, KCB Bank Rwanda, and the Honorable Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Minister of Agriculture & Animal Resources.

Room: Auditorium
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2014
Time: 6-8PM

RAPIDFIRE LUNCH SESSION
Join the “RapidFire Lunch Session” for short, fast-paced and interactive talks by four speakers who will share their latest innovations from their rural and agricultural projects.

Room: Ballroom
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2014
Time: 11:45AM-1PM

STAY CONNECTED

ONLINE CONFERENCE COMMUNITY
CRACKINGTHENUTAFRICA.PATHABLE.COM
Online tools to help you engage more deeply with the conference and your fellow participants prior to, during and after the conference. Take part in discussions and follow up with speakers with questions and comments.

• Connect with other participants and browse the conference agenda in this private networking and discussion space for attendees.
• Learn from industry experts about what it takes to push the frontier of rural and agricultural development.
• Share links from your social media profiles and highlight your own blog and post articles.
• Rediscover sessions you missed by accessing conference materials.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION ON TWITTER
Use hashtag #crknutafrica to tweet.
Follow us on Twitter @crackingthenut for logistics updates, schedule reminders, highlights, insights from the plenary panels and breakout sessions, and more!

FOLLOW us on Twitter
Follow @crackingthenut

LIKE us on Facebook
facebook.com/CrackingtheNutConference

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LinkedIn: Cracking the Nut Conference

SOCIAL MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA
Global Communities is an international non-profit organization that has been working in Rwanda since 2005 supporting communities to improve their livelihoods and working with Rwandan organizations to help strengthen their operations to provide services. Global Communities works in 23 districts assisting more than 104,000 Rwandan households to improve food production, health and economic status, literacy, childhood development and access to finance to support rural livelihoods and build resiliency.

www.globalcommunities.org
**TUESDAY**

**8:30AM** Welcome Remarks & Introduction  –  Peter Mainik (USAID/Rwanda Mission), Amb. Valentine Rugwabiza (Rwanda Development Board), Honorable Dr. Agnes Kalibata (Rwanda Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Resources)

Room: Ballroom

**9AM** Keynote: Improving Rural Livelihoods and Food  –  Mike de Klerk (Making Finance Work for Africa)

Room: Ballroom

**10AM** Coffee & Networking

**10:15AM** Reducing Costs & Risks of Serving Rural Clients  –  Accelerating Market-Driven Business Development Services in the Kenyan Dairy Sector  –  Mary Munene (Land O’Lakes)

Room: Meeting Room

Integrating Women Farmers into Market Systems to Improve Food Security in Northern Ghana  –  Catherine Sobrevega & Livinus Balog (MEDA)

Room: Auditorium

Tactics for Incentivizing the Private Sector to Engage Smallholders in Fragmented Production Systems  –  Trinnie Cartland & Elizabeth Ndedya (Aga Khan Foundation)

Room: Ballroom

**11:45AM** Lunch Sessions

Option 1: 1 Lunch & Networking

Room: Ballroom

Option 2: Interactive Discussion: The Role of the Rural Smallholder –  Facilitators: Shari Berenbach (USADF), Jason Wolfe (USAID)

Room: Ballroom

**1PM** Leveraging SMS Technology to Create Transparency and Growth in Coffee Value Chains  –  Nupur Parikh & Moritz Waldstein Wartenberg (TechnoServe)

Room: Meeting Room

Education that Pays for Itself: A Market-Driven Approach to Sustainable Livelihoods  –  Julia Corvalán & ÁFRICANS Chalama (Fundación Paraguaya)

Room: Auditorium

Facilitating Corporate Investment in Sustainable Value Chain Development  –  Alessandra Lustrati (CARE UK), Mawuli Asigbee (CARE Ghana), Paul Amenu (World Vision)

Room: Ballroom

**2:30PM** Coffee & Networking

**2:45PM** An Agricultural Franchise Model for On-Lending to Rural Farmers  –  Chinwe Osoji (Oorex Partners)

Room: Auditorium

An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Rwanda  –  Waringa Kibe & Jeanne d’Arc Nyirajyambere (USAID Ejo Heza), Raf Somers (BTC), Thomas Habanabakize (Farmer Field School)

Room: Meeting Room

Catalyzing Smallholder Agricultural Finance  –  Angela Hansen & Wouter Deelder (Dalberg Global Development Advisors)

Room: Meeting Room

**4:15PM** Coffee & Networking

**4:30PM** Plenary Panel: Private Sector Roles in Facilitating Positive Behavioral Changes  –  Facilitator: Andy Keck (Engility); Panelists: Julienne Kayonga (Starbucks), Dipesh Devraj (VegPro), Yariv Kedar (Balan Group), Mogens Gtermehdshin (Danza)

Room: Ballroom

Day 1 Wrap Up  –  Nikolaus Eichman (AZMJ)

Room: Ballroom

Cocktail Reception  –  Hosted by KCB Bank Rwanda

Room: Auditorium

**WEDNESDAY**

**8:30AM** Welcome Remarks  –  Milton Funes (Global Communities Rwanda)

Room: Ballroom

**9AM** Plenary Panel: Practitioner Approaches to Improving Food Security  –  Facilitator: Brook Johnsson (NCBA/CLUSA); Panelists: Vanessa Adams (ACDI/Voca Ethiopia), Kimberly Tilock (Global Communities), Tim Muzira (East Africa Exchange)

Room: Ballroom

**10AM** Coffee & Networking


Room: Meeting Room

Drivers of Financial Inclusion for Rural Youth in Morocco and Mali  –  Jennifer Denomy & Adil Sadoq (MEDA), Rossana Ramirez & Maazou Gummarou (Freedom from Hunger)

Room: Ballroom

**11:45AM** Lunch Sessions

Option 1: 1 Lunch & Networking

Room: Ballroom

Option 2: RapidFire Sessions –  Judith Aguga Acon (Access to Finance Rwanda), Ninna Dayet (FEPROMAS), Melanie Sany (Education Development Center), Bee Wuetrich (Landsea)

Room: Ballroom

**1PM** Evidence Based Analysis for a Food Secure World  –  Dan Chizelema, Nadia Musingankandi & Jean Claude Bucumi (USAID FEWS-Net Rwanda, Chemonics International)

Room: Meeting Room

Fee-for-Services to Scale Savings Groups and Smallholder Engagement in Agricultural Markets  –  Guy Vannemelen (CRS), Davina Boyd (Murdock University)

Room: Auditorium

Investing in Rwandan Specialty Coffee  –  John Berry (Consultant), Maurice Wiener (Consultant), Bosco Mungwi (Bourbon Coffee)

Room: Ballroom

**2:30PM** Coffee & Networking

**2:45PM** Promoting Agriculture Credit Finance through Mobile Money Systems  –  Ucha Unimke-Ulayi, Eunice Ekodi, Dr. Joseph Ubek (Fortis Microfinance Bank Ltd.)

Room: Meeting Room

Improving Livelihoods through Innovations in Rural Finance  –  Nathan Van Dusen (CARANA Corporation), William Budugire (Synergisties), George Odiasho (KCB Bank Rwanda)

Room: Ballroom


Room: Auditorium

**4:15PM** Coffee & Networking

**4:30PM** Plenary Panel: How Donors Can Ensure Proper Feeding of a Growing Population  –  Facilitator: Lindsay Wallace (The MasterCard Foundation); Panelists: Mike Hammond (DFID), Colm Dresin (USAID), Elizabeth Diebold (Feed the Future)

Room: Ballroom

**5:30PM** Closing Remarks  –  Anita Campion (AZMJ), Honorable François Kanimba (Rwanda Ministry of Trade and Industry)

Room: Ballroom
FIELD VISITS

On Monday, January 13, Cracking the Nut Africa is offering a day of optional site visits, giving participants a chance to observe the conference themes in action. The site visits will showcase how innovative models employed by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Global Communities, and coffee retailer, KZ Noir, operate in the field.

**Experience Integrated Development with the USAID Ejo Heza Program**

In just two years, USAID Ejo Heza, an integrated livelihoods program managed by Global Communities, has reached 33,314 rural households in Rwanda. This field visit to the Maraba Sector of the Huye District will include visits to a savings and lending group, a cooperative, a nutrition group, and a literacy class to give participants a firsthand experience of integrated development in action. The visit will end at the Huye Museum, where participants will learn about the rich history of Rwanda.

**Witness the Power of Catholic Relief Services’ Savings and Lending Approach**

This site visit will provide participants with the rare opportunity to visit a savings group in rural Rwanda and see first-hand, the impact of the CRS savings approach, which has reached over 1 million African lives. Participants will learn about CRS’ Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) model through visits to different SILC group members and field agents who will share their experiences. At the end of the visit, participants will join group members in an interactive mock savings demonstration so that they can better understand how SILC transforms lives.

**Follow the Rwandan Coffee Sector from Farm to Cup**

In this site visit, see why sustainable production is the bottom line for top Rwandan coffee companies. Participants will travel the supply chain of coffee trader KZ Noir and retailer Bourbon Coffee to understand how the Rwandan coffee sector is transforming with a focus on sustainable and traceable production. Participants will visit a coffee plantation, washing station, processing center and end the day with a coffee cupping session at Bourbon Café.
MEET THE INVESTORS

Frank Rubio
Regional Manager for South America, Northern Region, Oikocredit

Fred Kiteng’e
Credit Manager, East and Southern Africa, Root Capital

George Otieno Odhiambo
Head of Retail Banking, KCB Bank Rwanda

Marco Rosini
Head Agribusiness, Africa, responsAbility Investments

Michael van den Berg
Fund Manager, Triodos Sustainable Trade Fund

MEET THE “AGRIPRENEURS”

1-1:30PM
Vital Magarina, Global Industrial and Agro Technologies, Rwanda
Investment Opportunity: Small farm machinery
Market Description: Multi-crop power threshers, corn shellers, manual weeder, grain dryers, manual winnowers, pedal threshers, etc.

1:30-2:00PM
Aissata Traore, Kivu Dairy, Rwanda
Investment Opportunity: Yogurt equipment
Market Description: Expand yogurt market in Rugerero

2-2:30PM
Richard Nalela & Peter Mukwana, Walimbwa, Uganda
Investment Opportunity: Agricultural leasing
Market Description: Purchase tractor, lease land and lend to smallholders

2:30-3PM
Patient Kalemebe, SKA, Democratic Republic of Congo
Investment Opportunity: Chick hatchery
Market Description: Market chicks eggs in South Kivu

3-3:30PM
Peter Scott, BURN Design Lab & Manufacturing, Kenya
Investment Opportunity: Fuel efficient cookstoves and bamboo charcoal
Market Description: Manufacture cookstoves and bamboo charcoal for East Africa

3:30-4PM
Gilbert Galali, KZ Noir, Rwanda
Investment Opportunity: Coffee and investments
Market Description: Holistic certified coffee support and investment program

4-4:30PM
Simbarashe Chingwanda, Harvest Fresh, Zimbabwe
Investment Opportunity: Frozen french fry factory
Market Description: Build factory to increase sales of frozen and chilled french fries to KFC in Africa

4:30-5PM
Kalifa Belem, Caro Nut Inc., Burkina Faso
Investment Opportunity: Cashew by-products
Market Description: Women process and sell cashew fruit juices in West Africa

OPENING REMARKS

RDB will speak about what the Government of Rwanda is doing to support increased investment into the agriculture sector and how RDB is supporting that agenda.

Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza
CEO, Rwandan Development Board

SPONSORED BY

RDB RWANDA DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The MasterCard Foundation is an independent, global organization based in Toronto, Canada, with more than $9 billion in assets. Through collaboration with partner organizations in 46 countries, it is creating opportunities for all people to learn and prosper.

The Foundation’s programs promote financial inclusion and advance youth learning, mostly in Africa. Established in 2006 through the generosity of MasterCard Worldwide when it became a public company, the Foundation is a separate and independent entity.

To learn more, please visit www.mastercardfdn.org.

Unlocking the full potential of Africa’s financial sector

Promoting agricultural finance to support sustainable investments in African agriculture

Building networks with development partners and African stakeholders to better align interventions with priority needs

Unlocking financial sector development knowledge in Africa
INVESTING FROM FARM TO TABLE TO INCREASE INCOMES AND IMPROVE NUTRITION.

- Supporting partner countries to increase agricultural productivity and expand opportunities for trade
- Integrating nutrition, climate change, and women's empowerment into food security programs
- Investing in research and development to increase access to proven innovations, helping smallholders to boost yields and incomes
- Increasing resilience of families and communities to help them better withstand times of hardship

Learn about partnership opportunities for civil society and private sector at: www.feedthefuture.gov

MORNING PLENARY
8:30-10AM

WELCOME REMARKS & INTRODUCTION
Ballroom
8:30-9AM

SPEAKERS
Peter Malnak, Mission Director, USAID/Rwanda
Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza, CEO, Rwanda Development Board
Honorable Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Resources, Rwanda

KEYNOTE: IMPROVING RURAL LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY
Ballroom
9:00-10AM

Making Finance Work for Africa (MFW4A) will present fresh findings on how five African countries have performed in operationalizing agricultural policies that are designed to:

- Feed Africa’s growing population
- Create future agricultural-related jobs and livelihoods
- Facilitate positive market and farmer behaviors
- Encourage financial inclusion by reducing costs and reaching rural clients
- Entice investors to make long-term commitments to rural and agricultural market development

The keynote will showcase the successes and challenges faced in implementing the Kampala Principles in Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique and Zambia. The presentation will offer specific insights and guidance on how governments, donors, investors and private sector representatives can support positive progress in rural and agricultural market development.

SPEAKER
Mike de Klerk, Advisor to the Agricultural Finance Stakeholder Working Group, Making Finance Work for Africa (MFW4A) & Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Inclusive Banking in Africa, University of Pretoria

COFFEE & NETWORKING
10-10:15AM

In Remembrance
The Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre was opened on the 10th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide, in April 2004. As a tribute to the host country, Global Communities is organizing a visit to the centre on Monday, January 13th. As traditionally done in Rwanda, conference participants are encouraged to visit the memorial site and present a flower arrangement to honor the victims.

Muraho Rwanda!
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**10:15-11:45AM**

**REDUCING COSTS & RISKS OF SERVING RURAL CLIENTS**

**Acclerating Market-Driven Business Development Services in the Kenyan Dairy Sector**

- **Room:** Meeting Room
- **Country/Region:** Kenya

Drawing on Land O’Lakes’ experience in implementing the USAID-funded Kenya Dairy Sector Competitiveness Program (KDS CP), this session will focus on how to increase the competition and sustainability of business development service (BDS) providers and create higher quality and better value services for rural farmers and enterprises. Land O’Lakes will highlight key elements of the project’s approach, including BDS market analysis, capacity building of BDS suppliers to develop and market demand-driven services, and creation of market linkages. Participants in this session will learn how market-based approaches can help women farmers access information, inputs, and services they need to increase production and develop the skills and knowledge that will secure their families’ year-round. The session will also emphasize environmental challenges, as well as specific conservation technologies and practices that can be adopted to ensure livelihood sustainability.

**SPEAKER**

Mary Munene, Coordinator, Cooperative Development Program, Land O’Lakes

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**PREPARING FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF FUTURE LIVELIHOODS**

**Integrating Women Farmers into Market Systems to Improve Food Security in Northern Ghana**

- **Room:** Auditorium
- **Country/Region:** Ghana

This session will highlight MEDA’s Greater Rural Opportunities for Women (GROW) project in northern Ghana, which aims to improve food security by helping women farmers increase and diversify farm production and strengthen market linkages. Participants in this session will learn how market-based approaches can help women farmers access information, inputs, and services they need to increase production and develop the skills and knowledge that will secure their families’ year-round. The session will also emphasize environmental challenges, as well as specific conservation technologies and practices that can be adopted to ensure livelihood sustainability.

**SPEAKERS**

Livinus Balog, Agriculture Technical Specialist, MEDA
Catherine Sobrevega, Country Project Manager, MEDA

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**ENTICING INVESTORS TO KEY AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS**

**Tactics for Incentivizing the Private Sector to Engage Smallholders in Fragmented Production Systems**

- **Room:** Ballroom
- **Country/Region:** Tanzania

This session will outline a set of tactics learned by the Coastal Rural Support Programme Tanzania (CRSPT) and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) for encouraging private sector involvement and investment with smallholders in relatively remote and fragmented production systems. It will focus on learning from AKF in Tanzania to illustrate the proposed tactics while drawing on experiences from similar initiatives in East Africa, including AKF activities with the private sector in Mozambique and Kenya. Participants will acquire a better understanding of the range and sequence of tactics that can generate gains for producers and private sector stakeholders in the value chain, including larger up and down stream input distributors and exporters, as well as local traders, rural shops, village agents, storage providers, millers, financial service providers, etc.

**SPEAKERS**

Trinnie Cartland, FSI Manager, Aga Khan Foundation Tanzania
Elizabeth Ndedya, Lead Social Organizer, Aga Khan Foundation Tanzania

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**LUNCH SESSIONS**

**11:45AM-1PM**

**OPTION 1: LUNCH & NETWORKING**

Grab some lunch and feel free to network with fellow participants or grab a seat in the Breakout Rooms.

**OPTION 2: INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION**

**Ballroom**

**The Role of the Rural Smallholder**

This interactive session will discuss the roles that rural smallholders can play in agricultural development in Africa. In particular, this session will explore to what extent smallholders should be encouraged to produce on their own land directly vs. renting their land to others on which to produce. At what point is a smallholder’s land too small to be economically sustainable? Do collective or contract farming change the equation?

**FACILITATORS**

Shari Berenbach, President & CEO, U.S. African Development Foundation
Jason Wolfe, Senior Household Economic Strengthening Advisor, USAID/Washington

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**Invest in Rwanda**

**Why invest in Rwanda**

**One Stop Concept:**

The Rwanda Development Board’s One Stop Centre enables company registration in just 4 hours.

Simplified licensing and permitting procedure:

- There is free online registration and access to all major doing business procedures

Sustained high economic growth:

- An average 7% GDP year on year growth since 2004, currency appreciation, highest GDP growth among major African economies

Robust Governance:

- Political stability, well functioning institutions, rule of law and zero tolerance to corruption

Access to regional markets:

- 150 million people in the East African Community, 400 million people in COMESA

Currency appreciation:

- Low inflation rate consistently remaining below 5%
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
1-2:30PM

REDUCING COSTS & RISKS OF SERVING RURAL CLIENTS
Leveraging SMS Technology to Create Transparency and Growth in Coffee Value Chains

Room: Meeting Room
Country/Region: Rwanda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya

This session will focus on TechnoServe’s experience in Eastern Africa, partnering with local market actors to create an ICT-based solution (known as SMS Bookkeeping) for coffee farmers to improve their livelihoods. This presentation demonstrates how ICT-based solutions can facilitate accurate, timely and “smart” information sharing to support all actors in the coffee industry and lead to increased access to markets, information, credit, and risk management tools. The objective of this session is to share insights and lessons learned from the project, and highlight opportunities for scalability in other geographies and regions. Participants will learn a framework for evaluating and identifying partnership opportunities for ICT-based solutions.

SPEAKERS
Nupur Parikh, Program Manager, TechnoServe
Moritz Waldstein Wartenberg, Transparency Innovations Manager, TechnoServe

PREPARING FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF FUTURE LIVELIHOODS
Education that Pays for Itself- A Market-Driven Approach to Improving Rural Livelihoods

Room: Auditorium
Country/Region: Paraguay, Tanzania

In this session, participants will learn about Fundación Paraguaya’s financially self-sufficient (FSS) school model, a 100% market-driven rural education model that seeks to transform low-income youth into “rural entrepreneurs.” The model, which was developed in Paraguay and successfully replicated in Tanzania, integrates the teaching of traditional secondary school subjects and technical skills, including financial literacy, entrepreneurial and business skills, with the running of small-scale on-campus rural enterprises. The income generated by the school-based enterprises covers 100% of the school’s operating costs, allowing poor students to attend at virtually no cost to their families and without government subsidies nor long-term reliance on donors. Participants will learn about how the FSS model was successfully adapted to the African context and how it can be scaled and replicated in other countries.

SPEAKERS
Nupur Parikh, Program Manager, TechnoServe
Moritz Waldstein Wartenberg, Transparency Innovations Manager, TechnoServe

ENTICING INVESTORS TO KEY AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS
Facilitating Corporate Investment in Sustainable Value Chain Development

Room: Ballroom
Country/Region: Ghana

Cross-sector partnerships are complex and require specific know-how, considerable resources and smart solutions. This session will share experiences and lessons from an inclusive business model that has successfully leveraged corporate investment in sustainable value chain development. The presentation will explore how the Cocoa Life partnership - involving NGOs, government and chocolate company Mondelēz International - supported smallholders to increase their productivity and income. Participants will learn about the partners’ approaches to make the cocoa value chain inclusive and sustainable through systemic change in a multi-stakeholder context.

SPEAKERS
Alessandra Lustreti, Senior Private Sector Advisor, CARE International UK
Harry Akama, Cocoa Life Project Manager, World Vision Ghana
Paul Amever, Program Manager, M&E, Cocoa Life Ghana, Mondelēz International
Mawuli Asigbee, Cocoa Life Project Manager, CARE Ghana

COFFEE & NETWORKING
2:30-2:45PM
REDUCING COSTS & RISKS OF SERVING RURAL CLIENTS
An Agricultural Franchise Model for On-Lending to Rural Farmers
Room: Auditorium
Country/Region: Nigeria

Babban Gona is an agricultural franchise model on a path to lift 500,000 smallholder farmers out of poverty by 2020 in Nigeria. This session will discuss Babban Gona’s approach to reducing the risks and costs associated with on-lending to rural populations, while equipping participants with practical tools and frameworks which can be replicated in participants’ own institutions. Using Babban Gona as a case study, participants will identify risks and its drivers, learn a framework for developing effective risk mitigation strategies, and explore how to reduce costs by unlocking value.

SPKERS
Chinwe Osuji, Head of Human Development, Doreo Partners

PREPARING FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF FUTURE LIVELIHOODS
An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Rwanda
Room: Ballroom
Country/Region: Rwanda

This session will take on a talk show format to explore the topic of sustainable livelihoods development in Rwanda. Four panelists will share experiences from two livelihoods programs, including USAID’s Ejo Heza Program and the Rwanda Agriculture Board’s Farmer Field School approach (supported by the Belgian Development Agency). Panelist expertise includes: integrated approaches to sustainable livelihoods (including financial services, literacy, agriculture, health and nutrition, and behavioral change); nutrition integration; ways in which government officials are working with communities and NGOs; and transferring knowledge and skills to farmers in the field.

SPKERS
Waringa Kibe, Rural Finance & Marketing Advisor, USAID Ejo Heza, Global Communities
Jeanne d’Arc Nijirayambe, Senior Nutrition Advisor, USAID Ejo Heza, Save the Children International
Raf Somers, Program Co-Manager, Belgian Development Agency BTC
Thomas Habanabakize, Facilitator, Farmer Field School

ENTICING INVESTORS TO KEY AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS
Catalyzing Smallholder Agricultural Finance
Room: Meeting Room
Country/Region: Peru, Kenya, Colombia, Indonesia, Nigeria

The world’s 450 million smallholder farmers represent a large – and largely unmet – opportunity for agricultural financing. As population and income growth create unprecedented demand for food, multinational companies increasingly rely on smallholders to secure their supply of agricultural commodities. This session will review the five major pathways to providing agricultural financing revealed in Dalberg’s Catalyzing Smallholder Agricultural Finance report developed for the Citi and Skoll Foundations. By the end, participants will understand supply and demand for smallholder agricultural financing, five high-value pathways and the beneficiaries thereof, and how their organization can coordinate with others to pilot these types of financing.

SPKERS
Andrew Keck, Vice President, Engility
Yariv Kedar, Managing Director, Sustainable Agribusiness, Balton Group (Amiran Kenya)
Thomas Habanabakize, Partner & Director, Dalberg Africa & Food Security, Dalberg Global Development Advisors
Julianne Kayonga, Country Manager, Starbucks Rwanda

COFFEE & NETWORKING
4:15-4:30PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
2:45-4:15PM

AFTERNOON PLENARY
4:30-6PM

PLENARY PANEL
Ballroom
4:30-5:30PM
Private Sector Roles in Facilitating Positive Behavioral Changes

Learn how the private sector encourages smallholders to engage in good agricultural practices, prepare for certification requirements and satisfy market demands. This panel will examine how private sector companies are working with farmers to facilitate positive behavior changes to encourage smallholders to invest in improving the quality and quantity of their production, respond to client demands and take responsibility for improving their own livelihoods.

FACILITATOR
Andrew Keck, Vice President, Engility

PANELISTS
Julianne Kayonga, Country Manager, Starbucks Rwanda
Dipesh Devraj, Outgrower & Logistics Manager, VegPro K Ltd.
Yariv Kedar, Managing Director, Sustainable Agribusiness, Balton Group (Amiran Kenya)
Morges Gebremedhin, Regional BCC Advisor, Danya International

DAY 1 WRAP-UP
Ballroom
5:30-6PM

SPEAKER
Nikolaus Eichman, Public Private Partnership & Agribusiness Specialist, AZMJ

SPONSORED BY
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Making the Difference

MUSIC AND DANCE
Music and dance are an integral part of Rwandan ceremonies, festivals, social gatherings, and storytelling. The most famous traditional dance is Intore, a highly choreographed routine consisting of three components - the ballet, performed by women; the dance of heroes, performed by men; and the drums.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION
6-8PM

AUDITORIUM

Join us for a networking reception hosted by KCB Bank Rwanda in the Auditorium on the ground floor of the Serena Hotel. The reception will begin with open networking and a traditional Rwandan dance performance. The evening will conclude with remarks from AZMJ, KCB Bank Rwanda, and the Honorable Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Minister of Agriculture & Animal Resources.
**MORNING PLENARY**

**8:30-10AM**

**WELCOME REMARKS**
Ballroom 8:30-9AM

**SPEAKER**
Milton Funes, Country Director, Global Communities Rwanda

**PLENARY PANEL**
Ballroom 9:00-10AM

Practitioner Approaches to Improving Food Security

Ensuring food security requires an integrated approach to development, coordinating resources from donors, private companies and value chain stakeholders. This panel will view the issue from the lens of the development project practitioner to see what innovations and initiatives have made a positive impact and how they can be scaled and sustained.

**FACILITATOR**
Brook Johnson, Senior Technical Advisor, NCBA/CLUSA

**PANELISTS**
Vanessa Adams, Chief of Party, USAID Agricultural Growth Program - Agribusiness and Market Development, ACDI/VOCA Ethiopia
Kimberly Tilocl, Country Director, Kenya, Global Communities
Tim Muzira, Value Chains Manager, East Africa Exchange

**COFFEE & NETWORKING**

10-10:15AM

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

10:15-11:45AM

**REDUCING COSTS & RISKS OF SERVING RURAL CLIENTS**

**The Microfinance Diet: How to Shed Weight and Improve Efficiency through Smarter Business Models**

**Room:** Meeting Room  
**Country/Region:** Russia, Eastern Europe, Rwanda

Through a Centralized Lending Model, microfinance institutions can tackle one of the most persistent challenges in the last 20 years: high operational costs. Through this session, participants will learn how this innovative lending model can create a positive impact by streamlining lending processes, increasing staff productivity and efficiency, and improving customer convenience. In addition to discussing an overview of the model and its successes and challenges, the session will also guide participants through a self-assessment to gain insight into their own organization’s inefficiencies and how the concepts presented can be applied.

**SPEAKER**
Tatiana Dolgaya, Product Development Manager, Business & Finance Consulting
Michael Kortenbusch, Managing Director, Business & Finance Consulting

**PREPARING FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF FUTURE LIVELIHOODS**

**Drivers of Financial Inclusion for Rural Youth in Morocco and Mali**

**Room:** Auditorium  
**Country/Region:** Morocco, Mali

For young people living in rural areas, having access to financial services can be especially challenging, given their limited resources. Even when they do access financial services, there are risks involved, so it becomes critical that the products and services are designed appropriately to decrease vulnerability. This interactive session will highlight MEDA and Freedom from Hunger’s (FFH) experiences in providing integrated financial and non-financial services to rural youth in Morocco and Mali. Using MEDA and FFH’s work as case studies, participants will learn about and discuss key drivers to increasing financial inclusion for rural youth. Discussions will focus on product design and replicability of successful models, integration of non-financial services to build the financial capability of young people, and client protection principles.

**SPEAKERS**
Jennifer Denomy, Director, Youth Economic Opportunities, MEDA  
Mazouz Oumarou, Microfinance Advisor, AIM Youth, Freedom From Hunger  
Rossana Ramirez, Director, Youth Microfinance, Freedom From Hunger  
Adil Sadoq, Field Project Manager, MEDA

**ENTICING INVESTORS TO KEY AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS**

**Profiling Investors for East African Investment Opportunities**

**Room:** Ballroom  
**Country/Region:** East Africa

Are successful investments characterized by that of the investor or the investment opportunity? Based on their experience advising East African investors, Karisimbi considers the characteristics of the investor to be as significant as the characteristics of the investment, and has identified the key differentiators of successful investors. The goal of this session is to discuss the characteristics of those investors, how to find them, and how to equip them with the information they need to succeed in generating the targeted return on that investment. Participants will no longer merely seek to “entice investors”, but will seek to find qualified investors and effectively inform them about the relevant opportunities.

**SPEAKERS**
Jon Porter, Lead Investment Manager, Karisimbi Capital Partners  
Hunter Thompson, Director, Karisimbi Business Partners

**Arts and Crafts**

Traditional arts and crafts are produced throughout the country, although most originated as functional items rather than purely for decoration. Woven baskets and bowls are especially common. The south east of Rwanda is noted for imigongo, a unique cow dung art, whose history dates back to when the region was part of the independent Gisaka kingdom. The dung is mixed with natural soils of various colors and painted into patterned ridges, forming geometric shapes. Other crafts include pottery and wood carving.
LUNCH SESSIONS
11:45AM-1PM

OPTION 1: LUNCH & NETWORKING
Grab some lunch and feel free to network with fellow participants or grab a seat in the Breakout Rooms.

OPTION 2: RAPIDFIRE SESSION
Ballroom

Reducing Costs & Risks of Rural Finance
Access to Finance Rwanda (AFR) is a company promoting access to financial services in Rwanda, supported with funds from DFID, the World Bank, and KFW. AFR’s implementation approach is done at three different sectoral levels, including the micro, meso and macro level. This presentation will highlight AFR’s approach and possible strategies to supporting the development of inclusive finance in Rwanda.

SPEAKER
Judith Aguga Acon, Technical Speaker
Finance in Rwanda.

Scaling Up Youth Workforce Development
The USAID-funded Rwanda Akazi Kanoze (AK) project’s goals are to prepare youth for work, connect them to employment, and build capacity of local institutions to prepare youth for work. AK’s core activity is to deliver an innovative Work Readiness and Entrepreneurship curriculum that emphasizes the soft-skills necessary for employment or self-employment, along with a set of market driven youth livelihoods’ services. This session will highlight the project’s approach, which has encouraged the beginnings of scale up and allows for future, larger-scale sustainability.

SPEAKER
Melanie Sany, Chief of Party, USAID Akazi Kanoze, Education Development Center, Inc.

Closing the Land Rights Knowledge Gap in Agricultural Development
Access to secure land rights is a major constraint for smallholder farmers and economic development in Africa. Insecure tenure discourages long-term investments needed to improve agricultural productivity, sustainability, and incomes. This session will highlight what the Focus on Land in Africa project is doing to address the land rights knowledge gap within development practitioners and policy makers.

SPEAKER
Bee Wuethrich, Communications & Outreach Specialist, Landesa

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
1-2:45PM

REDDING COSTS & RISKS OF SERVING RURAL CLIENTS
Evidence Based Analysis for a Food Secure World
Room: Meeting Room
Country/Region: Rwanda
The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) is the world’s premier provider of high quality food security analysis and early warning. Created in response to the 1984 famines in East and West Africa, this activity aims to collaborate with international, regional, and national partners to provide timely and rigorous early warning and analysis of potential, emerging, and/or evolving food security issues in order to inform appropriate humanitarian response. This session will highlight the food security analytical framework, which entails livelihoods zone maps, commodity production and trade flow mapping, the Household Economy Approach (HEA), weather and climate monitoring, seasonal performance monitoring, market analysis, and food consumption and nutrition.

SPEAKERS
Dan Chizelma, National Technical Manager, USAID FEWS NET Rwanda, Chemonics International
Jean Claude Bucumi, Technical Assistant, USAID FEWS NET Rwanda, Chemonics

Fee-for-Services to Scale Savings Groups and Smallholder Engagement in Agricultural Markets
Room: Auditorium
Country/Region: Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia
Agriculture-led development is a critical opportunity for reducing poverty, improving food security and stimulating economic growth in Africa. A core strategy for realizing this opportunity is building capacity of smallholders to engage with agricultural markets. However, current approaches of government-funded extension programs or donor-funded projects tend to be resource intensive and not scalable. This session will explore Catholic Relief Services’ Private Service Provider approach to developing smallholder capacity and increasing potential for market engagement. This approach involves training community facilitators to work with smallholders with savings, extension and business development services within a ‘project format’, and allowing market forces to take over from subsidies whereby beneficiaries pay fee-for-services.

SPEAKERS
Guy Vanmeenen, Senior Technical Advisor, Microfinance Africa, CRS
Davina Boyd, Research Project Manager, Agroenterprise in Africa, Murdoch University

PREPARING FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF FUTURE LIVELIHOODS
Evidence Based Analysis for a Food Secure World
Room: Meeting Room
Country/Region: Rwanda
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SPEAKERS
Dan Chizelma, National Technical Manager, USAID FEWS NET Rwanda, Chemonics International
Jean Claude Bucumi, Technical Assistant, USAID FEWS NET Rwanda, Chemonics

ENTICING INVESTORS TO KEY AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS
Investing in Rwandan Specialty Coffee
Room: Ballroom
Country/Region: Rwanda
This session will trace the trajectory of the coffee industry’s development in Rwanda, identifying key interventions that created a launching pad for Rwanda’s specialty coffee market and paved the way for private sector investment. Specifically, the session will explore the role played by USAID projects (ADAR, PEARL I and II and SPREAD) in improving productivity, quality control, access to finance and strategic marketing in the growth of supply and demand for Rwandan quality coffee. By the end of the session, participants will be familiar with the evolution of the Rwandan specialty coffee industry, the approaches used to build the industry and the impact it has had on Rwandan farmers. Participants will understand and be able to describe interventions and lessons learned from USAID’s experience promoting investment in Rwandan specialty coffee.

SPEAKERS
John Berry, Independent Consultant
Bosco Munga, Independent Consultant
Maurice Wiener, Independent Consultant

COFFEE & NETWORKING
2:30-2:45PM
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
2:45-4:15PM

REDUCING COSTS & RISKS OF SERVING RURAL CLIENTS
Promoting Agriculture Credit Finance through Mobile Money Systems

**Room:** Meeting Room
**Country/Region:** Nigeria

In Nigeria, Fortis Microfinance Bank’s experience over the past five years has shown that clients, especially those involved in agriculture, desire more cost-effective means for drawing down loans and making repayments, as the transaction costs associated with traveling to bank branches can be high. This session will explore Fortis’ approach to developing and utilizing a mobile money platform, and how it has reduced transaction costs and risks for farmers, boosted farmer savings, and increased organizational efficiency. Participants will take part in a case study exercise and learn about clients’ experience using the platform.

**SPEAKER**
Ucha Unimike-Usoyi, Head Bank PLC, Abuja, Fortis Microfinance Bank

**SPEAKERS**
Dr. Joseph Ubek, M&E Officer, Fortis Microfinance Bank

PREPARING FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF FUTURE LIVELIHOODS
Improving Livelihoods through Innovations in Rural Finance

**Room:** Ballroom
**Country/Region:** Rwanda

This session aims to illustrate an innovative grain merchandizing credit product developed through a partnership between the USAID Post Harvest Handling Storage (PHHS) project and Kenyan Commercial Bank (KCB), as well as how the role of USAID PHHS in packaging deals has been transitioned to a local private sector partner, Synergiadev. This collaboration sought to resolve a fundamental problem in Rwanda’s grain merchandizing system that impacted the viability of cooperatives and prices received by farmers for their marketable surpluses. The impact has been transformational, making grain merchandizing a viable activity for coops and allowing them to deliver on the promise of higher farm-gate prices offered by itinerant traders.

**SPEAKERS**
Nathan Van Dusen, Africa Director, CARANA Corporation
William Budugire, Synergiadev
George Odhiambo, Head of Retail Banking, KCB Bank Rwanda

ENTICING INVESTORS TO KEY AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS
Best Practices in Agribusiness Investment: Lessons from Grow Africa

**Room:** Auditorium
**Country/Region:** Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal and Malawi

Through work with USAID and Grow Africa, Monitor Deloitte has surveyed over 800 companies with agriculture value chain investments and supply chains in Africa to understand their motivations and interests as well as challenges and concerns when considering agribusiness sector investment in the region. Monitor Deloitte will share the lessons learned from those conversations including a roadmap for best practices, and a key focus will be placed on the challenges for governments targeting investment promotion activities and what they can do better. In this session, participants will increase their understanding of investment best practices and have the opportunity to discuss their experiences related to best practices versus on-the-ground reality.

**SPEAKERS**
Pradeep Prabhala, Senior Manager, Monitor Deloitte
William Carlton Jones Jr., Associate Director, Monitor Deloitte South Africa

COFFEE & NETWORKING
4:15-4:30PM

AFTERNOON PLENARY
4:30-6PM

PLENARY PANEL
Ballroom 4:30-5:30PM

**How Donors Can Ensure Proper Feeding of a Growing Population**

Discover how donors are employing innovative strategies to address food security concerns in Africa, including access to clean water and nutrition, as well as how to support females and youth engaged in small-scale agriculture and other livelihoods. Representatives from leading donor agencies will discuss the different approaches used and their lessons learned in how to maximize investments while at the same time tackling the pressing issue of food insecurity in the region.

**FACILITATOR**
Lindsay Wallace, Deputy Director, Financial Inclusion, The MasterCard Foundation

**PANELISTS**
Mike Hammond, Head, DFID Rwanda
Colin Dreizin, Field Investment Officer, USAID/Development Credit Authority
Elizabeth Diebold, USAID Feed the Future

CLOSING REMARKS
Ballroom 5:30-6PM

**SPEAKERS**
Anita Campion, President, AZMJ
Honorble François Kanumba, Minister of Trade and Industry of Rwanda

Volcanoes National Park

Volcanoes National Park lies in northwestern Rwanda. The national park is known as a haven for the mountain gorilla. It is home to five of the eight volcanoes of the Virunga Mountains (Karisimbi, Bisoke, Muhabura, Gahinga and Sabyinyo), which are covered in rainforest and bamboo.
**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**VANESSA ADAMS**
Chief of Party, USAID
Agricultural Growth Program
- Agribusiness and Market Development
ACDI/VOCA

Vanessa is the Chief of Party (COP) for the USAID Agricultural Growth Program - Agribusiness and Market Development project, implemented by ACDI/VOCA. The project has already generated more than $30 million in exports and $26 million in increased farm-gate sales, transforming six agricultural commodity value chains to increase incomes and food security for one million smallholder farmers. Previously, as COP for the USAID West Africa Trade Hub, Vanessa facilitated $370 million in exports and catalyzed $20 million in regional and international investments in the agribusiness and manufacturing sectors.

**JUDITH AGUGA ACON**
Technical Director
Access to Finance Rwanda

Judith currently serves as Technical Director of Access to Finance Rwanda (AFR), a company funded by DFID, the World Bank and KFW to support the development of inclusive finance in Rwanda. Previously, she served as the Chief Technical Advisor to UNCDF, UNDP and Ministry of Finance in Lesotho. Judith’s 18 years of work and consulting experience have equipped her with a broad range of practical and policy-related skills. She studied economics at the undergraduate and postgraduate level and has direct experience in the management of financial institutions, fund management, value chain development as well setting up of rural financial systems (such as Village savings and loans methodology, micro leasing, inventory credit, and input credit approaches).

**HARRY AKAMA**
Cocoa Life Project Manager
World Vision Ghana

Harry is the Economic Development Coordinator and the Cocoa Life Project Manager for World Vision Ghana. He facilitates interventions that enable people, particularly women and youth, to increase their income earning capacities so that they are sufficiently empowered to provide for their families and assure the wellbeing of children. He is also responsible for facilitating entrepreneurial/business skills and market access opportunities that provide sustainable market solutions to micro entrepreneurs in World Vision Ghana’s operational areas. Harry is an accountant by profession and has working knowledge in microfinance (both microcredit and savings groups) and value chain development.

**PAUL AMEVOR**
Program Manager, M&E,
Cocoa Life Ghana

Paul works as Program Manager of Monitoring and Evaluation with the Cocoa Life Program for Mondelēz International. He is an agricultural economist with over 20 years of experience in project planning and monitoring and evaluation in a variety of positions with international private voluntary organizations (PVOs) in Ghana. He has several years of experience working on projects funded by bilateral and international funding agencies, including USAID, where he was involved in the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems and reporting procedures.

**FINANCE**
- Rural and agricultural finance
- Value chain finance
- Microfinance
- Institutional due diligence
- Market research and analysis
- Impact assessment
- Insurance

**ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**
- Micro, small and medium enterprise development
- Public-private sector partnering
- Value chain analysis and strengthening
- Market research and analysis
- Project design & management
- Training design & delivery
- Monitoring & Evaluation

**WWW.AZMJ.ORG | INFO@AZMJ.ORG**
MAWULI ASIGBEE
Cocoa Life Project Manager
CARE Ghana

Mawuli works as Project Manager for the Cocoa Life Program for CARE International in Ghana. His background is in Agricultural Economics and Administration, with 16 years of experience in agriculture and rural development in Ghana. He is very passionate about private enterprise development, especially in agricultural products and value chains. Mawuli previously worked with private agricultural businesses, Ghana’s Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and USAID, as well as with other private donor funded agricultural development projects in Ghana.

SPEAKING
1:2-3:00PM TUESDAY
Facilitating Corporate Investment in Sustainable Value Chain Development

LIVINUS BALOG
Agriculture Technical Specialist
MEDA

Livinus is a technical specialist on sustainable agriculture. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Economics and has a broad range of experience in agribusiness and conservation agriculture projects in Ghana. His primary responsibility is providing technical expertise to MEDA’s Grow Project on soybean production and conservation agriculture. Before MEDA, Livinus worked with CARE International for four years as the Project Facilitator of the Conservation Agriculture Project (CAP) in Ghana’s upper west region, which focused on improving soil fertility and environmental and natural resource management. He also served as the Project Manager of a local agriculture and food security project, the Lassia Tuu Agricultural Project (LAP), for five years.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM TUESDAY
Integrating Women Farmers into Market Systems to Improve Food Security in Northern Ghana

SHARI BERENBACH
President and CEO
USADF

Shari is President and CEO of the United States African Development Foundation (USADF), a public corporation in the U.S. government promoting economic development in marginalized, underdeveloped rural communities. USADF builds capacity and expands businesses at the grassroots level, benefiting 1.2 million people and encouraging shared prosperity. Shari’s 30-year career spans from microfinance to international banking. From 2010-12, she directed USAID’s Microenterprise & Private Enterprise Promotion Office, increasing financial and market resources to rural areas and smallholders. A pioneer in impact investing, she was President and CEO of the Calvert Foundation, a non-profit financial intermediary that mobilizes capital from social investors to meet critical financing needs in communities.

SPEAKING
1:2-3:00PM WEDNESDAY
Investing in Rwandan Specialty Coffee

DAVINA BOYD
Research Project Manager, Agroenterprise in Africa
Murdoch University

Davina is an applied researcher and consultant in the areas of capacity building, development and sustainability. She works with diverse stakeholder groups to build institutional and individual capacity in sustainable livelihoods, governance, cultural awareness and community wellbeing. Currently, she is the principal investigator for Agroenterprise in Africa, a collaborative research project between Murdoch University, Catholic Relief Services and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, funded by the AusAID Development Research Award Scheme. This research project explores innovative ways to build the capacity of smallholder farmers in Malawi and Zambia to connect with markets.

SPEAKING
1:2-3:00PM WEDNESDAY
Evidence Based Analysis for a Food Secure World

JEAN CLAUDE BUCUMI
Technical Assistant, USAID
FEWS NET Rwanda

Jean Claude is a Technical Assistant for USAID’s Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Rwanda project. He has a background in meteorology sciences from Rwanda Meteorology Agency where he worked and was in charge of agro-meteorology before moving to the Kirehe Water Shade Management Project to serve as the M&E Officer. He holds a Bachelors degree in Soil and Agriculture Engineering and holds a Masters degree in Public Health.

SPEAKING
1:2-3:00PM WEDNESDAY
Evidence Based Analysis for a Food Secure World

ANITA CAMPION
President
AZMJ

Anita is President and Founder of AZMJ, a global consulting firm that specializes in rural and agricultural finance and enterprise development in developing countries. Anita has had experience in more than 20 years of experience in international finance and private sector development. Previously, she worked for Chemonics International, managing projects related to SME finance, leasing and bank restructuring, as well as prudential regulation and supervision of microfinance institutions. She also led research on agricultural value chains and designed training tools as Director of the AMAP Knowledge Generation project.

SPEAKING
5:30-6PM WEDNESDAY
Closing Remarks

TRINNIE CARTLAND
FSI Manager
Aga Khan Foundation

Trinnie is the Program Manager for Production and Market Development with the Coastal Rural Support Programme Tanzania (CRSPT), a local partner of the Aga Khan Foundation Tanzania. She has been heading this component for the past two years, leading the rice and sesame value chain projects in southern Tanzania. She has over 20 years of experience managing commercial agriculture businesses in East Africa’s private sector, including her own business which she continues to manage in Kenya.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM TUESDAY
Tactics for Incerticizing the Private Sector to Engage Smallholders in Fragmented Production Systems

TRINNIE CARTLAND
Research Project Manager, Agroenterprise in Africa
Murdoch University

Jean Claude is a Technical Assistant for USAID’s Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Rwanda project. He has a background in meteorology sciences from Rwanda Meteorology Agency where he worked and was in charge of agro-meteorology before moving to the Kirehe Water Shade Management Project to serve as the M&E Officer. He holds a Bachelors degree in Soil and Agriculture Engineering and holds a Masters degree in Public Health.

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SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM TUESDAY
Tactics for Incerticizing the Private Sector to Engage Smallholders in Fragmented Production Systems
**AFRICANUS CHALAMILA**
Project Manager, Tanzania Country Office
Fundación Paraguaya

Africanus is a Project Manager and Technical Advisor of Fundación Paraguaya’s “Financially Self-Sufficient School” project in Tanzania. A seasoned professional, he has two decades of work experience in government, international non-profit organizations and business settings. With a background in Community Development and Business Administration, Africanus thinks that improving rural livelihoods and food security needs an integral approach and deep analysis of the community’s intention, behavior, culture and system.

**JULIA CORVALAN**
Tanzania Country Office Manager
Fundación Paraguaya

Julia currently serves as Fundación Paraguaya’s (FP) Tanzania Country Office Manager where she oversees the replication of FP’s ‘Financially Self-Sufficient School’ model in the secondary schools in Tanzania. Prior to her move to East Africa, she was Deputy Manager at FP’s headquarters in Asunción, Paraguay, assisting in different areas to advance the mission and strategy of the organization. Julia first joined FP in 2007, and she is currently based in Morogoro, Tanzania.

**MICHAEL DE KLERK**
Senior Research Fellow Centre for Inclusive Banking in Africa, University of Pretoria

Mike is a veteran lecturer in economics and business economics, lecturing first at the University of the Witwatersrand and then at the University of Cape Town for 20 years. His consultancies as a lecturer focused on land reform, agriculture and rural development in South Africa. Post-academic positions include high level positions at the Land Bank, Human Sciences Research Council, ComMark Trust/Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies and the National Agricultural Marketing Council. Since 2010, as an independent professional consultant, he has undertaken assignments, mainly in the fields of agricultural/rural finance strategy and small farm development.

**WOUTER DEELDER**
Partner Dalberg

Wouter is a Partner in Dalberg’s Geneva office. His key area of focus is advising clients on sustainable value chains, impact investment and public-private engagement. Wouter has deep experience with agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa and has advised multiple corporations on sourcing and processing a range of commodities in the region. Previously, he worked with the Gates Foundation to analyze potential options for involving the private sector in a global initiative to combat the prevalence of wheat rust. Most recently, he helped lead an engagement for the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative focused on developing a multi-party (public/private) cocoa investment portfolio in West Africa.

**JENNIFER DENOMY**
Director, Youth Economic Opportunities
MEDA

Jennifer is the Director of Youth Economic Opportunities at MEDA. She manages projects in Egypt, Morocco and Afghanistan, supporting non-formal education, workplace safety initiatives and access to decent work for youth. She also facilitates the SEEP Network’s “Innovations in Youth Financial Services” Practitioner Learning Program. Prior to joining MEDA, Jennifer worked as a pedagogical manager of a teacher training center in Germany and a curriculum designer for BRAC’s Nonformal Primary Education Program in Bangladesh. Jennifer holds an M.Ed. in Comparative, International and Development Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto and an MA from McGill University.

**DIPESH DEVRAJ**
Outgrower & Logistics Manager
VegPro K Ltd.

Dipesh has extensive experience in export marketing, has full understanding of all phases of agri-cultural and horticultural production and export business. He has a proven ability to deliver management, leadership and commercial skills to integrated private sector, government, and aid development projects. Dipesh has held different positions on premium and prepared vegetable production from management accountant to operations, commercial, farming and smallholder liaison.

**NIMNA DIATÉ**
President
FEPROMAS

Nimna is the President of FEPROMAS, a federation of gender-mixed maize growers in Senegal’s central zone. Her organization supports the procurement of seasonal credit for small-scale maize producers, access to improved technical services and movement beyond subsistence, towards integration with emerging domestic markets. She supervises contractual maize production and marketing, as well seasonal credit for 3,000 individuals farming 15,000 acres. Nimna lives in Boubou Dème village in Kaoa (center of Senegal). As a housewife and mother, she runs her own farm unit that grew from 2 hectares in 2009 to 20 hectares in 2013.

**SPEAKING**
11:45AM WEDNESDAY
Rapid Fire Session: Increasing Revenues and Improving Food Security through Farming Associations
A Growing Population Can Ensure Proper Feeding of SMEs in developing countries.

Elizabeth Diebold
Head, Agriculture Finance and Investment USAID

Elizabeth is the head of the Bureau for Food Security’s Agriculture Finance and Investment team at USAID. Focusing on the nexus of private sector investment and international development, she has held positions in microfinance, social investment, corporate social responsibility, public/private partnership development, and investment facilitation. Elizabeth led the effort on behalf of the U.S. Government to secure private sector investment commitments to launch the New Alliance for Investment in Agriculture. Elizabeth currently serves as the head of USAID’s New Alliance for Investment, a 10-year, $3.3 billion global investment initiative to expand scale-out and linkages, including for large USAID and private sector development projects. She is currently the Lead Private Sector Development Advisor to the New Alliance for Investment and leads efforts to ensure that the agricultural value chains and investment facilitation.

Tatiana Dolgaya
Product Development Manager Business & Finance Consulting

Tatiana is the Product Development Manager for Business & Finance Consulting, researching and developing new models in areas such as efficient, low-overhead microfinance, mobile banking, and due diligence. She is focused on finding new ways to leverage technology for lower costs and greater scale. Prior to her current role, Tatiana worked on research and due diligence projects in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Vietnam, Nepal, and Bangladesh, built a web startup, and spent six years as a bank regulator in the United States. Tatiana holds a BA in Finance from the University of Washington and an MBA from Seattle University.

Colin Dreizin
Field Investment Officer USAID Development Credit Authority

As Field Investment Officer for USAID’s Development Credit Authority, Colin is tasked with utilizing his private sector background to originate deals that will expand linkages between USAID field operations and private firms and investors. Prior to being assigned to Nairobi, Colin led the USAID Economic Growth team in the Dominican Republic. As a software industry veteran, he has helped launch numerous startups and has worked at both Apple and Microsoft. While a volunteer in Nepal, he taught university-level computer science and project management and designed software systems for the government to mitigate the effects of fraud and corruption. He received his MBA from the Johnson School at Cornell.

Nikolaus Eichman
Agribusiness and Public Private Partnership Specialist AZMJ

Nikolaus is an International Development Consultant with nine years of experience in project management, developing agricultural value chains and creating market and investor linkages, including for large USAID and private sector development projects. He is currently the Head of New Business Development and an Agribusiness and Public Private Partnership Specialist at AZMJ. Nikolaus plays an instrumental role applying the AZMJ business model of connecting sustainable sourcing initiatives in agriculture to comprehensive development projects including donors, investors and value chain actors as project stakeholders. Before entering the field of International Development, he worked as a scout for angel investors, a management consultant for manufacturing companies and a project manager for large commercial building and mining operations.

Eunice Ekodi
Head, Agricultural Finance Fortis Microfinance Bank

Eunice is currently Head of the Agriculture Finance Department at Fortis Microfinance Bank. A graduate from the Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, she previously worked at Integrated Microfinance Bank for five years. At Fortis, her responsibilities include implementation of the Central Bank of Nigeria - Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme for Farmers, monitoring agricultural portfolios and implementing extension services at various levels of the agricultural value chain. She has certifications in microfinance, enterprise risk management, credit administration, loan recovery and proficiency in management.

Milton Furnes
Country Director, Rwanda Global Communities

Milton currently serves as Country Director of Global Communities Rwanda, Chief of Party (COP) for the USAID Higa Ubeho program and acting COP of USAID Epo Heza program. Milton has 20 years of international development experience, with expertise in NGO capacity building, health, social infrastructure, urban planning, microfinance and economic development. Prior to Rwanda and as Global Communities’ Country Director in Honduras, Milton was the Program Director for the Global Fund-funded program for Health Protection in HIV/AIDS with an emphasis on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). Milton has supported Global Communities programs in Afghanistan, Haiti, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Bolivia and Georgia.

Moses Gebremedhin
Regional BCC Advisor Danya International

Moses is a communications professional with more than 15 years of experience working in communication and media development in Africa. His background includes work in media training, public sector communication and outreach, strategic communication planning, and behavior change communication. Moses currently provides technical support for behavior change communications components on three Feed the Future projects in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Zambia. Prior to this, he was the contract director on the USAID-funded Zambia Communications Support for Health (CSH) Program. Moses holds a Bachelor’s degree in political science and international relations from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Master’s degree in Communications from Johns Hopkins University.

Thomas Habanabakize
Facilitator Farmer Field School

Thomas works in agriculture, focusing on maize, common beans and soybean. Since recently, he has been trained by the Rwandan Agriculture Board to become a Farmer Field School (FFS) facilitator in soybean and common bean. Presently, he has established a new FFS group comprising of 31 farmers who are learning good agronomic practices under his facilitation for a sustainable increase of productivity. He is expecting to skill more farmers through FFS to develop locally adapted solutions to address the various ground constraints.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
Can Ensure Proper Feeding of Plenary Panel: How Donors

4:30-5:30PM WEDNESDAY

SPEAKING

Government of Zambia with its help introduced a wide variety of agricultural practices in Africa, the Pacific, and Caribbean regions. Mike has worked with the Department for International Development (DFID) Rwanda Department for International Development (DFID) on initiatives supporting the development of Rwanda to develop agriculture and nutrition in the country’s nutrition programs and resource management, food security, and agribusiness issues in Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Chad, Gabon, Liberia and Indonesia. NCBA/ CLUSA manages the USAID-funded food security project, AR2IKI, in Niger, and the USAID Yaajeende program on agriculture and nutrition in Senegal.

SEATING

9-10AM WEDNESDAY

Plenary Panel: Practitioner Approaches to Improving Food Security

1. MIKE HAMMOND
Head, DFID Rwanda
DFID
Mike is Head of the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID) Rwanda office. He has been in post since August 2012. DFID is working with the Government of Rwanda to develop initiatives supporting the country’s nutrition programs through its work in the agricultural sector. Prior to this, Mike headed DFID’s offices in Zambia, Uganda, Ghana and the Evaluation Department. He has also served in South Africa, the Pacific, and Caribbean regions. Mike has helped introduce a wide variety of policy interventions around nutrition and food security, most recently supporting the Government of Zambia with its SUN program.

2. ANGELA HANSEN
Partner & Director, Agriculture & Food Security
Dalberg Global Development Advisors
Angela is the Director of Dalberg’s Agriculture and Food Security Practice. She has served clients in Europe, North and South America, Asia and North, West and Southern Africa, including the World Bank, IFC, IFAD, FAO and WFP. Angela has extensive experience working with multilateral agribusinesses, indigenous agri-SMEs and private equity investors. Her recent work focuses on developing innovative models for financing smallholder farmers. Angela holds an MBA from a joint program at the University of Cape Town and Columbia Business School. She is a contributing author to the book Corporate Citizenship in Africa: Lessons from the Past, Paths to the Future.

3. BROOK JOHNSON
Senior Technical Advisor
NCBA/CLUA
Brook is a Senior Technical Advisor with NCBA/CLUA, currently based in Nairobi, Kenya. With a Master’s degree in Forestry from Oxford University, he has 20 years of experience working in the fields of economic growth, industry and cluster competitiveness, trade and investment, and value chain development. He looks after Monitor Deloitte’s African Economic Development and Competitiveness Practice from Johannesburg, South Africa. As a Development and Trade Economist, Carlton has worked in 22 African countries. He has consulted, implemented projects, and evaluated and advised various governments, international donors, NGOs, foundations, and private sector clients throughout the world.

4. WILLIAM CARLTON
Associate Director
Monitor Deloitte South Africa
Carlton is an International Management Consultant with over 20 years of experience working in the field of agriculture and animal resources in Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Chad, Gabon, and Liberia. He is the Project Coordinator of the USAID-funded food security project, AR2IKI, in Niger and the USAID Yaajeende program on agriculture and nutrition in Senegal.

5. HONORABLE DR. AGNES KANIMBA
Minister
Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda
Dr. Kalibata currently serves as Rwanda’s Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources. Rwanda. Dr. Kalibata is a broadcasting, international and national donor, NGOs, and the UNDP. He was the Chairman of the Governance Task Force which negotiated Rwanda’s first structural adjustment package supported by the World Bank, the IMF and other development partners.

6. HONORABLE FRANÇOIS KANIMBA
Minister
Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda
Mr. Kanima was appointed as Rwanda’s Minister of Trade and Industry after a long career in the Central Bank of Rwanda where he also served as the Bank’s Governor since 2002. Under his leadership as the Minister of Trade and Industry, Rwanda is developing new strategies to expand the export base of the country to reverse the growing trade deficit. Between 1984 and 1995, Mr. Kanima was appointed as the Permanent Secretary in 2005, Permanent Secretary in 2006, State Minister in charge of Agriculture in 2008 and now Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI). Since joining the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources in 2005, he has served in various positions, including World Bank Project coordinator in 2005, Permanent Secretary in 2006, State Minister in charge of Agriculture in 2008 and now Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI).

7. JULIANNE KAYONGA
Country Manager
Starbucks
Julianne has been the Country Manager for Starbucks Farmer Support Center, Rwanda since 2011. In this capacity, her main focus is ensuring sustainability practices among coffee farmers, processors and exporters through efficient implementation of C.A.F.E Practices standards. Before joining Starbucks, Julianne worked with ACDI/ VOCA Rwanda to improve the country’s food security. She consulted on different environmental impact assessments for USAID projects, and prior to that worked as Rural Finance Specialist for USAID Rwanda. Julianne holds a Master’s degree in Natural Resources Development from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor’s degree in Law from the National University of Rwanda.

8. YARIV KEDAR
Managing Director, Sustainable Agribusiness, Balton Group (Amiran Kenya)
Yariv is the Deputy Managing Director of Amiran Kenya Limited as well as the Managing Director of Sustainable Agribusiness (Food Security and Livelihoods) for the Balton CP Group. He has over thirty years of experience in the agricultural sector. Yariv invented the Amiran Farmers Kit which was awarded for its efforts towards eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (Millennium Development Goal Award MDG1) in 2010 by the UNDP. Prior to his arrival in Kenya, he worked for Mekashim Agan for 19 years, serving in various positions as a Field Agronomist, Herbicides Products Manager and Technical Manager for the company’s operations in Latin America. Yariv holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Master’s in Agriculture Field Crops and Genetics, both from Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
WARINGA KIBE
Rural Finance & Marketing Advisor, USAID Ejo Heza
Global Communities

Waringa is a development professional with over 18 years of experience in microfinance and promoting sustainable livelihoods. She has worked in both Kenya and Rwanda with various organizations such as Faulu Kenya, World Council of Credit Unions (WOCU), the African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA), and Strathmore University. She currently works with Global Communities Rwanda on the USAID-funded Integrated Improved Livelihoods Program (IILP) commonly referred to as Ejo Heza. Waringa serves as the Rural Finance and Marketing Advisor, promoting access to and supply of financial services and the promotion of enterprise to rural and agricultural communities in Rwanda.

SPEAKING
2:45-4:15PM TUESDAY
An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Rwanda

MICHAEL KORTENBUSCH
Managing Director
Business & Finance Consulting

Michael is the Principal Founder and Managing Director of Business & Finance Consulting (BFC). As a senior expert in development finance, his key qualifications include strategic and turnaround management, MSME lending development, agricultural and rural finance, product innovations, market research and financial due diligence. He has led and supervised the implementation of numerous MSME downscaling projects, capacity building assignments, and development finance programmes, along with a large number of microfinance and feasibility studies around the world.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM WEDNESDAY
The Microfinance Diet: How to Shed Weight and Improve Efficiency through Smarter Business Models

ALESSANDRA LUSTRAI
Senior Advisor, Private Sector Engagement
CARE International

Alessandra works as Senior Private Sector Advisor, Africa with the Private Sector Engagement team of CARE International UK. Alessandra has a background in economics with a specialization in sustainable value chain development. She has 18 years of field experience in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Asia, focusing on enterprise development, the smallholder economy and trade-related issues. Previously she worked with international and local NGOs, micro-finance institutions, the United Nations, the European Union, and academia - as both staff and independent expert.

SPEAKING
1:20-2:30PM TUESDAY
Facilitating Corporate Investment in Sustainable Value Chain Development

PETER MALNAK
Mission Director
USAID/Rwanda

Mr. Malnak joined USAID in 1992 and is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. Prior to serving as the USAID Rwanda Mission Director, he was Director of USAID’s Middle East Affairs Office. Mr. Malnak served in Sudan from 2008 to 2010 as Deputy Mission Director and USAID Principal Officer in Juba, South Sudan, prior to its independence. While in Sudan, he led an annual program in democracy, education, health, economic growth, infrastructure, and humanitarian assistance. From 2003 to 2008, Malnak was Director of USAID Jordan’s largest technical office, guiding programming and bilateral relations in the areas of education, workforce development, democracy and governance, and health.

SPEAKING
8:30-9AM TUESDAY
Welcome Remarks and Introduction

MARY MUNENE
Coordinator, Cooperative Development Program
Land O’Lakes

Mary is currently the Enterprise and Co-operative Development Program Leader for Land O’Lakes International Development, based in Kenya. Previously, she served for five years as the Value Chain Coordinator for the USAID Kenya Dairy Sector Competitiveness Program (KDSCP), which was implemented by Land O’Lakes. A native of Kenya, Mary has more than 25 years’ experience with value chains, business, and cooperative development. She is a tireless mobilizer who champions the business development service approach to effectively engage all actors along the value chain, including women. Mary is also an accomplished dairy farmer and cooperative member in her own community.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM TUESDAY
Accelerating Market-Driven Business Development Services in the Kenyan Dairy Sector

NADIA MUSANINKINDI
Technical Assistant, USAID FEWS NET Rwanda
Chemonics International

Nadia is a Technical Assistant for the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Rwanda project. Prior to joining FEWS NET, she worked for the National Institute of Statistics as an Agriculture Statistician. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Soils and Environmental Management as well as a Masters degree in Integrated Soil Fertility Management.

SPEAKING
1:20-3PM WEDNESDAY
Evidence Based Analysis for a Food Secure World

TIM MIZIRA
Value Chains Manager
East Africa Exchange

Tim is an experienced manager with over 15 years of experience with a record of increased responsibility working with non-profit organizations and private firms. He is currently working as a value chains manager at the East Africa Exchange, a newly formed regional commodities exchange. Tim is customer-focused with diverse industry experience including agribusiness development, financial management and business development consulting, non-profit management and small and medium enterprise development activities. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management, majoring in organizational development and behavioral change.

SPEAKING
9-10AM WEDNESDAY
Plenary Panel: Practitioner Approaches to Improving Food Security

ELIZABETH NDEDYA
Lead Social Organizer
Aga Khan Foundation

Elizabeth is a Lead Social Organizer with the Coastal Rural Support Programme Tanzania (CRSPT), a local partner of the Aga Khan Foundation Tanzania. She brings over 25 years of experience in mobilizing, motivating and organizing communities to engage in rural development activities. A Tanzanian, Elizabeth joined CRSPT in 2009 and is responsible for facilitating the engagement of farmers and other stakeholders in the rice and sesame value chains of southern Tanzania. Her role entails creating business opportunities for the private sector by mobilizing and training smallholders to engage effectively and efficiently in new producer-buyer relations.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM TUESDAY
Tactics for Incentivizing the Private Sector to Engage Smallholders in Fragmented Production Systems
An Integrated Approach to Kampala, Uganda.

Nutrition interventions for the health professional. She has extensive experience working with international NGOs and within the Rwandan Ministry of Health in both emergency and development contexts. Her work primarily focuses on designing and managing nutrition interventions for the most vulnerable target groups. She has a Master’s in Public Health from Bugema University, Kampala, Uganda.

SPEAKING
2:45-4:15PM TUESDAY
An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Rwanda

GEORGE OTIENO ODHIAMBO
Head of Retail Banking KCB Bank Rwanda

As Head of Retail Banking at KCB Bank Rwanda, George has the responsibility of achieving financial and non-financial objectives related to customer service, products and services offering, personal banking and mortgages, functions of branch network, alternative channels development, marketing and communication, staff development, financial inclusion of micro businesses, SME and agribusinesses. He has worked in banking for 15 years. George holds a Bachelor in Science in Mathematical Studies and a Master’s in Pure Mathematics, from the University of Nairobi. He also holds a post-graduate Diploma in Corporate Governance (2011) from KCA University in Kenya.

SPEAKING
2:45-4:15PM WEDNESDAY
Improving Livelihoods through Innovations in Rural Finance

CHINWE OSUJI
Head of Human Development Doreo

Chinwe has over seven years of professional experience in international development, having worked with various international organizations including the UN, World Bank, and the Earth Institute. She leads the Human Development Team for Doreo Partners, which includes building capacity of franchised farmers and their field agents. Chinwe has consulted on policy reform as it relates to gender inclusion in education, agriculture, health and governance sectors. In addition, she has experience working with Nigerian SMEs as a Program Coordinator responsible for leadership training and SME development for LEAP Africa. Prior to joining Doreo, she worked as a Business Development Analyst at Google Nigeria.

SPEAKING
2:45-4:15PM TUESDAY
An Agricultural Franchise Model for On-Lending to Rural Farmers

MAAZOU DUMAROU
Microfinance Advisor, AIM Youth Freedom from Hunger

Maazou serves as the Technical Advisor for the Advancing Integrated Microfinance for Youth initiative at Freedom from Hunger. He is the primary regional contact with partner organizations of the youth microfinance initiative in West Africa and oversees the coordination and monitoring of all regional activities related to the project. He has nine years of experience in the microfinance sector. Before joining Freedom from Hunger, Oumarou served as Manager of a microfinance cooperative named Niyya. Previously, he served as a Branch Manager at Asusu Ogbiga MFI, as Microfinance Advisor at Plan International in Niger, and as Health – Microfinance Project Manager at PlanNet Finance.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM WEDNESDAY
Drivers of Financial Inclusion for Rural Youth in Morocco and Mali

NUPUR PARIKH
Program Manager, Coffee Initiative TechnoServe

Nupur is TechnoServe’s Coffee Initiative Program Manager in Rwanda. Prior to her current role, she served as the program’s Monitoring and Evaluation Manager. Nupur has strong technical skills in monitoring and evaluation methods, and has been instrumental in driving a number of innovative IT initiatives that leverage cellular technology to create systems of accountability and transparency at the wet-mill businesses. Before TechnoServe, she worked at Ernst & Young as an international tax consultant. Nupur holds a Master’s degree in Public Policy and International Development from Harvard University and a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from Smith College.

SPEAKING
1:20-3:00PM TUESDAY
Leveraging SMS Technology to Create Transparency and Growth in Coffee Value Chains

JON PORTER
Lead Investment Manager Karisimbi Capital Partners

Jon is the Lead Investment Manager for Karisimbi Capital Partners (KCP), an investment firm based in Kigali, Rwanda. Through a combination of financial capital, management expertise and on-the-ground insight, KCP is unlocking sustainable value for the Rwandan economy by propelling Rwandan enterprises toward the summit of their potential – one company at a time. Before leading Karisimbi Partners’ investment efforts, Jon worked for several years as a Lead Consultant for Karisimbi Partners’ consulting arm, and prior to that, he worked with Mercer Consulting, a top global consulting firm, in their Los Angeles office. Jon graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in International Business and Global Development.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM WEDNESDAY
Profiling Investors for East African Investment Opportunities

ROSSANA RAMIREZ
Senior Manager Monitor Deloitte

Rosanna is the Director of Youth Microfinance at Freedom from Hunger. She has 12 years of experience linking financial services to low-income communities. Her primary areas of expertise include youth-inclusive financial services and financial education, training, market research and program assessments. Rosanna has extensive experience with project management and qualitative analysis. She has a Master’s degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, a Master’s degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico, and a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and French from Rice University.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM WEDNESDAY
Drivers of Financial Inclusion for Rural Youth in Morocco and Mali

PRADEEP PRABHALA
Senior Manager, AIM Youth Freedom from Hunger

Pradeep is a Senior Manager with Monitor Deloitte. He has deep experience and expertise in designing and implementing market-based solutions for social change and has worked extensively in the Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. He has been advising a number of private foundations, bilateral and multilateral agencies and development finance banks/organizations on their strategies and on ways in which they could leverage the private sector to address development challenges. Over the last two years, Pradeep has been focused on helping a number of African governments design private sector investment strategies in the agriculture sector.

SPEAKING
2:45-4:15PM WEDNESDAY
Best Practices in Agrifinance: Lessons from Grow Africa

Rona is an employee of Save the Children International Rwanda. Jeanne has 24 years of experience working with international NGOs and within the Rwandan Ministry of Health in both emergency and development contexts. Her work primarily focuses on designing and managing nutrition interventions for the most vulnerable target groups.
AMBASSADOR VALENTINE RUGWABIZA
Chief Executive Officer
Rwanda Development Board

Ambassador Rugwabiza is the Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Board and a cabinet member. She has extensive experience in both the public and private sector where she held senior management positions. Between 2005 and 2013, she served as the Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization. Prior to joining the World Trade Organization, she served as Rwanda’s Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Switzerland. During her tenure as ambassador, she was the Chair of the African Group of Ambassadors in the WTO.

SPEAKING
8:30-9AM TUESDAY
Welcome Remarks and Introduction

ADIL SADOQ
Field Project Manager
MEDA

Adil is a seasoned microfinance practitioner who rose through the ranks of Zakoura, a Microfinance Institution (MFI) in Morocco, which tops the MIX Global 100 list. Since 2002, he has been involved with a range of microfinance institutions, donors and microfinance network organizations throughout Africa and the Middle East. Adil has significant experience as team leader designing and launching microfinance programs, including developing a branch network, designing, pilot-testing and rolling out new products, human resource strategy development and performance indicator monitoring. Adil is a solid trainer who has been providing training in numerous microfinance training modules and is certified in social management and social audit for microfinance institutions.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM TUESDAY
Integrating Women Farmers into Market Systems to Improve Food Security in Northern Ghana

MELANIE SANY
Chief of Party, USAID Akazi Kanoze Education Development Center

Melanie is highly experienced in designing and implementing programs for youth livelihoods development and entrepreneurship. She currently serves as Chief of Party of the Rwanda Youth Project, AKAZI KANOZE, launching EDC’s youth workforce development activities in Rwanda. Prior to that, she served as Project Director for the EQUIP IDEJEN project in Haiti, a USAID funded youth education and workforce development project targeting 13,000 marginalized 15- to 24-year-old youth. Prior to joining EDC, Melanie launched and managed an international network of young social entrepreneurs, the Common Futures Forum in Washington, D.C. She has Master’s degrees in Business Administration and European Geopolitics.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM TUESDAY
Integrating Women Farmers into Market Systems to Improve Food Security in Northern Ghana

CATHERINE SOBREVEGA
Country Project Manager
MEDA

Catherine is an international development professional with over 25 years of NGO experience, primarily in implementing economic development projects geared towards women’s economic empowerment in post-conflict countries like Bosnia, Eritrea and Afghanistan. Catherine worked for 14 years with CARE, managing their economic development and microfinance projects in the Philippines, Eritrea and Afghanistan. At present, she serves MEDA as Country Project Manager for their $20M CDA-funded Food Security Project in Northern Ghana. Before Ghana, she managed the Through the Garden Gate Project of MEDA in Afghanistan.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM TUESDAY
Integrating Women Farmers into Market Systems to Improve Food Security in Northern Ghana

RAF SOMERS
Co-manager
Belgian Development Agency BTC

Raf holds a degree in Veterinary Medicine from Ghent University in Belgium. He is currently the co-manager of a Belgian-funded program on seed and advisory service with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda. He worked in Vietnam for ten years as coordinator of a research program, co-manager of a dairy development program, and managing director of an agricultural service company. Raf has a keen interest in operational strategy and customer experience, and worked as a Senior Consultant for Dominion Digital, Inc., a Virginia-based consulting firm.

SPEAKING
10:15-11:45AM WEDNESDAY
Profile of Investors for East African Investment Opportunities

HUNTER THOMPSON
Director
Karimimbi Business Partners

Hunter is the Director of Karimimbi Business Partners, a management consulting firm based in Kigali Rwanda. The firm has worked with more than 60 Rwandan organizations across almost every sector of the economy to provide strategic analysis, financial analysis, and program planning and implementation. Prior to his time in Kigali, Hunter worked as a Vice President at Capital One Bank in the United States, leading teams focused on operational strategy and customer experience, and managing the exit of more than 200,000 households.

SPEAKING
2:45-4:15PM TUESDAY
An Integrated Approach to Improving Food Security in Rwanda

KIMBERLY TILock
Country Director, Kenya Global Communities

Kimberly is the Country Director for Global Communities in Kenya where she designed and helped oversee the USAID-funded Protecting and Restoring Economic Sustainability to Ensure Reduced Vulnerability (PRESERV) program. The program worked with smallholders in the arid and semi-arid areas of eastern Kenya to recover from years of successive droughts while improving their long-term food security by maximizing value of agricultural assets through increased productivity, nutrient balanced diets and improved market linkages. She has over 20 years of experience in economic strengthening and livelihoods development, including financial services, working in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

SPEAKING
9:10AM WEDNESDAY
Plenary Panel: Practitioner Approaches to Improving Food Security

DR. JOSEPH UBEK
M&E Officer
Fortis Microfinance Bank

Joseph is a veterinary doctor and Monitoring & Evaluation Officer in the Agriculture Finance Department of Fortis Microfinance Bank. He is responsible for analyzing applicants’ financial status, as well as credit and property evaluation as part of the loan process. He also monitors and manages the agricultural loan portfolio of Fortis, ensuring minimum Portfolio at Risk (PAR) levels. His past experiences include working in Rudof Farms Lty, Akwa Ibom State and Ndiagu & Hu Farms Abakiliki, Ebony. Joseph has been trained in various courses that include Agriculture Extension Services, Credit Analysis and Agriculture Value Chain management.

SPEAKING
2:45-4:15PM WEDNESDAY
Promoting Agriculture Credit Finance through Mobile Money Systems
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

UCHA UNIMIKE-ULAYI
Head Bank, Abuja
Fortis Microfinance Bank

Ucha is the Head of Business Development Finance at Fortis Microfinance Bank PLC. She is a Microfinance Trainer certified by Central Bank of Nigeria and the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center. Ucha holds certificates from Columbia Business School Executive Program in New York, West London College in London, the School of Applied Microfinance in Kenya, the Amanco Martinu University in the Philippines, ICECD in India and the ILO’s “Making Microfinance Work”. She is a 2010 MasterCard of Canada Foundation Scholar, and part of the core team that initially set up Fortis Microfinance Bank PLC, Fortis Academy and recently Fortis Mobile Money.

SPEAKING
2:45-4:15PM WEDNESDAY
Promoting Agriculture Credit Finance through Mobile Money Systems

NATHAN VAN DUSEN
Africa Director
CARANA Corporation

Nathan is an international development professional with 13 years of experience in democratic, social and economic development. As the Africa Director for CARANA Corporation, he oversees a portfolio of projects covering 24 Sub-Saharan African countries where CARANA is empowering communities to take advantage of market opportunities that have a dramatic impact on their livelihoods. Nathan has served as a technical advisor on projects in Eastern Europe and Africa for numerous donor agencies. Prior to joining CARANA, Nathan served as Deputy Director for Africa at the International Foundation for Election Systems, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the administration of free and fair elections worldwide.

SPEAKING
2:45-4:15PM WEDNESDAY
Improving Livelihoods through Innovations in Rural Finance

GUY VANMEENEN
Senior Technical Advisor, Microfinance Africa
Catholic Relief Services

Guy is Catholic Relief Services’ (CRS) Senior Technical Advisor for Microfinance in Africa. In this role, he is responsible for strengthening the capabilities of CRS and partner staff, including upholding best practices in rural finance, and working with the regional team to integrate microfinance activities into other CRS programs. Guy developed CRS’ Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) model and supported its roll-out in more than 34 countries reaching over 1.2 million members. He also developed a market-based delivery model, called Private Service Providers (PSP), whereby communities pay a fee for SILC training. He holds a Master’s of Science in Applied Economy from Belgium’s Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

SPEAKING
1:2-3:00PM WEDNESDAY
Fee-for-Services to Scale Savings Groups and Smallholder Engagement in Agricultural Markets

MORITZ WALDSTEIN WARTENBERG
Transparency Innovations Manager
TechnoServe

Moritz is TechnoServe’s Transparency Innovations Manager for the coffee sector. He is tasked with developing and marketing new transparency solutions for the coffee sector with a focus on East Africa. Prior to his work for TechnoServe he co-founded Coffee Circle in Berlin, Germany. Since 2010, Coffee Circle has worked exclusively using a direct trade model, offering specialty coffees primarily sold via the Internet. Moritz was named the SCAEs (Specialty Coffee Association of Europe) Young Entrepreneur of the year in 2012. Previously, he worked as a management consultant for Roland Berger Strategy Consultants and co-founded the NGO PROJECT-E, focusing on vocational training for girls in Addis Ababa. He is an Austrian national and based in Addis Ababa.

SPEAKING
1:2-3:00PM TUESDAY
Leveraging SMS Technology to Create Transparency and Growth in Coffee Value Chains

LINDSAY WALLACE
Deputy Director, Financial Inclusion
The MasterCard Foundation

Lindsay is the Deputy Director of Financial Inclusion at The MasterCard Foundation. She brings over fifteen years of experience in economic development, having lived and worked in numerous countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. She recently led the Economic Growth Team of the UK Department for International Development’s Rwanda office where she established a large microfinance support project along with a portfolio of growth-related projects in agriculture, land tenure reform, and trade. Lindsay holds a Master’s in Economics from the University of Toronto, a Master’s of Public Policy from Carleton University, and an undergraduate degree from McGill University.

SPEAKING
4:30-5:30PM WEDNESDAY
Financial Inclusion: How Donors Can Ensure Proper Feeding of a Growing Population

MAURICE WIENER
Independent Consultant

Maurice is a Haitian Enterprise Development and Market Promotion Specialist with more than 25 years of experience in strengthening a variety of value chains throughout East Africa and Haiti, including coffee, cocoa, tea, mango, pyrethrum, cut flowers and passion fruit. His experience in technical and management roles includes Chief of Party for the USAID Agribusiness Development Assistance to Rwanda (ADAR) project. He provided technical assistance, training and financial support for the construction of 28 coffee washing stations, helped facilitating coffee farmers double revenues, established linkages between Rwandan private investors and American/European coffee importers/roasters, and spearheaded Rwanda’s entry into the specialty coffee market, mainly with Starbucks.

SPEAKING
1:2-3:00PM WEDNESDAY
Investing in Rwandan Specialty Coffee

JASON WOLFE
Senior Household Economic Strengthening Advisor
USAID

Jason is Senior Household Economic Strengthening Advisor with USAID’s Office of HIV/AIDS, where he supports PEPFAR country teams, projects and partners to improve the economic circumstances of families affected by HIV and AIDS. Previously, he served for five years with USAID’s Microenterprise Development office, promoting inclusive value chain development, contributing to knowledge management and collaborative learning efforts and coordinating special initiatives with youth, HIV/AIDS-affected households and conflict-affected environments. Jason has 14 years of experience designing, managing and assessing market development and technology transfer projects in 45 countries, with a particular emphasis on poor, rural and marginalized communities.

SPEAKING
11:45AM-1PM TUESDAY
Plenary Panel: How Donors Can Ensure Proper Feeding of a Growing Population

BEE WUETHRICH
Communications & Outreach Specialist
Landesa

Bee is a communications specialist with Landesa, where she directs the Focus on Land in Africa project. Landesa is a global nonprofit that works to attain secure land rights for the world’s poorest people, as a tool to provide opportunity, further economic growth and promote social justice. Previously, Bee was Senior Vice President of Social Impact with the public relations firm Weber Shandwick, where she worked closely with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on communications for agricultural development. Bee also served as Vice President, Global Health and Development, at Burness Communications, where she worked for ten years.

SPEAKING
11:45AM-1PM WEDNESDAY
Rapid Fire Session: Closing the Land Rights Knowledge Gap in Agricultural Development

SPEAKING
11:45AM-1PM TUESDAY
Interactive Discussion: The Role of the Rural Smallholder

To view the full text, please refer to the original document. The above content is a summary of the key points from the provided text.
THANK YOU

CRACKING THE NUT AFRICA TEAM

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Nikolaus Eichman, Agribusiness & PPP Specialist
Kim Ha, Business Development Specialist
Melissa Matlock, Program Associate
Laura Smith, Operations Manager
John Northington, Intern
Carmi Bardash, Intern

Global Communities
Milton Funes, Country Director, Rwanda
Waringa Kibe, Rural Finance & Marketing Advisor

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COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

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Burundi
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Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ethiopia
Ghana
Kenya
Mali
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
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Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

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Israel
Nepal
New Zealand
The Philippines

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Austria
Belgium
France
Germany
Ireland
Italy
The Netherlands
Switzerland
United Kingdom

North & South America
Canada
Haiti
Jamaica
Mexico
Paraguay
United States

THE MOST INTERESTING IDEA I HEARD:

THREE THINGS I HAD NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEFORE:

THINGS I FEEL INSPIRED TO DO WHEN I GET BACK:

PEOPLE I WANT TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER:

SESSIONS I MUST REVIEW LATER:

WEBSITES I MUST CHECK OUT:

BEST OF THE CONFERENCE

WEBSITES I MUST CHECK OUT: