



BRUSSELS POLICY BRIEFING N. 59

Agroecology for Sustainable Food Systems

Organisers: CTA, ACP Secretariat, European Commission (DG Devco), Concord, IPES-FOOD

Wednesday 15th January 2020, 9h00-13h00

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

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

BIODATA OF THE SPEAKERS

Isolina Boto – Manager, CTA Brussels Office and Coordinator of the Briefings

Isolina Boto is the Manager of the CTA Brussels Office. Isolina has more than 20 years of experience in development. She worked for the European Commission, various ACP embassies and NGOs in areas related to food security, rural development and trade. Within CTA, she worked in various positions at headquarters, in the Netherlands, especially on co-funded technical programmes on Agriculture and Rural Development implemented at regional level. Since 2004 she heads the CTA Brussels Office, dealing with policy issues related to the ACP-EU cooperation in the field of agricultural and rural development. In that context, she coordinates and organizes the regular Brussels Development Briefings on topical development policy issues (<http://brusselsbriefings.net>). The office produces a daily news service on key policy areas of ACP-EU cooperation on trade, fisheries, climate change, food security and development policy (<http://brussels.cta.int>). She also implements field projects on policy and value chains in ACP countries.

Ronnie Brathwaite – Senior Agriculture Officer, FAO

Dr Ronnie Brathwaite is a national of Barbados, an agriculture and rural development specialist with experience in agriculture policy development, small farmer livelihoods development and agricultural health and food safety. Dr. Brathwaite is a Senior Agriculture Officer with the Food and Agriculture Officer of the United Nations where he leads the Ecosystems Approach to Sustainable Crop Production Intensification team and the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative. His areas of expertise include small farmer oriented policy development, arable land distribution programmes and services geared towards sustainable small farmer livelihood development. He previously worked with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat as the Deputy Programme Manager for Agriculture Development where he coordinated regional agriculture programmes and projects for the 15 Member Countries and developed agriculture policy in the area of agriculture and trade in agricultural goods. Dr. Brathwaite completed Masters Degrees at the University of the West Indies and the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña. His Ph.D. at the China Agricultural University in Agriculture and Rural Development Management. His thesis focused on the impact of agriculture policies on the sustainability of small farmers' livelihoods.

Ibrahima Coulibaly – President, ROPPA

Ibrahima Coulibaly, the new President of ROPPA, the Réseau des organisations paysannes et des producteurs agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Network of Farmers' Organisations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa), who was appointed by his peers at the Network's 7th Convention, is an agricultural producer active in market gardening, arboriculture and cereal production (millet, maize, sorghum, etc.), also raising livestock and producing honey in the region of Koulikoro.

He has been involved in farmers' movements at all levels since the advent of democracy in Mali in 1991. A tireless supporter of family farming, he is one of the founders of the CNOP, the Coordination nationale des producteurs du Mali (National Producers' Organisation of Mali), of which he has been president since 2005. With the CNOP, he was one of the driving forces behind the Malian Parliament's promulgation in 2006 of the Agricultural Orientation Law, which

enshrined the concept of food sovereignty in its objectives and recognised the central place of family farming in any agricultural policy. Ibrahima Coulibaly was appointed United Nations Ambassador for the International Year of Family Farming in 2014.

In 2007, he led the organisation of the first World Forum for Food Sovereignty in Nyéléni. In the same spirit, he was one of the leading West African figures in the movement to oppose agricultural trade liberalisation policies, particularly the Economic Partnership Agreements negotiated between the European Union and African countries. For several years, Ibrahima Coulibaly has been involved within the farmers' movement in the development of an agro-ecological approach to food systems, from production, including land issues, all the way to final consumption in the cities.

A man of conviction and commitment, Ibrahima Coulibaly has been a member of ROPPA's Board of Directors since 2000 and has served as its vice-president since 2014. He took part in work on the drafting of the defence of the rights of peasants, which has just been adopted by the United Nations.

Emile Frison – Member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food)

Dr Frison is a member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food). He obtained an MSc from the Catholic University of Louvain and a PhD in agricultural sciences from the University of Gembloux in Belgium. He worked in Africa for six years on agricultural research and development, in Nigeria and Mauritania. In 2003, he became Director General of Bioversity International and developed a strategy entitled "Diversity for Well-being" focusing on the contribution that agricultural biodiversity makes to the nutritional quality of diets and to the sustainability, resilience and productivity of smallholder agriculture.

Since 2013, Dr Frison focuses on advancing sustainable agriculture and food systems. He is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Ecoagriculture Partners and a member of the Strategic Orientation Committee on Sustainable Food Systems of the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation. In 2019, he was appointed to the Mission Board on Soil Health and Food of the European Commission. Dr Frison is lead author of "From Uniformity to Diversity: a paradigm shift from industrial agriculture to diversified agroecological systems" and author or co-author of over 175 scientific, technical and policy papers.

<https://it.linkedin.com/in/emilefrison>

Viwanou Gnassounou – Assistant Secretary General, ACP Secretariat

Viwanou Gnassounou, from Togo, is an economist, financial expert and project manager with 17 years of experience in agricultural and natural resource policy formulation, aid programming, sectoral commodity export strategies, and trade. Before joining the ACP Management Team, he was co-manager of a Consulting firm, which provides support in the areas of development policies. He also set up and managed an agricultural products industrial processing company based in Togo. Mr. Gnassounou holds a Master's degree in Economic Analysis and Policy, a Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) in Development Economics (MPhil equivalent), and a Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées (DESS) in Economic Development and Development Project Management (MSc equivalent) from the Centre for Research and Studies in International Development at the Université d'Auvergne, France. He is fluent in English, French and Mina (Togo), with basic knowledge of German. Mr. Gnassounou took office on 1 April 2015.

Michael Hailu – Director, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

Michael Hailu, an Ethiopian national, is the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) based in the Netherlands. CTA is a joint institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union working under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. Mr. Hailu has over 25 years of professional experience in agricultural research and development in Africa and Asia. Prior to joining CTA in mid-2010, he held senior leadership positions at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) based in Nairobi, Kenya and at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia. Mr. Hailu has led the development and implementation of CTA's 2011-2015 strategic plan

refocusing the Centre's work on three priority themes—supporting agricultural policies and strategies; enhancing inclusive value chains; and strengthening capacities of ARD institutions and networks in knowledge management and ICTs. He has degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and Addis Ababa University. He has also been trained in strategic leadership at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Ellen Matupi – President, Coalition of Women Farmers in Malawi (COWFA)

Ellen Matupi is a smallholder woman farmer who comes from Rumphu district in Malawi. She owns a small piece of land, around 5 hectares and she grows maize, beans, Soya and Groundnuts. Ellen is the current President for the Coalition of Women Farmers in Malawi (COWFA). COWFA was established in the year 2006 and has got a membership of over 300,000 women farmers from across Malawi. She is one of the champions of agroecology in Malawi. She oversees implementation of agroecology and advocacy activities within the movement. COWFA is part of the recently launched agroecology association in Malawi - Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (Pelum) Association in Malawi.

Ellen is currently an elected Board member of Landnet Malawi which deals with land issues since 2017. She is also an elected Board member for Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (MaFAAS) since 2018. Ellen is a member of the national steering committee for ActionAid Malawi's Partnership for Social Accountability Alliance (PSA) Project called "Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa". She is also the Vice Chairperson of Rural Women Assembly (RWA) Malawi chapter which is at SADC level. Ellen recently won an award in Drivers of Change in the year 2019 in Malawi. She has been representing smallholder women farmers in Malawi at many different platforms, locally and internationally. She recently represented women farmers at the 2019 COP 25 in Madrid where she highlighted, and she shared how women are affected with climate change and the role of agroecology in climate change management. She also represented women farmers at the COP 21 in Paris, France in the year 2015. She also represented women farmers at the United Nations Binding Treaty in Geneva in 2019.

Paola Migliorini – President of Agroecology Europe

Paola Migliorini is Assistant Professor in Agronomy and Plant Production System at the University of Gastronomic Science (Pollenzo, Italy), since 2009. She teaches Agroecology, Organic Agriculture, Sustainable agriculture and Agrobiodiversity courses at Bachelor and Master level. Born in Florence, she graduated in Agricultural Science and Technology at the University of Florence (Italy) in 1998 (110 cum laude). In 2000 she received her Master's degree in 'Food Security' from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in 2006 her PhD in at the University of Florence, under the supervision of Prof. Concetta Vazzana and Prof. Miguel Altieri.

From 1998 to 2003 she was Technical Manager of the Tuscan Organic Producers Association, (CTPB). From 2000 to 2003 she worked as Technical Inspector for the control and certification of organic agricultural production. From 1998 to 2000 she was researcher at the Overseas Agronomic Institute dealing with international cooperation and gender analysis. She was Committee member and didactic coordinator of the Master course in Ecological Agriculture (organic and biodynamic) at University of Florence for its fourth edition (2001/2004). From 2001 to 2008 she was a research fellow at the Agronomy Department, University of Florence, Faculty of Agriculture. She was a member of the Socio-Economic Aspects of Animal Health and Food Safety in Organic Farming Systems (SAFO) and the Network for Animal Health and Welfare in Organic Agriculture (NAHWOA) funded by the European Union's DG Research.

She has given numerous lectures on organic farming as part of Master's degrees and IFTS training courses for technicians and farmers in Italy and abroad.

She is President and funding member of Agroecology Europe and vice president of IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo. She is author of 100 technical and scientific papers in international and national journals, monographs, book chapters and conference proceedings. At the University of Gastronomic Sciences has participated in several interdisciplinary projects related to agricultural aspects of food at regional, national and international level.

Leonard Mizzi – Head of Unit Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition, Europeaid, European Commission

Leonard Mizzi is a Maltese national, having started working in the Maltese public administration (Office of the Prime Minister in the late 80s) then moving to the Maltese private sector between 1996-2006 where he was the first Director of the Malta Business Bureau in Brussels- the joint office of the Hotels and Restaurants Association and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Malta. Since 2007 he joined the European Commission (DG Agriculture and Rural Development), first dealing with ACP countries and development and then inter-institutional affairs. In 2017, he joined DG DEVCO. Dr. Mizzi is a graduate of the University of Malta, CIHEAM-IAMM (Montpellier) and has a Ph.D from Reading University, UK – with a specialisation in food demand economics. He has been a visiting lecturer at the University of Malta, Open University and Boston University and occasionally College of Europe (Bruges). He is the author of a number of articles, specialising in Euro-Mediterranean issues, Malta-EU relations, agribusiness in island states and agribusiness and SME development.

Alejandra Morena – Right to Food and Nutrition, Capacity-Building Coordinator, FIAN

M. Alejandra Morena, originally from Argentina, currently works at FIAN International, an international organization advocating for the realization of the human right to adequate food and nutrition. She coordinates FIAN's work on capacity-building, women's rights & gender, and Latin America. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of the yearly publication Right to Food and Nutrition. Prior to joining FIAN in 2014, she worked on minority and human rights at intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in Kosovo. She holds an MA in Human Rights from the University of Essex, United Kingdom.

Mansour Ndiaye- Executive Director of APAF-Senegal (Association for the Promotion of Fertilitary Trees, Agroforestry and Forestry)

Mansour is an engineer in training, specializing in natural resource management. He has 43 years of experience in advisory support to farmers' organizations in Senegal. He served for 24 years as an executive in the cotton agro-industry in Senegal where he had to hold several positions in the popularization of this crop, the management of agricultural credit, the marketing of seed cotton. In 2009, he left this company, to join the team of the Regional Directorate of Agriculture in Kaolack where he served in the division responsible for the collection and processing of agricultural statistics. Two years later, he was recruited by the National Support Program for Producer Organizations (co-funded by the World Bank and the State of Senegal) to head the Technical Execution Agency for projects in the St Louis region. In 2006, he left this program to devote himself as an independent consultant to the advisory support of several producer organizations wishing to initiate the agro-ecological transition. It was in 2013 that he was appointed to the post of Executive Director of APAF Senegal just after its creation. APAF Senegal is a member of the African APAF network and the International APAF. He has a vision of re-greening all of Senegal, a country where severe deforestation of rural areas created food, economic and social insecurity everywhere.

Fergus Sinclair – Leader of Systems Science, World Agroforestry (ICRAF)

Dr Fergus Sinclair is Leader of Systems Science at World Agroforestry (ICRAF), Nairobi through collaboration with Bangor University, UK. He leads the Livelihood Systems flagship of the CGIAR research program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA), is Honorary Professor at CATIE (Centre for Agricultural Research and Higher Education) in Costa Rica and Honorary Editor of Agroforestry Systems. He is project team leader for the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) report on agroecology and lead author of the background paper on agroecological approaches to realizing climate-resilient agriculture for the Global Commission on Adaptation. His transdisciplinary research is focused on combining local agroecological knowledge with formal science, measuring and modelling the performance of complex social-ecological systems, and the development of practical methods for supporting local agricultural innovation over large land areas and numbers of people while addressing fine scale variation in farmer context.

Thaddeo Tibasiima Kahigwa – Program Manager, Agricultural Research and Technology Development at Sustainable Agriculture Trainers Network (SATNET)

Thaddeo Tibasiima Kahigwa is the Program Manager in charge of Agricultural Research and Technology Development at Sustainable Agriculture Trainers Network (SATNET) which is one of the Ugandan Iles de Paix partners. For 11 years, he worked with smallholder farmer families to improve their farming practices towards balanced multiple environmental, economic and social sustainability through agroecological initiatives using participatory tools such as the integrated farm planning (Mpanga Super farmer Programme) and the Farmer Family Learning group approach (FFLG). His major current task is to establish an Organic FFLG academy. He also promotes joint on-farm research between farmers and research institutions to learn and better understand the functioning of the farming system (Participatory Action Research-PAR). Recently, he participated in writing a book on a participatory project “Taking our future in our hands”. Thaddeo is also a PhD scholar at the university of Natural resources and Life sciences Vienna and is participating in developing a Participatory course for Master scholars of Agroecology at Mountains of the Moon University. Briefly, Thaddeo can be described as one who believes, preaches and practices Agroecology and continues to carry the “Participatory development flag” around the world.