

WELCOME

WELCOME TO CRACKING THE NUT 2016!



This learning event is timely in that there is increasing appreciation for the fact that we need to do more than just halt deforestation in

order to protect our natural environment. The recent agreement at the United Nations' Climate Change Conference in Paris emphasized the importance of replenishing deforested lands, which is key to "regenerating" rural and agricultural development, so that we can produce sufficient food to feed our expanding global population. Some argue that we have already gone beyond the point of no return, as the polar ice caps are melting and putting the entire world at risk of large releases of methane gas, which would rapidly accelerate global warming and raise average global temperatures beyond 2°C, a level considered disastrous. Personally, I am more of an optimist, believing that when great minds come together we can identify creative solutions to the world's problems. In other words, you and I must be the change we want to see in the world. Responsibility for action

must begin with us and I know you are the leaders of this important initiative because you have joined us today.

While this conference will highlight important approaches to climate change mitigation, this conference's participants are playing a significant role in helping developing countries adapt to the negative impacts of climate change. This is important because the majority of investments to date have been related to climate change mitigation, in renewable technologies, clean energy and carbon sequestration. Climate change adaptation strategies are especially important given the "lopsided effects that climate change has on the world's poor" (Naki Mendoza, Devex, Jan. 14, 2016) In other words, rural and agricultural development efforts have the best opportunity to contribute positively (or negatively) to climate change. I know that you all are committed to maximizing positive impacts for our people and planet; and I thank you for joining us in this global challenge.

Anita Campion

President & CEO, Connexus Corporation

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STAY CONNECTED

ONLINE CONFERENCE COMMUNITY

CRACKINGTHENUT2016.PATHABLE.COM

Online tools to help you engage more deeply with the conference and fellow participants prior to, during and after the conference.

- **Connect** with other participants and browse the conference agenda in this private networking 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 by accessing conference materials.



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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

- Deborah Barry
- Lawrence Camp
- Anita Campion
- Evelyn Casanova
- Geoffrey Chalmers
- Amy Davis
- Alejandro Escobar
- Shaun Ferris
- Melissa Matlock
- Lori Pearson
- Shannon Smith
- Patrick Starr
- Ginya Truitt Nakata



JOIN THE DISCUSSION ON TWITTER

Use hashtag **#crknut16** to tweet.

Follow us on Twitter **@crackingthenut** for logistics updates, schedule reminders, highlights, insights from the plenary panels and breakout sessions, and more!



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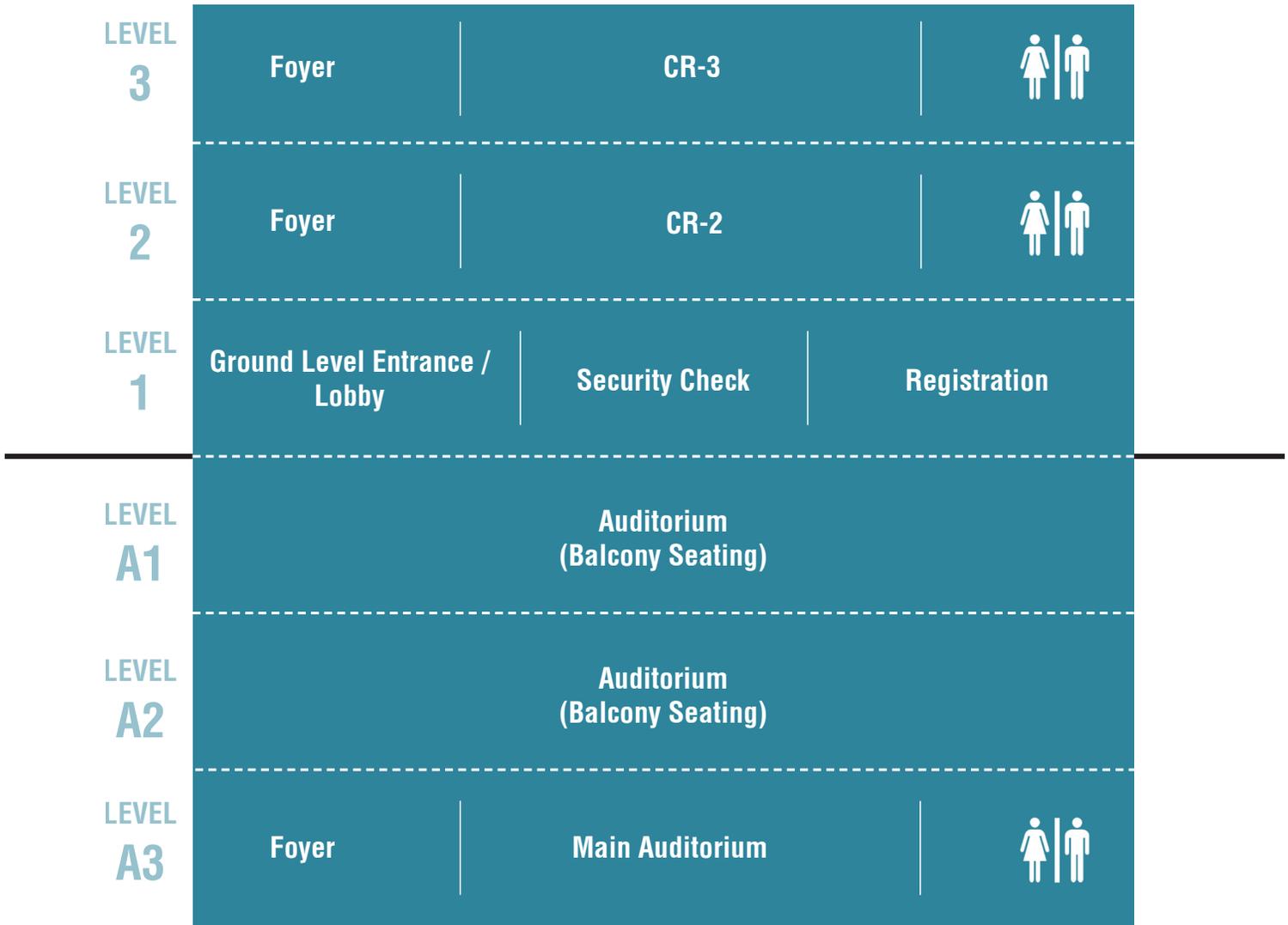


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Conference

FINDING YOUR WAY

Enrique V. Iglesias Conference Center Map



Map not drawn to scale



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

REGENERATING RURAL & AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

How can public and private sector collaborate to restore deforested areas, depleted soils and scarce water supplies, while improving agricultural productivity? What incentives do companies offer to encourage their farmers to protect the environment and to apply agroforestry and other climate-smart approaches? What models and technologies are cost effective for motivating small farmers to adapt their methods to protect soil, ground cover and natural habitats?

FINANCING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

How can we ensure that all farmers, including women and youth, have access to finance, markets, fair prices and climate-smart technical assistance? What types of finance are needed to rebuild the environment and economic potential of areas where natural resources have been exhausted? How can we reduce risk and increase lending to scale innovative climate-smart technologies?

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

How can the private sector profitably invest in climate-smart agriculture? What technologies and investments can be made today to protect water and soil resources tomorrow? How can governments balance environmental protection policies with a desire to attract investments in rural and agricultural development?

REGISTRATION

Tuesday: 7:30AM-6PM
Wednesday: 7:00AM-6PM

INTERPRETATION

Simultaneous interpretation from English to Spanish will be available for sessions marked with **EN>>SP**

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

First come, first served
Arrive early to guarantee a seat

GET CONNECTED

Internet: BID-GUEST
Password: BID-GUEST

By 2050, food production will have to increase 60% just to keep up with world food demand.

In 2015, the **Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF)** created the Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Environment (SAFE) Platform, a multi-stakeholder alliance of leading coffee and cocoa actors that collectively committed

\$37 Million to meet the challenges of sustainable agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean and to integrate

150,000 smallholder farmers into national and global supply chains.



An initiative led by



Learn more at www.safeplatform.org

AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

TUESDAY

8:30AM	Welcome Remarks & Introduction – Brigit Helms (IDB); Anita Campion (Connexus) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP		
9AM	Keynote: Globally Regenerating Rural and Agricultural Development – Dr. Nancy Stetson, US Special Representative for Global Food Security Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP		
10AM	Coffee & Networking		
10:15AM	REGENERATING RURAL & AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES	FINANCING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE
	Landscape Restoration and Rural Energy Security – Dennis Garrity (Evergreen Agriculture Partners), Jessica Alderman (Envirofit International), Dymphna van der Lans (Clinton Climate Initiative) Room: CR-2	Incentivizing Climate-Smart Agriculture through Public-Private Partnerships – Eelco Baan (SNV USA), Dr. Marit Wilkerson (USAID), Dr. Maximó Terero (International Food Policy Research Institute) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP	Attracting Private-Sector Investment by Improving Meteorological and Hydrological Services – Bronwyn Irwin, Michael E. Cote, Lauren Leifeste (Engility) Room: CR-3
11:45AM	Lunch & Networking		
1PM	Greenwater: Reframing the Role of Rainfed Agriculture for Global Food Security – Jennie Baron (International Water Management Institute), Deborah Barry, Luis Alvarez Welchez, Paul Hicks (CRS) Room: CR-2	Financing Sustainable Palm Oil: Challenges and Opportunities – Frank Rubio (Oikocredit), Gero Leson (Dr. Bronner's), Américo Arévalo Ramírez (Indulpasa S.A.), Athanase Niamien (Agrivar), Suyapa Diaz Diaz (Grupo Jaremar), Jessenia Angulo (Natural Habitats) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP	Expanding Access to Innovative Technologies for Rural Women – Edfas Mkandawire (UN Women), Adeline Muheebwa (ASARECA) Room: CR-3
2:30PM	Coffee & Networking		
2:45PM	Strategies for Regenerating and Maintaining Landscapes: Lessons from Haiti, Mali and Southern Africa – Rob Henning, Brian App, Jeff Ratcliffe, Mario Kerby (Chemonics International) Room: CR-2	Public and Private Perspectives on Developing Traditional and Drip Irrigation Systems for Smallholders – Juma Masumba, Shaun Ferris (CRS), Eduardo Mendias (The Toro Company), Tim Strong (Opportunity International) Room: CR-3 EN>>SP	Building Climate Resilience in the Sertão Region of Brazil – Daniele Cesano (Adapta Sertão), Daniel Carrara (SENAR), Humberto Oliveira (SENAR Bahia), Carlos Sanchez (IDB) Room: Auditorium, A3
4:15PM	Coffee & Networking		
4:30PM	Plenary Panel: The Emerging Global Breadbasket – Facilitator: Ginya Truitt Nakata (IDB); Panelists: Eduardo Bastos (Dow Chemical Company), Leo Vasquez (ECOM Agroindustrial Corp. Ltd) María Martínez Murillo (The Nature Conservancy) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP		
5:30PM	Day 1 Wrap Up - Patrick Starr (Connexus) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP		

WEDNESDAY

8:30AM	Welcome Remarks - Melissa Matlock (Connexus) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP		
9AM	Plenary Panel: Creative Approaches to Expand Production While Protecting Natural Resources – Facilitator: Roland Bunch (Consultant); Panelists: Geoffrey Heinrich (CRS), Dennis Garrity (Evergreen Agriculture Partners), Chikakula Miti (COMESA) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP		
10AM	Coffee & Networking		
10:15AM	REGENERATING RURAL & AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES	FINANCING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE
	Bio-Reclamation of Degraded Land in Semi-arid Regions South of the Sahara – James Quarshie (CRS), Dougbedji Fatondji (ICRISAT) Room: CR-2	Increasing Access to Finance, Inputs and Training: Evolution from Village-Based Agent to Social Franchise Model – Todd Crosby (NCBA CLUSA) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP	An Inclusive Approach to Developing Climate-Smart Solutions for Mountain Agriculture in Nepal – Shankar Bhattarai (SNV Nepal) Room: CR-3
11:45AM	Lunch & Networking		
1PM	Preserving Forests and Smallholder Livelihoods by Replanting Oil Palm Trees in Indonesia – Ellen Kendall, Aly-Khan Jamal (Dalberg) Room: CR-2	Employing a Watershed Approach to Sustainable Development and Finance: Experiences from India – Satish Pillarisetti (Sa-Dhan) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP	Increased Coffee Yields and Farmer Resilience through Climate-Smart Agriculture and Finance – Ephraim Chabayanzara, Legesse Dadi, Thomas Musyoki, Zacharie Manirarora (CRS) Room: CR-3
2:30PM	Coffee & Networking		
2:45PM	Strategies and Successes in a Sustainable Bolivian Agroforestry Program – Juan Pablo Demeure (DESEC), Jorge Crespo (Multiagro S.A.) Room: CR-2	Integrated Finance and Insurance to Support Sustainable Crop Production Intensification in Senegal – Mamadou Diop, El Hadji Abdou Gueye, Samantha Wapnick (Engility) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP	Diversifying Smallholder Income: the Business Case for Bamboo in Rwanda – Jules Kazunga (Regional Research Centre for Integrated Development) Room: CR-3
4:15PM	Coffee & Networking		
4:30PM	Plenary Panel: Public and Private Sector Partnerships to Regenerate Rural and Agricultural Development – Facilitator: Noel Gurwick (USAID); Panelists: Gilad Millo (Balton CP), Gerrie Jordaan (Afgri Ghana Equipment), Benjamin Schmerler (Root Capital) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP		
5:30PM	Closing Remarks - Dr. Gordon Smith (Crown Agents) Room: Auditorium, A3 EN>>SP		

MORNING PLENARY

8:30-10AM

WELCOME REMARKS & INTRODUCTION

Auditorium, A3
8:30-9AM

EN>>SP

SPEAKERS

Brigit Helms, IDB

Anita Campion, Connexus Corporation

KEYNOTE: GLOBALLY REGENERATING RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Auditorium, A3
9:00-10AM

EN>>SP

As the United States Special Representative for Global Food Security, Dr. Nancy Stetson, will discuss the changing international environment for sustainable agricultural development and global food security. Specifically, Dr. Stetson will discuss how the United States focuses on climate smart agriculture, rural to urban linkages, and supports innovative finance for investment in sustainable development.

SPEAKER

Dr. Nancy Stetson, US Special Representative for Global Food Security

COFFEE & NETWORKING

10-10:15AM



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Welcome to Washington, D.C.



Did you know?

The city of Washington was named for George Washington (who picked the location), while the District of Columbia was named for explorer Christopher Columbus.

The District of Columbia did not initially have an official flag. The current flag was adopted in 1938 and was inspired by George Washington's coat of arms.

How Washington D.C. got its shape: George Washington picked out the location and laid out a perfect diamond shape for the city, spanning parts of Maryland and Virginia. But a looming fight over slavery caused the Virginia side to leave the District and return to its home state.

source: nationstri.com, history.com

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:15-11:45AM

REGENERATING RURAL & AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Landscape Restoration and Rural Energy Security

Room: CR-2

In an effort to meet the Bonn Challenge and New York Declaration to restore 350 million hectares of degraded land around the world, several leading organizations, including Evergreen Agriculture Partnership, Envirofit International and the Clinton Climate Initiative, have formed a partnership to promote the utilization of appropriate tree species to enhance regeneration initiatives. The partnership uses state-of-the-art GIS technologies, farmer-managed regeneration methods, species-specific planting approaches and clean-cooking technologies to create a comprehensive restoration model. This session will provide insights into current projects utilizing the comprehensive regeneration agriculture approach, including how to secure political support for regeneration agriculture, and provide specific guidance on how to design, fund and implement such projects in other countries.

SPEAKERS

Dennis Garrity, Evergreen Agriculture Partners

Jessica Alderman, Envirofit International
Dymphna van der Lans, Clinton Climate Initiative

FINANCING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Incentivizing Climate-Smart Agriculture through Public-Private Partnerships

Room: Auditorium, A3

EN>>SP

This session will highlight innovative public-private-partnerships which incentivize both smallholder and private sector participation in climate-smart farming methods. The conversation will be facilitated by SNV and will focus on their work establishing a new livestock market in Kenya that allows pastoralists to become more resilient to droughts, as well as their work in Vietnam facilitating a supply chain for certified organic shrimp in an effort to reverse the destruction of fragile mangrove ecosystems. The audience will leave with an understanding of the power of public-private partnerships to create these incentives that ultimately increase climate-change resilience among communities and regenerate forest and agricultural landscapes.

SPEAKERS

Eelco Baan, SNV USA

Dr. Marit Wilkerson, USAID

Dr. Maximo Terero, International Food Policy Research Institute

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Attracting Private-Sector Investment by Improving Meteorological and Hydrological Services

Room: CR-3

In practice, many potentially lucrative value chains are fragmented with technical assistance, inputs, equipment, financing and market linkages provided by different actors. Because most of this is private, value chain actors are not prepared to invest beyond their area of interest. As a result, many farmers do not receive a full assistance package and hence cannot fully realize the potential benefits afforded by these value chains. This session outlines the development of the iDE Farm Business Adviser (FBA) model and its experience of supporting smallholder farmers through FBAs in Zambia. FBAs are commission-based agent networks providing a comprehensive package of last-mile linkages to smallholders from private-sector value chain actors. In addition to delivering a full range of services, FBAs can rapidly introduce new technologies to farmers, enabling them to adapt their enterprises to changes in the agro-ecological environment resulting from climate changes.

SPEAKERS

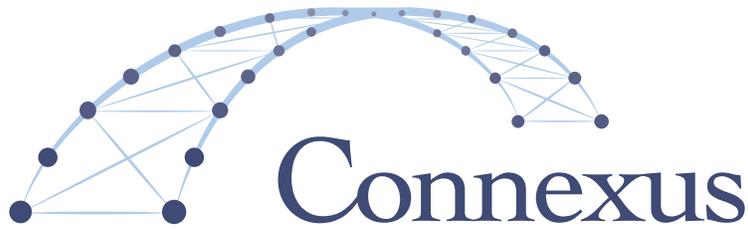
Bronwyn Irwin, Engility

Michael E. Cote, Engility

Lauren Leifeste, Engility

LUNCH & NETWORKING

11:45AM-1PM



**Transforming
International
Development
and Building
Local Capacity**



Connexus Corporation, an international development consulting firm, designs sustainable, market-based strategies that link developing economies with global markets to increase incomes for the poor. We specialize in:

Finance

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- Value chain finance
- Small and medium enterprise finance
- Microfinance
- Institutional due diligence
- Market research and analysis
- Impact assessment

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1-2:30PM

REGENERATING RURAL & AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Greenwater: Reframing the Role of Rainfed Agriculture for Global Food Security

Room: CR-2

Investments in rainfed agriculture (which relies on greenwater) have been neglected over the past 50 years as governments, donors and researchers have focused on expanding irrigated agriculture (blue water). Although nearly 75% of crops are grown on rainfed land, yields tend to be far below their potential, indicating that there is a large opportunity. This session focuses on the management of “greenwater” resources to sustainably increase rainfed agricultural production and restore natural and agricultural landscapes. Experts from the International Water Management Institute and CRS will discuss the conceptual and hydrological foundations of greenwater management, field-based evidence on the positive impacts of water-smart practices, and policy and strategic priorities to increase investments in greenwater approaches for rainfed agriculture in Central America.

SPEAKERS

Jennie Baron, International Water Management Institute
Deborah Barry, CRS
Luis Welchez, CRS
Paul Hicks, CRS

FINANCING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Financing Sustainable Palm Oil: Challenges and Opportunities

Room: Auditorium, A3

[EN>>SP](#)

This session will explore the opportunities and challenges of achieving sustainable growth and consolidation in the palm oil sector. Facilitated by Oikocredit, a panel of key actors in the sustainable palm oil value chain from the Netherlands, Ivory Coast, Peru and Honduras will discuss their efforts to ethically source high quality palm oil and incentivize smallholder farmers to reinvest in regenerative farming practices on their plantations. The panelists will discuss lessons from their practical experiences in the production and sale of certified palm oil. Participants will leave the session with a better understanding of the elements that comprise the sustainable palm oil value chain and the main challenges for growth in the future.

SPEAKERS

Frank Rubio, Oikocredit
Gero Leson, Dr. Bronner’s
Américo Arévalo Ramírez, Indulpasa S.A.
Athanase Niamien, Agrivar
Suyapa Diaz Diaz, Grupo Jaremar
Jessenia Angulo, Natural Habitats

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Expanding Access to Innovative Technologies for Rural Women

Room: CR-3

The African Women in Technology (AWIT) initiative was launched at the World Economic Forum in June 2015 to promote upscaling of rural technologies for women. The project’s main goal is to improve access for rural women farmers to appropriate technologies that boost agricultural yields, income and food security, eliminate food waste, while decreasing their labor inputs and time, thereby empowering women economically and improving their ability to cope with various current and future resilience threats. Facilitated by UN Women, this session aims to raise awareness on the constraints that prevent rural women’s access to innovative technologies and on the importance of improving women’s access to the technologies by working with a range of actors from governments to the private sector, including financial institutions, insurance service providers, extension and advisory services, incubators, research institutions and civil society organizations.

SPEAKERS

Edfas Mkandawire, UN Women
Adeline Muheebwa, ASARECA

COFFEE & NETWORKING

2:30-2:45PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:45-4:15PM

REGENERATING RURAL & AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Strategies for Regenerating and Maintaining Landscapes: Lessons from Haiti, Mali and Southern Africa

Room: CR-2

This session will compare and contrast strategies for regenerating or maintaining threatened landscapes in three different areas of the world. Given the differences in geography and cultural practices, each project has developed appropriate solutions to regenerate agricultural landscapes including greenhouses, vertical planning and hillside stabilization in Haiti; tailoring conservation agricultural techniques to the local context in Southern Africa; and improving the use of climate information for adaptation in Mali. Each project will share results and lessons learned, and participants will be able to engage in a deeper conversation with one of the projects through focused breakout group discussions.

SPEAKERS

Rob Henning, Chemonics International
Brian App, Chemonics International
Jeff Ratcliffe, Chemonics International
Mario Kerby, Chemonics International

FINANCING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Public and Private Perspectives on Developing Traditional and Drip Irrigation Systems for Smallholders

Room: CR-3

Representatives from civil society and private sector organizations will interact on this panel, which will introduce perspectives on meeting the growing demand for technologies that enable smallholder farmers to manage their water resources more effectively, leading to improved production and return on investment. The session will investigate a case study outlining the results from farmers using both traditional and drip irrigation systems in Malawi. Participants will be able to conceptualize possibilities of applying the traditional watershed development approach in implementing development activities aimed at improving and increasing the resilience rural farmers as well as intensifying crop production through small scale irrigation. Participants will also learn how the private sector is working to integrate high efficiency technology to enhance farmer investments and link to new financing mechanisms to enable more scaled access to irrigation systems.

SPEAKERS

Juma Masumba, CRS
Shaun Ferris, CRS
Eduardo Mendias, The Toro Company
Tim Strong, Opportunity International

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Building Climate Resilience in the Sertão Region of Brazil

Room: Auditorium, A3

EN>>SP

The vast semi-arid area known as Sertão is one of the poorest regions in Brazil. Since the early 1960s, average temperatures in Bacia do Jacuípe have increased by around 2C degrees and annual rainfall has decreased by about 350 mm (30% of the total amount) causing farmer productivity to decline significantly. In this session, participants will learn how the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is building climate resilience among smallholders and cooperatives in the region by incubating a local climate-resilient economy. This includes providing farmers' cooperatives with a climate-smart agricultural system composed of a package of climate resilient technologies called MAIS, credit, and training on MAIS application and cooperative management, as well as training for credit cooperatives on on-lending.

SPEAKERS

Daniele Cesano, Adapta Sertão
Daniel Carrara, SENAR
Humberto Oliveira, SENAR Bahia
Carlos Sanchez, IDB

COFFEE & NETWORKING

4:15-4:30PM

AFTERNOON PLENARY

4:30-5:30PM

PLENARY PANEL

Auditorium, A3

4:30-5:30PM

EN>>SP

The Emerging Global Breadbasket

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is quickly becoming the largest net food exporting region in the world. In a recent report by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Global Harvest Initiative, the region is highlighted as having enormous agricultural potential. In order for LAC to sustainably expand agricultural production, a variety of actors including government, private sector companies, donors, academics and more, will have to work together and innovate to overcome current challenges and issues.

Moderated by Ginya Truitt Nakada, Operations Senior Specialist of the IDB's Office of Outreach and Partnerships, this panel will bring together major private sector companies working in the region to discuss their perspectives and how they envision a new multidonor fund, AgroLAC 2025, will contribute to LAC achieving its full agricultural development potential. Following the insights and experiences shared by panelists, the discussion will open up to include participant questions and exchange.

FACILITATOR

Ginya Truitt Nakata, Operations Senior Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank

PANELISTS

Eduardo Bastos, Government Affairs Director, Dow Chemical Company

Leo Vasquez, Director of Strategic Public Affairs, ECOM Agroindustrial Corp. Ltd

María Martínez Murillo, Sustainable Intensification Specialist, The Nature Conservancy

DAY 1 WRAP-UP

Auditorium, A3

5:30-6PM

EN>>SP

SPEAKER

Patrick Starr, Conexus Corporation

Welcome to Washington, D.C.



The Washington Monument

The Washington Monument is both the world's tallest stone structure and world's tallest obelisk, standing at 555 feet 5 1/8 inches tall. An engineering marvel, the Monument's marble blocks are held together by just gravity and friction; no mortar was used. It was built in two major phases, 1848-1856 and 1876-1884, due to lack of funding, political turmoil, and uncertainty during the Civil War. Because construction had stopped for two decades, the quarry stone couldn't be matched. As a result, the monument is two different shades; lighter at the bottom and darker at the top. Upon its completion, it was capped with an aluminum apex (aluminum at the time was comparable in price to silver).

source: History.com, constitutioncenter.org, nationstri.com

MORNING PLENARY

8:30-10AM

WELCOME REMARKS

Auditorium, A3
8:30-9AM

SPEAKER

Melissa Matlock, Conexus Corporation

PLENARY PANEL

Auditorium, A3
9:00-10AM

EN>>SP

Creative Approaches to Expand Production While Protecting Natural Resources

This panel will highlight new approaches to climate-smart agriculture at the farm, landscape, national, and regional levels. Moderated by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the panel will include three internationally renowned experts. Roland Bunch will discuss the urgent and fundamental need to restore soil productivity and describe proven systems that are used by smallholder farmers across the globe. Dennis Garrity will present new ideas for “evergreen agriculture,” which integrates trees into crop systems, and illustrate practical examples that increase both productivity and resilience of farms and landscapes. Chikakula Miti from Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) will describe challenges and approaches for scaling up climate-smart agriculture across countries in Africa. Finally, CRS will present applied examples of farm and landscape-level climate-smart agriculture from past and ongoing projects. Building on these insights, the panel will engage the audience to discuss how best to facilitate adoption of climate-smart agriculture by smallholder farmers and communities at scale.

FACILITATOR

Roland Bunch, Consultant

PANELISTS

Geoff Heinrich, Senior Technical Advisor for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Livelihoods, CRS

Dennis Garrity, President, Evergreen Agriculture Partners

Chikakula Miti, Climate Change Coordinator, COMESA

COFFEE & NETWORKING

10-10:15AM

Welcome to Washington, D.C.



Washington National Cathedral

On the National Cathedral there is a grotesque of Darth Vader. In the 1980s, while the west towers were under construction, the Washington National Cathedral held a decorative sculpture competition for children. The third-place winner was a drawing of the fearful Star Wars villain, Darth Vader. The fierce head was sculpted and placed high upon the northwest tower of the Cathedral.

source: cathedral.org

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:15-11:45AM

REGENERATING RURAL & AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Bio-Reclamation of Degraded Land in Semi-arid Regions South of the Sahara

Room: CR-2

Acidic, sandy soils in the Sudano Sahel region are very poor in nutrients and are continuously undergoing erosion by wind and water. The Bio-reclamation of Degraded Lands (BDL) is an agroforestry system developed by ICRISAT that incorporates high value trees and rainfed traditional vegetables eg. Moringa trees, Ziziphus trees, Okra, Hibiscus etc., rather than the traditional trees and staple crops that characterize agroforestry systems. This session will focus on CRS' implementation of the BDL approach in Niger and will highlight the positive impact that it has had for women through promotion of land rights, increased income and greater availability of nutritious foods for children and other household members.

SPEAKERS

James Quarshie, CRS

Dougbedji Fatondji, ICRISAT

FINANCING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Increasing Access to Finance, Inputs and Training: Evolution from Village-Based Agent to Social Franchise Model

Room: Auditorium, A3

EN>>SP

This session will tell the story of the evolution of NCBA's Village Based Agent (VBA) model from inception in Zambia to the model's transformation into a network of "Community Based Solution Providers (CBSPs)" in Senegal, and its current incarnation, the "CultiVert" CBSP social franchise model in 2015. NCBA will highlight the real world impacts achieved by these models such as improved production, enhanced climate change adaptation, expanded access to finance and reduced malnutrition, as well as the integration of women and youth into the networks. Participants will work on various problem statements within groups to determine the advantages and limitations of each model. At the end of the session, participants will understand how NCBA's various VBA models each work to enhance access to finance, linkages to markets, and improve the quality of products and services that farmers can purchase at fair prices, as well as by providing access to technologies that help people adapt to changing climates.

SPEAKER

Todd Crosby, NCBA CLUSA

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

An Inclusive Approach to Developing Climate-Smart Solutions for Mountain Agriculture in Nepal

Room: CR-3

In Jumla, a mountainous region in Nepal, farmers faced challenges of low quality and productivity of apples, mainly due to a severe shortage of soil moisture during the apples' critical growth period. To tackle this issue, SNV facilitated an innovative process that brought together farmers, businesses, government and civil society organizations to develop and refine a climate-smart solution. Using a multi-stakeholder approach, the idea of snow-harvesting was piloted and refined. Combined with efficient water-use practices and financing from local banks bundled with crop insurance, the solution was a success. In this session, a representative will explain SNV's process for developing and refining the solution, and how an inclusive approach that ensures buy-in from all involved stakeholders can be used to overcome other development challenges.

SPEAKER

Shankar Bhattarai, SNV Nepal

LUNCH & NETWORKING

11:45AM-1PM



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



Credit: Greg Kahn for USAID

With a focus on smallholder farmers, particularly women, Feed the Future supports partner countries in developing their own agriculture sectors to generate opportunities for economic growth, trade and improved nutrition, which can help reduce poverty and hunger.

Feed the Future is taking the lead in working with the private sector to address the negative impacts of weather and climate change and ensure that the progress we've made in reducing poverty, hunger and undernutrition continues.

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Feed the Future is the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative.

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AGRILINKS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1-2:30PM

REGENERATING RURAL & AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Preserving Forests and Smallholder Livelihoods by Replanting Oil Palm Trees in Indonesia

Room: CR-2

The Creating Shared Value Initiative brings together responsible farming, production, and consumption practices throughout the coffee value chain in Kenya. The initiative is anchored in a three pillar plan that addresses issues related to responsible farming, responsible production and supply, and responsible consumption, while considering social, economic, and environmental challenges in the coffee sector today. The initiative promotes good agricultural practices through a dynamic approach that includes demo farms and training, supply of good propagation materials, provision of mobile and well qualified agronomists, and a 4C certification program that links certified farmers to a direct market with Nestle as a buyer. Initial success has shown an increase in premium grade coffee yields by 30 percent in the first two years.

SPEAKERS

Ellen Kendall, Dalberg
Aly-Khan Jamal, Dalberg

FINANCING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Employing a Watershed Approach to Sustainable Development and Finance: Experiences from India

Room: Auditorium, A3

EN>>SP

By using five illustrative case studies, this session will explain the watershed approach to development and financing pursued by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in India. Working in rainfall deficient areas, NABARD has adopted a holistic approach towards financing agriculture in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. Participants will learn about the quantifiable results NABARD has achieved through their integrated approach employing scientific management and suitable financing mechanisms for sustainable development. The session will demonstrate that even in arid and rainfall deficient areas, it is possible to conserve soil and water resources and carry out agriculture in a sustainable manner.

SPEAKER

Satish Pillarisetti, Sa-Dhan

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Increased Coffee Yields and Farmer Resilience through Climate-Smart Agriculture and Finance

Room: CR-3

Smallholder coffee farmers around the world are facing decreasing yields as a result of climate change effects on coffee crops. Drawing on lessons from the Keurig Green Mountain Diversifying Livelihoods project, implemented by CRS in Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia, participants will learn that it is possible to reverse this fall in coffee productivity and production by building the capacity of farmers to implement climate-smart production techniques and increasing their access to finance. Participants will leave with greater knowledge and understanding of sustainable ways to increase smallholder yields and build their resilience to climate change impact in order to maintain coffee as a viable livelihood.

SPEAKERS

Ephraim Chabayanzara, CRS
Legesse Dadi, CRS
Thomas Musyoki, CRS
Zacharie Manirarora, CRS

COFFEE & NETWORKING

2:30-2:45PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:45-4:15PM

REGENERATING RURAL & AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Strategies and Successes in a Sustainable Bolivian Agroforestry Program

Room: CR-2

In 1983, in the Cochabamba region of Bolivia, the Center for Social and Economic Development (DESEC) created a forestry program to replant trees. In the 30+ years since, the program has achieved the planting of 13.9 million trees in more than 800 rural communities with the participation of some 20,000 rural families. These results were achieved through an evolution of the program, which included creating “Community Forest Committees” and the establishment of the organization, Multiagro, to complete the productive wood value chain. The program has become an important tool to create income in poor rural areas, significantly changing the economic conditions of local families. Participants in this session will learn about the program and its transformation, along with the current challenges. The session will also allow for debate on the perspectives of forestry initiatives nationally and internationally.

SPEAKERS

Juan Pablo Demeure, DESEC
Jorge Crespo, Multiagro S.A.

FINANCING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Integrated Finance and Insurance to Support Sustainable Crop Production Intensification in Senegal

Room: Auditorium, A3

EN>>SP

Presenters from IRG’s projects in Senegal will discuss how integrated finance models around contract farming have improved resilience to shocks at the community level, including: (i) increased crop adaptation to climate stress; (ii) improved access to and use of technologies and information; (iii) improved income generation; (iv) more open and transparent marketing systems; and (v) more equitable sharing of risks. This session will provide details on the integrated financial products designed for small-scale, vulnerable, cereal producers – including two agricultural insurance programs – and the coordination with financial institutions to integrate insurance premiums into cash flow-based financing supplied by agricultural input and credit providers.

SPEAKERS

Mamadou Diop, Engility
El Hadji Abdou Gueye, Engility
Samantha Wapnick, Engility

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Diversifying Smallholder Income: the Business Case for Bamboo in Rwanda

Room: CR-3

This project aims to increase and diversify the income sources of smallholder farmers in the Eastern Province of Rwanda by engaging them in the bamboo value chain. The bamboo value chain allows for a rapid return on investment, which provides the needed incentive for smallholder farmers to take on climate-smart agriculture technologies while also enabling the restoration of erosion-prone rural environments. Participants in this session will learn how the proposed bamboo business case and associated climate-smart agriculture concept is inclusive of both women and men with different investment capabilities. Bamboo requires low investment in cash, instead requiring investment in labor, which favors groups, such as women and the poor, with less possibility for accumulating funds for investment. Other benefits include job creation, increased incomes, improved access to environmental goods and services, as well as enhanced livelihood resilience.

SPEAKER

Jules Kazunga, Regional Research Centre for Integrated Development

COFFEE & NETWORKING

4:15-4:30PM

AFTERNOON PLENARY

4:30-6PM

PLENARY PANEL

Auditorium, A3
4:30-5:30PM

EN>>SP

Public and Private Sector Partnerships to Regenerate Rural and Agricultural Development

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Food Security and Feed the Future initiative and moderated by Dr. Noel Gurwick of USAID's Global Climate Change Office, this panel will stimulate an interesting discussion with three international firms, Balton CP, Afgri Ghana Equipment and Root Capital on how they are adapting business models, products and services in response to climate change. Gilad Millo, Marketing Director of Balton CP, a leading distributor of agricultural inputs in Africa, irrigation systems and greenhouses will share the range of technical assistance they provide in response to farmer needs, which are changing and less predictable thanks to climate change. Gerrie Jordaan, the Country Manager of Afgri Ghana Equipment, the sole distributor for John Deere in Ghana, will describe their partnership with John Deere, Sinapi Aba Savings and Loans Limited, and the USAID Financing Ghanaian Agriculture Project and how they work together to facilitate leasing for climate-smart agricultural equipment to farmers, who do not have the collateral to purchase it with a loan. Ben Schmerler, Director of Investor Relations at Root Capital will speak to both the Coffee Farmer Resilience Initiative and the Initiative for Smallholder Finance/Council on Smallholder Agricultural Finance.

FACILITATOR

Noel Gurwick, Sustainable Landscapes and Climate Change Advisor, USAID

PANELISTS

Gilad Millo, Group Head of Business Development & Public Relations, Balton CP

Gerrie Jordaan, Country Manager, Afgri Ghana Equipment

Benjamin Schmerler, Director of Investor Relations, Root Capital

CLOSING REMARKS

Auditorium, A3
5:30-6PM

EN>>SP

SPEAKER

Dr. Gordon Smith, Technical Lead for Sustainable Lands Component of USAID CEADIR project, Crown Agents

Welcome to Washington, D.C.



The National Mall

Over 9,000 trees are located on the National Mall; nearly 2,300 are American elm trees, which North American settlers named "the Lady of the Forest." These elm trees line the length of the National Mall, helping to frame the views between the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol. All of the trees on the National Mall remove an estimated 492 tons of air pollution with an estimated value of \$2.5 million.

source: nps.gov





Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS



STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS FOR

A Climate Smart Future

SOILS. The foundation of farming, and a precious resource that is being lost 10 to 40 times faster than it can be replenished. At Catholic Relief Services, we work together with communities to restore soils by restoring degraded landscapes, revitalizing the farms within them. Through climate smart agriculture techniques, farmers are improving their soils and access to water, and recapturing land lost to cultivation. Investing in soils is one of the most effective ways to achieve resilience to climate change, increase food security and build a better future for smallholder farmers.



Learn more about Catholic Relief Services and results-oriented approaches to smallholder agriculture, visit crs.org

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



JESSICA ALDERMAN

Vice President of Women's Empowerment
Envirofit International

Jessica manages Envirofit's global communications, public relations and marketing, and founded Envirofit's women's empowerment programs. She works closely with Envirofit's subsidiaries and international partners to create and implement marketing campaigns and women's empowerment programs that can be adapted and delivered locally. With over eight years of international experience, she has managed projects in Nepal, Uganda, Kenya, Laos, Israel and Palestine. Jessica holds a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.



LUIS ALVAREZ WELCHEZ

Manager, ProSoils Program
Catholic Relief Services

Luis is a soil scientist with over 30 years of field experience in Latin America, including 23 years with FAO. With expertise in soil management and restoration, Luis currently works for Catholic Relief Services in Honduras, where he leads field activities and action research for the Water-Smart Agriculture Initiative, funded by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. He also serves on the Technical Committee of the Global Soils Partnership for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. Luis has a Master's in Soil Science from the University of Georgia.



JESSENIA ANGULO

Group Sustainability Manager
Natural Habitats Group

Jessenia is the Group Sustainability Manager at Natural Habitats Group, where she is accountable for the social and environmental, as well as economic, value creation of the group. She has designed the group's sustainability strategy, and structured the sustainability teams to guarantee the correct implementations of fair trade and organic standard in all the countries where the group operates. Jessenia holds a Bachelor's in International Business Management and Agriculture Economics, as well as an International MBA.



BRIAN APP

Project Director
Chemonics International

Brian is a natural resource management expert with 15 years of experience in biodiversity conservation and community-based natural resource management. As deputy chief of party for the USAID-funded Southern Africa Regional Environmental Program, he oversaw the project's climate change adaptation efforts, including in conservation agriculture. He has also implemented forestry conservation and agriculture programs in Cameroon and Ghana. Brian holds a master's degree in Resource Conservation from the University of Montana.



AMÉRICO ARÉVALO RAMÍREZ

General Manager
Indupalsa S.A.

Américo is the General Manager of INDULPASA, a PAMA-certified palm processor based in the Peruvian jungle that sources from a farmer association representing 600 smallholders. He has an academic background in economics, social investment, and food and agribusiness management. With 20 years of experience in commercial banking, agricultural finance, and international development cooperation, he has acted as chief technical advisor for companies such as Chemonics, TechnoServe, and Agrofinanzas SAC.



EELCO BAAN

Global Coordinator of Sustainable Markets
SNV

Eelco is SNV's Global Coordinator of Sustainable Markets. Eelco has over 20 years of experience in finance, focusing on inclusive agricultural value chain development, agricultural commercialization, and income generation for small and medium enterprises, often in rural areas. He has also worked extensively in advisory positions, with a focus on micro-finance in the developing world. Mr. Baan holds a Master of Science in Business Administration from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, in The Netherlands.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



JENNIE BARON

Theme Leader, Agriculture and Water Management

International Water Management Institute

Jennie is the Research Theme Leader of “Sustainable Agricultural Water Management” at International Water Management Institute (IWMI). Over the last 20 years, she has worked with water and land management for realizing rainfed and irrigated potential for sustainable development of smallholder farming systems through research, policy and capacity strengthening in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Jennie holds a PhD from Stockholm University and MSc from SLU, Uppsala, Sweden.



DEBORAH BARRY

Policy Director, Water and Soils Program
Catholic Relief Services

Deborah is the Policy Director of the Agriculture, Soils and Water Program for Catholic Relief Services for Mesoamerica. She has more than 30 years of experience working on smallholder agriculture and community forestry. She has co-founded several policy-focused research organizations in Central America and the US, worked for the Ford Foundation in Mesoamerica and was recently an advisor to the Salvadoran Environmental Ministry to design a national program in response to Climate Change.



EDUARDO BRITO BASTOS

Government Affairs Director
Dow Chemical Company

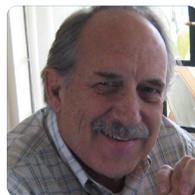
Eduardo began his career at Dow in the role of Food Security Leader for the Latin America Conservation Council. He later transitioned into Government Affairs Leader for Dow Agrosciences Brazil before assuming his current position. Previously, he served as President of the Brazilian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and the Sustainability Director at the Brazilian Agribusiness Association. Eduardo has a MBA from Fundação Getúlio Vargas and an Agronomist Engineering degree from the University of São Paulo.



SHANKAR BHATTARAI

CSA Advisor
SNV Nepal

Shankar is a rural and agricultural development professional with expertise in climate change and adaptation design strategy with a concentration on rural livelihoods across the plains, middle-hills and high-mountains in Nepal. Currently, he leads a climate-smart agriculture (CSA) project at SNV Nepal as an Advisor. Since 2001, he has worked for range of organizations including NGOs, INGOs, local governments and agriculture colleges. He holds a Master of Economics and Bachelor of Agricultural Science from Tribhuvan University Nepal.



ROLAND BUNCH

Consultant

Roland has worked as a consultant in agricultural development in over 50 nations. In 1982, he published *Two Ears of Corn*, which was translated into ten languages and became an all-time best-seller in agricultural development. Since then, he has become the leading proponent of green manure/cover crops around the world. Roland has been nominated for the Global 500 Award, the U.S. President’s End the Hunger Prize, and the World Food Prize.



ANITA CAMPION

President & CEO
Connexus Corporation

Anita is President and CEO of global consulting firm, Connexus Corporation. She is an agricultural finance specialist with 25 years of experience in international finance and private sector development. Anita oversees Connexus’ work on USAID’s FAIDA in Afghanistan and FinGAP in Ghana, as well as public private partnerships in Africa and Latin America. Previously, Anita managed Chemonics’ Financial Services Indefinite Quantity Contract and multiple projects.



DANIELE CESANO

Technical Coordinator

Adapta Sertão

Daniele is co-founder and Technical Coordinator of Adapta Sertão, a coalition of organizations that collaborate to implement climate resilience strategies in family farmers' communities of the semi-arid region of Brazil. Previously, he has worked as a private sector consultant on renewable energy, green buildings and carbon markets in Brazil, USA and Italy. He holds a PhD in Earth and Water Resources from the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden. He is a Giorgio Ruffolo Sustainability Science Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School.



EPHRAIM CHABAYANZARA

Regional Technical Advisor, Agricultural Livelihoods & Environment

Catholic Relief Services

Ephraim has 30 years of experience in agricultural development. With an MSc degree in agricultural development, his career spans across extension services, policy research, value chain financing, market linkages and program technical assistance. He currently coordinates the CRS East Africa regional office initiatives in the Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance.



MICHAEL COTE

Senior Climate Adaptation Specialist

Engility

Michael is a Senior Climate Adaptation Specialist with International Resources Group (IRG), an Engility Company. He specializes in integrating adaptation options in developing country contexts. Most recently he coordinated adaptation projects in Kazakhstan, Nepal, Peru and Vietnam. Michael is a member of USAID Global Climate Change Office's National Adaptation Plan working group, and was an Expert Reviewer on the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Working Group II. He appreciates a good cup of coffee.



JORGE CRESPO-VELASCO

Advisor

Multiagro S.A.

Jorge is currently an Advisor for Multiagro S.A. He has had a long career in both the private and public sectors, previously serving as President of the microfinance institution, Fundación Sembrar, and as Bolivian Minister of International Commerce and Investment. Jorge was also a member of the Board of Executive Directors of the Inter-American Development Bank. He holds a BSc in Business and Public Administration from the University of Maryland and an MSc in International Economic Relations from the London School of Economics.

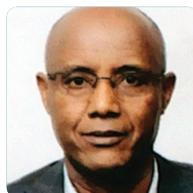


TODD CROSBY

Director of Technical Services

NCBA CLUSA

Todd is Chief of Party for Yaajeende, USAID/Senegal's primary food security project that is run by NCBA CLUSA. Todd holds an MA in Sociology from the University of Chicago and has over 20 years of experience working in community development in West Africa, in particular Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin and Ghana. His technical expertise focuses on the use of private sector business approaches such as social marketing, social franchising, microcredit and value chain methodologies for development.



LEGESSE DADI

Agriculture/Natural Resources Management Program Manager

Catholic Relief Services

Legesse is an Agricultural Economist with more than 30 years of experience in research and development. His areas of research and experience include value chains, marketing, food security, livelihoods, natural resources management, technological change, planning, monitoring and evaluation, project design and program management. Before joining CRS he worked as a manager, planner and researcher. Legesse has a PhD in agricultural economics.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



JUAN PABLO DEMEURE

Director

Centro para el Desarrollo Social y Económico (DESEC)

Juan currently serves as the Director of DESEC and CEO of Multiagro S.A., a timber production and forestry company. He has extensive experience in forestry issues and the timber production value chain as well as in the implementation of social development projects and international certifications such as Forest Stewardship Council and Fairtrade. Juan has a Bachelor of social sciences with a minor in business administration from Adolfo Ibañez University, with postgraduate studies in finance and corporate social responsibility.



SUYAPA DIAZ DIAZ

RSPO Coordinator

Grupo Jaremar

Suyapa is the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Coordinator for Grupo Jaremar, a large Central American food and beverage company that produces RSPO-certified palm oil and assists the small farmer association, UNPALA, in achieving certification. Based in Honduras, Jaremar markets most of their products within Central America. Before acting as RSPO Coordinator for both Jaremar and the small producer groups it sources from, Suyapa worked in the management of palm oil extraction for 15 years.



MAMADOU DIOP

Finance and Investment Advisor

Engility

Mamadou is the Finance and Investment Advisor of the Feed the Future Senegal Naatal Mbay Project. He is an expert in agricultural value chain finance with significant experience in donor-funded international development projects. He has a strong knowledge of the financial sector and investment climate in Africa, SME finance and agribusiness development. Mamadou also has hands-on expertise in business development services, integrated finance models, capacity building for financial institutions and climate risk mitigation strategies.



DOUGBEDJI FATONDJI

Agronomist

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

Based in Niger, Dougbedji is a Senior Agronomist at ICRISAT. With extensive work and research history in the areas of nutrient and water interaction in the indigenous soil conservation technique called 'Zai,' he has a strong understanding of soil fertility build-up in degraded lands as well as of the importance of organic input and management in the Sahelian farming system. He holds a PhD in Soil Science from the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University of Bonn.



SHAUN FERRIS

Director, Agricultural Livelihoods

Catholic Relief Services

Shaun works with the Agricultural Livelihoods team at CRS to develop strategies that support smallholder farmers to improve their food, financial and nutritional security. His specific responsibilities include developing marketing and training materials to build the agro-enterprise capacity of field staff, and working with public and private sector agencies to develop new business models for inclusive market linkage.



DENNIS GARRITY

President

Evergreen Agriculture Partners

Dennis is an agronomist and research leader, specializing in the development of small-scale farming systems. He is currently Drylands Ambassador for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Senior Fellow at the World Resources Institute and Distinguished Senior Research Fellow at the World Agroforestry Centre. He is currently focusing on building an African land restoration movement and is leading an effort to perennialize global agriculture in the 21st Century by chairing the global Partnership to Create an EverGreen Agriculture.



EL HADJI ABDOU GUEYE

Deputy Chief of Party, Feed the Future Naatal Mbay Project

Engility

El Hadji Abdou Gueye is the Deputy Chief of Party for the Feed the Future Senegal Naatal Mbay Project. Specializing in agri-food value chains and institutional development, he has extensive experience in the implementation of quality management and certification of agricultural products. He has developed and overseen innovative traceability, climate risk management, value chain financing and agricultural trade promotion systems, all of which were designed to establish sustainable linkages between the private sector and small-scale producers.



NOEL GURWICK

Sustainable Landscapes and Climate Change Advisor

USAID

Noel is an ecosystem scientist with over 20 years of experience conducting and managing policy-relevant research for diverse stakeholders. As advisor for Sustainable Landscapes in USAID's Office of Global Climate Change, he oversees work on low-emissions development in agriculture. Prior to USAID, Noel contributed to developing carbon offset protocols and sustainability indexes for growers and food retailers.



GEOFF HEINRICH

Senior Technical Advisor for Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Livelihoods

Catholic Relief Services

Geoff provides technical assistance to CRS' agriculture and environment programs primarily in Africa through sharing innovations, managing learning opportunities, and strengthening relationships with advanced research institutions, PVOs, the Public Sector, and donors. He has a Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Science and 30 years of on-farm R&D experience with smallholder farmers. Geoff also represents CRS on the Africa-wide AU-NEPAD iNGO Alliance for Scaling Up Climate Smart Agriculture in Africa.



BRIGIT HELMS

General Manager, Multilateral Investment Fund

Inter-American Development Bank

Brigit has nearly 30 years of experience finding innovative private sector solutions to development problems in over 30 developing countries. Before the Inter-American Development Bank, Brigit was the Chief of Party for the USAID/Mozambique support program for economic and enterprise development. She has held positions at the U.S. Department of Commerce, CGAP and IFC. Brigit received a B.S. from Santa Clara University and a Ph.D in Economics from Stanford University. She speaks English, Spanish, and French.



ROB HENNING

Agriculture & Food Security Practice Director
Chemonics International

Rob has worked for over 20 years to promote investment and growth in developing countries. He works at all levels of emerging economies from the grassroots to the boardroom, creating prosperity through entrepreneurship, value chain development, frontier market investing and market research. At Chemonics, he leads the Agriculture and Food Security technical practice. He holds an MBA from Georgetown University and served as a small enterprise development volunteer with the Peace Corps in Benin.



PAUL HICKS

Water Resources Coordinator
Catholic Relief Services

Paul is the Water Resources Coordinator for CRS in Latin America, with nearly twenty years of experience in water resources management and agricultural development. His current work focuses on promoting sustainable agriculture and the conservation of drinking water sources. Paul has a Master's degree in International Agricultural Development from the University of California, Davis. For CRS, he has lived and worked in Albania, Mindanao (Philippines), Afghanistan, and Central America.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



BRONWYN IRWIN

Practice Manager for Agriculture and Food Security
Engility

Bronwyn is an agricultural economist focused on strengthening market systems to smallholder incomes while improving natural resource management. As Practice Manager for Agriculture and Food Security at IRG, an Engility company, she provides technical and management support to a portfolio of projects. Previously, as COP for the REALIZ program in Zimbabwe, Bronwyn oversaw the design and delivery of a facilitative approach to strengthening the horticultural value chain through contract farming arrangements.



ALY-KHAN JAMAL

Associate Partner
Dalberg Global Development Advisors

Aly-Khan is the Director of Dalberg's London office and leads our Agriculture and Food Security expertise area. His experience includes roles in and advisory for the entire agriculture value chain and agro-allied businesses, including upstream inputs, supply and manufacturing, commercial and smallholder agriculture and much more. His experience spans focusing on individual crops or segments of the value chain, to country and even multi-country strategies that aim to drive transformational growth in agriculture and agro-processing.



GERRIE JORDAAN

Country Manager
Afgri Ghana Equipment

Gerrie is the Country Manager for Afgri Ghana Equipment, which is the sole distributor for John Deere in Ghana. He has facilitated climate-smart agricultural equipment leasing to low-income farmers through Afgri Ghana's partnership with Sinapi Aba Savings and Loans and the USAID-FinGAP project. He has over 35 year of experience in the agriculture industry.



ELLEN KENDALL

Associate Consultant
Dalberg Global Development Advisors

Ellen is an Associate Consultant in Dalberg's London office. Ellen joined in June 2015 after completing an MPhil in Development Studies in Cambridge where she focused on agricultural development as a means to improve livelihoods and drive inclusive economic development. In Dalberg, Ellen has continued her focus on agriculture by working with the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) to conduct research on the challenges for and potential of renovation and rehabilitation of smallholder farmer land.



MARIO KERBY

Project Director
Chemonics International

Mario is an experienced project leader with more than 30 years of experience leading complex, multidisciplinary projects in agricultural competitiveness, agribusiness development, watershed and environmental management, and capacity development. In Haiti with the USAID-funded Feed the Future West/WINNER project, Mario oversaw a multidisciplinary watershed investment fund and helped the project achieve impressive gains in target value chains. He has also led two large scale projects in Morocco.



LAUREN LEIFESTE

Private Sector Engagement Specialist
Engility

Lauren is the Private Sector Engagement Specialist for Engility responsible for overseeing private sector partnerships across our development programs. Previously Lauren was a volunteer consultant in Zambia co-founding a sanitation services social enterprise. Lauren has also worked as a Business Development and Strategy Specialist for Engility and was a Lending Graduate Intern for a women's small business incubator and microfinance institution in New Mexico. Lauren received her MBA from the University of New Mexico.

**GERO LESON****Director of Special Operations****Dr. Bronner's**

Gero is the Director of Special Operations for Dr. Bronner's, the best-selling brand of natural soaps in North America. The company's mission is to use business to effect social change – and be profitable. Since Dr. Bronner's began shifting sourcing of its major raw materials – coconut, palm, olive, mint oils - to organic and fair trade projects in 2005, Gero has managed the development and operation of such projects in Sri Lanka, Ghana, Kenya and India. They illustrate the power of fair commerce in the development of smallholder communities.

**ZACHARIE MANIRARORA****Senior Agriculture Officer****Catholic Relief Services**

Zacharie is an agronomist with 20 years of experience in the Rwandan agriculture sector. Currently he is a Senior Agriculture Officer at CRS Rwanda where he coordinates agriculture-related activities in agriculture, food security and health and nutrition projects funded by various donors including USAID, Keurig Green Mountain and the Dutch Government. He has a Bachelor degree in Agriculture with a focus on crop production.

**MARÍA MARTINEZ MURILLO****Sustainable Intensification Specialist****The Nature Conservancy**

At The Nature Conservancy, María specializes in the design and implementation of public policies and economic initiatives for development, with experience in the agricultural sector, rural sustainable development and institutional reform. She has previously worked as the Undersecretary of Planning and Rural Development of the state of Jalisco, Mexico. María holds a BA in International Relations from ITAM, as well as a Master's in Public Policy and an MA in Economics for Sustainable Development and Agriculture.

**JUMA MASUMBA****Agriculture and Markets Technical Integration Lead****Catholic Relief Services**

With over 14 years of experience, Juma's work has mostly focused on agriculture extension, marketing, small-scale irrigation, environment and program management. He joined CRS in May 2006 and currently serves as the Technical Integration Lead for Agriculture and Markets on a five year USAID food security and nutrition program. Juma holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Malawi.

**MELISSA MATLOCK****Project Manager****Connexus Corporation**

Melissa is a Project Manager at Connexus where she manages projects in Rwanda and Colombia that focus on facilitating access to finance for agricultural value chains. Previously, she worked at the SEEP Network on microfinance association strengthening in Brazil and Africa. Melissa served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Costa Rica and holds a BA in Global Studies and Economics.

**EDUARDO MENDIAS****Sr. Global Development Manager, Micro-Irrigation****The Toro Company**

Eduardo is the Senior Global Development Manager for Sustainable Agriculture of Toro Micro-Irrigation. With 13 years in the irrigation industry, he has held various positions at Rain Bird, John Deere and Toro. Prior to the irrigation industry, Eduardo managed engineering and manufacturing operations in Central America for the food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries. He holds Bachelors degrees in Engineering and Economics from the University of California and an MBA in Finance and Marketing from Pepperdine University.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



GILAD MILLO

Group Head of Business Development & Public Relations

Balton CP

Gilad is Group Head of Business Development & Public Relations for Balton CP Group, a British Multinational with subsidiaries in nine African countries. Motivated by a passion for empowering the people of Africa and coupled with a pioneering spirit for introducing new, cutting edge technologies and knowledge, the Balton CP Group remains in the forefront of agribusiness driven commercially sustainable development throughout Africa. Following six years of work with Amiran Kenya, Gilad moved to work for the group in 2014.



CHIKAKULA MITI

Climate Change Coordinator

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

Chikakula brings over 11 years of experience in private and public sector development, as well as regional policy design. While at COMESA Secretariat, he has been instrumental in the development and implementation of major regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development program and Regional Conservation Agriculture program. Chikakula has worked in Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Madagascar, and Kenya implementing climate smart interventions aimed at supporting regional food security goals.



ADELINE MUHEEBWA

Gender and Development Consultant

Adeline is a gender and development consultant, currently serving as the Chairperson of the Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment (AUPWAE). She has over 17 years of experience in technology for agricultural development. Adeline received recognition from Winrock International for her contribution to improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, especially women, and is a bronze medal winner for the first ever “Create and Cook with Tooke Flour” competition.



THOMAS MUSYOKI

Senior Project Officer, Agriculture

Catholic Relief Services

Thomas is a project manager for the Keurig Green Mountain project at CRS Kenya. He has 10 years of experience in Kenya working on smallholder value chains, livelihoods, microfinance and food security. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Agronomy.



ATHANASE KADJO NIAMIEN

CEO

Agrivar

Athanase is the Managing Director of AGRIVAR, a company that has strong value chain linkages with neighboring palm producer cooperatives and the first and only palm oil processor in Ivory Coast certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. Athanase has 20 years of experience in important local and foreign engineering and industrial firms and at AGRIVAR, he specializes in palm oil transformation and extraction, and the specific impacts on small farmers and the environment as a result of growing organic palm oil.



HUMBERTO OLIVEIRA

Vice President

SENAR Bahia

Humberto is a veterinarian by training who has always been actively engaged in the social and political movement of the state of Bahia. He was President of the Labor Union of the Miguel Calmon municipality and then Major of the same municipality. Currently he is Vice President of SENAR Bahia. SENAR is the largest technical assistance organization in Brazil. In the state of Bahia, it provides technical training to over 2,800 farmers yearly.



SATISH PILLARISETTI

Executive Director

Sa-Dhan

Satish is Executive Director of Sa-Dhan, the national association of community development finance institutions in India. Previously, he headed the Microcredit Innovations Department of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. Prior to this, he headed the Maharashtra Regional Office at Pune where he led many initiatives, including the Climate Change Adaptation Project. He has an MBA in Finance, an MS in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a PhD in Economics from Panjab University.



JAMES QUARSHIE

Chief of Party, USAID Development Food Assistance Program, Niger

Catholic Relief Services

James is Chief of Party of the \$40 Million USAID Food For Peace-funded Development Food Assistance Program in Niger. He has a wide range of program knowledge, including natural resource management in the tropics and sub tropics, food aid management, microenterprise, rural reconstruction, agricultural extension and integrated community development. He has a Master of Science in Agricultural Sciences, Food Security and Natural Resource Management in the Tropics and Sub-Tropics from the Universität Hohenheim in Germany.



JEFF RATCLIFFE

Chief of Party, USAID Mali Climate Change Adaption Activity

Chemomics International

Jeff is a climate adaptation and resilience expert with over 20 years of expertise designing and delivering food security and livelihood interventions in difficult to reach locations. He began his career in Niger and has since worked in Liberia, Sierra Leone, DRC, Nigeria, Rwanda and Mali. Currently in Mali, Jeff oversees the USAID-funded Mali Climate Change Adaptation Activity, a new program designed to help the government and rural stakeholders alike adapt to new climactic realities.



FRANK RUBIO

Global Head, Agriculture

Oikocredit

Frank is both Oikocredit's Head of Global Agriculture and the Regional Manager for the South America Northern Region. Oikocredit is a Netherlands-based social investor that operates in 60 countries worldwide, working for the triple-bottom-line of people, planet and profit. Frank has 25 years of experience in microfinance and agricultural development through companies such as Catholic Relief Services, CARE-USA and the Inter-American Development Bank. He currently manages Oikocredit's worldwide agricultural portfolio of \$150 million.



BEN SCHMERLER

Director of Investor Relations

Root Capital

Ben is responsible for building relationships and engagement strategies with existing and potential donors and investors. He provides management, oversight, and leadership towards achieving Root Capital's overall philanthropy targets. Previously he worked as senior supply chain manager, coffee and consulting services for Fair Trade USA and as co-director and teacher at the John F. Kennedy Institute for African Studies. Ben holds a B.A. in environmental policy and political science from the University of Washington.



DR. GORDON SMITH

Technical Lead, Sustainable Lands Component, USAID CEADIR

Crown Agents

Gordon is the Technical Lead for the Sustainable Lands component of the USAID Climate Economic Analysis for Development, Investment and Resilience (CEADIR) project. Since 1994, Gordon has worked on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions by changing land use. He has expertise in forest carbon sequestration, avoided forest emissions (REDD+), soil carbon, manure management, fertilizer nitrous oxide and soil methane.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



PATRICK STARR

Finance Specialist

Connexus Corporation

Patrick is a Finance Specialist at Connexus where he focuses on building local management capacity and developing agricultural value chains. Patrick began his career at PwC where he worked advising federal clients on projects related to human capital and sustainability. He then took his skills to Benin where he worked as a Peace Corps volunteer. He holds a degree in Finance from the University of Notre Dame as well as an MBA from Cornell University.



DR. NANCY STETSON

U.S. Special Representative for Global Food Security

Dr. Stetson is responsible for all aspects of U.S. diplomacy related to food security and nutrition. Her diplomatic efforts to advance global food security and nutrition target donors, developing countries, multilateral organizations, civil society and the private sector. During her tenure in the Senate, Dr. Stetson traveled extensively in Africa and Asia, building expertise in the importance of food security to human and economic development and contributing to some of the U.S. government's major foreign policy achievements.



TIM STRONG

Regional Agricultural Finance Adviser

Opportunity International

Tim coordinates the implementation of the Branch-less Banking and Digital Financial Services initiatives throughout Opportunity's implementing members in Africa. He has worked in Southern and Eastern Africa since 2005 and before Opportunity, he worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Peace Corps and the Clinton Foundation. He received a BSc in Biochemistry and Plant Physiology from the University of California at Davis and holds an MA in Environmental Policy and an MBA in Operations and Supply Chain Management.



DR. MAXIMO TERERO

Markets, Trade and Institutions Division Director

International Food Policy Research Institute

Maximo is the MTI Division Director at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), leader of the Global Research Program on Institutions and Infrastructure for Market Development and Director for Latin America. In this capacity as director and research program leader, he directs the activities of an IFPRI unit that conducts research, with special emphasis on M&E of infrastructure and rural development interventions. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles, Department of Economics.



GINYA TRUITT NAKATA

Operations Senior Specialist

Inter-American Development Bank

As the Coordinator of AgroLAC 2025, Ginya develops and implements engagement strategies for food security, trade and integration, and biodiversity with NGOs, foundations, private sector organizations and development actors operating throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Previously, at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Ginya led the gender program in 42 Western, Central, and Eastern European countries. She holds a BA in International Management and an MA in International Development from American University.



DYMPHNA VAN DER LANS

CEO

Clinton Climate Initiative

Dymphna van der Lans serves as the CEO of the Clinton Climate Initiative, where she oversees climate and energy related programs within the Foundation. Previously Dymphna served as the senior director for public policy programs at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Dymphna holds advanced degrees from both Leiden University and the University of Beijing. She earned a Master's in Business Administration from Rice University and is also a graduate from Dialogos, Leadership for Collective Intelligence.



LEO VASQUEZ

Director of Strategic Public Affairs

ECOM Agroindustrial Corp. Ltd

Leo serves as the Director of Strategic Public Affairs for the ECOM trading organization. With activities in over 40 countries and a focus on coffee, cocoa and cotton, ECOM is a recognized global commodities supply chain leader. Utilizing his expertise in strategic planning, finance and mergers and acquisitions, Leo works on building partnerships with ECOM and the global development community. He is a graduate of Yale University and earned his MBA from Columbia University.



SAMANTHA WAPNICK

**Gender, Climate, and Knowledge
Management Manager, Feed the Future
Naatal Mbay**

Engility

Samantha manages all cross-cutting technical areas related to gender, climate change and knowledge management for the Feed the Future Senegal Naatal Mbay Project. Her experience includes designing and implementing programs targeting increased food security and community resilience. She was previously the Technical Coordinator for USAID's Senegal Accelerated Growth and Increased Competitiveness Economic Growth Project and has worked on numerous projects related to climate change and natural resources.



DR. MARIT WILKERSON

Climate Change Advisor, Bureau for Africa

USAID

Marit is a conservation scientist dedicated to finding strategies and solutions based in interdisciplinary research that address applied, real-world conservation issues. At USAID, she integrates climate change into Agency policy and process and provide technical assistance as needed to our in-country field offices. Marit's portfolio centers on climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and within that, she works to mainstream CSA within the Agency where relevant and to ensure that CSA research and projects directly feed into positive, sustained development impacts.

THANK YOU

CRACKING THE NUT 2016 TEAM

Connexus

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Jake Johnson, Intern
Melissa Matlock, Project
Manager
Laura Smith, Operations
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Rwanda
Senegal
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South Sudan
Tanzania

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Zambia
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United Kingdom

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Afghanistan
Australia
Bangladesh
India
Nepal
New Zealand
Pakistan
Philippines

BEST OF THE CONFERENCE

THREE THINGS I HAD NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEFORE:

PEOPLE I WANT TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER:

- @
- @
- @
- @
- @

SESSIONS I MUST REVIEW LATER:

MY FAVORITE QUOTES:

THE MOST INTERESTING IDEA I HEARD:

TOP FIVE PEOPLE TO FOLLOW UP WITH:

THINGS I FEEL INSPIRED TO DO WHEN I GET BACK:

WEBSITES I MUST CHECK OUT:

NOTES





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