



PAFO-COLEAD INNOVATIONS SERIES:
Innovations and successes of African farmer-led businesses and SMEs

SESSION N°20

Successful agroecological practices by farmers and SMEs in Africa

Wednesday 4 September 2024 - 12:00-14:00 UTC

Online ([Zoom](#))

English-French-Portuguese interpretation available

BIODATA OF THE SPEAKERS

ISOLINA BOTO – HEAD OF NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES, COLEAD



Isolina Boto is the Head of Networks and Alliances at COLEAD, a non-profit Association of private sector operators in the agrifood sector active in the EU, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) regions. Isolina has more than 25 years of experience in agricultural development. She started her career with the European Commission and has also worked with various ACP embassies and NGOs in areas related to food security, rural development and trade. Before joining COLEAD, she was the Manager of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) Brussels Office (2004-2020) implementing policy initiatives related to the ACP-EU cooperation in the field of agricultural and rural development. She has led agribusiness projects in support of capacity development of SMEs, entrepreneurs and farmers organisations across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.



JEREMY KNOPS – DELEGUE GENERAL, COLEAD

Jeremy Knops holds a master's degree in business engineering from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (SBS-EM). Prior to joining COLEAD in 2009, he was involved in Guatemala with the daily operations of a farmers' cooperative exporting loquats to the EU and the US. He started to work for COLEAD as an expert in charge of matters related to private standards and certification for ACP producers and exporters of fruit and vegetables. In June 2019 he was appointed General Delegate of COLEAD. Jeremy is an accredited coach for leadership and professional development.



ROSINAH MBENYA – COUNTRY COORDINATOR, PELUM, KENYA

Rosinah Mbenya is currently the Country Coordinator at PELUM Kenya. PELUM Kenya is a membership network that promotes agroecological principles and practices among smallholder farmers and pastoralists. Rosinah is an environmentalist by profession and has over twelve years' experience in development projects, approaches and techniques in the fields of agroecology, climate change, market development, advocacy, capacity development and networking. She holds good knowledge and practical experience in issues that affect small scale farmers and communities. She also holds a good understanding and strong affinity with civil society and networks. Rosinah is passionate about transforming rural communities (particularly women and youth) livelihoods through eco-friendly agricultural practices. Rosinah recently won the Leading African Women in Food Fellowship award and the Agroecology Leadership Academy. She is a board member of Effective IPM Association. She is a steering committee member of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) at continental, regional and national levels and a steering committee member of the African Women Leaders in Agroecology. Rosinah is also a practicing peri-urban farmer.

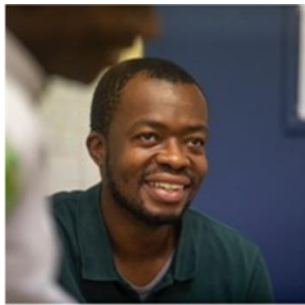


NANCY MUGIMBA – NATIONAL COORDINATOR, ESAFF UGANDA

Nancy Mugimba is the National Coordinator for the Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF Uganda) since 2010. She has dedicated her career to holistic community growth, advancing farming practices that prioritize environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and community resilience. She has been at the forefront of empowering small-scale farmers especially women towards self-reliance, and of advocating for sustainable farming practices and championing the cause of agroecology. Under her stewardship, ESAFF Uganda has emerged as a beacon of change in Uganda, promoting community-led agricultural approaches that prioritize biodiversity conservation, soil health, and resilience to climate change.

With a profound understanding of the interconnectedness between agriculture, environment, and socio-economic development, Nancy continues to support and mobilize communities across Uganda to embrace agroecology as a pathway to sustainable and inclusive growth. She is convinced about the transformative power of grassroots collective action in building resilient food systems for present and future generations. She also believes in the importance of agroecology in ensuring that the populations are consuming healthy nutritious food,

NOËL N’GUESSAN – CO-FOUNDER, LONO, CÔTE D’IVOIRE



Kombo Ekra Noël N’Guessan is a chemical engineer trained in Canada, South Africa and Belgium in the design and optimisation of industrial and biorefining processes. In 2016, Noël cofounded LONO, an engineering company specializing in the local manufacturing of technology and providing services for the agricultural and livestock value chains to produce organic fertilizer and methane. Over the past 5 years, LONO has patented a local technology for the production of organic fertilizer and introduced a model of modular and mobile biodigesters for the agri-food sector. For these innovations, Noël and LONO have received awards from local and international organizations including EDF, Total Energies and the Royal Academy of

Engineering.

In addition to this technology design and manufacturing activity, LONO designs, builds and operates agricultural waste processing plants that produce organic fertilisers and bioenergy. The company is implementing – among other - a programme of four biofertiliser plants in four regions of Côte d’Ivoire for cooperative and small farmer customers. It is also implementing an off-grid biogas project for industrial customers and a carbon sequestration project through soil restoration.

LONO also offers technical assistance and training services to its partners, such as cooperatives, companies and agencies implementing a strategy to mitigate climate change or introduce agroecology practices. The activities include the decarbonization of the agro-industrial sectors and the restoration of carbon in the soil.

OUSSEINI OUEDRAOGO - EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ROPPA, WEST AFRICA

Ousseini Ouedraogo is the Executive Secretary of the Network of Farmers’ and Producers’ Organisations of West Africa (ROPPA). Prior to this position, he was a programme officer in ROPPA's technical implementation unit in charge of information and communication. He has also worked for the National Federation of Naam Groups (Fédération Nationale des Groupements Naam), one of the largest farmers' organisations in West Africa.

Ousseini is also active in the permanent secretariat of the National Federation of Farmers' Organisations (Fédération Nationale des Organisations Paysannes, FENOP) in Burkina Faso and in the West African section of the international solidarity association Afdi (Agriculteurs français et développement international).

Ousseini is a trained agricultural engineer.

DR. BABAFEMI OYEWOLE – CEO, PAFO



Dr. Babafemi Oyewole, the CEO of Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO), is a tri-sector executive and professional with experiences in the public, private and non-government sectors, and a veteran in the management of international institutions. Prior to his appointment at PAFO, he was the CEO of the African Agribusiness Alliance; former CEO of African Cashew Alliance; former Executive Director/CEO of African Energy Investment Corporation (AEICORP); Deputy Secretary General of the West African Bankers Association (WABA); General Manager, Banque Internationale du Benin, and Senior Economist with the Bank of Industry, Nigeria. He was a Regional Consultant on natural resources management policy in African countries with the United

Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He is a member of Africa Regional Experts on Policy Dialogue on Natural Resource-based Development at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Dr. Oyewole was a Chevening Scholar for his PhD in development economics at the university of Bradford, United Kingdom, and obtained an MBA in Technology, Marketing and Business Strategy from Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria. He has attended several management and executive development programmes in top universities including Lagos Business School, Nigeria, and Harvard university, United States. He has published articles in international journals and made conference presentations on development policy, banking and finance, agriculture, agribusiness, and sustainable development issues.

SOPHIE SEDGHO – FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, LA SAISONNIÈRE, BURKINA FASO

Salamata Sophie Sedgho / Hema is an independent consultant and trainer in agroecology.



As a certified teacher of Natural Sciences/Life and Earth Sciences, she taught natural sciences for 30 years in secondary schools. In 2001, she became involved in the voluntary sector when she retired at the age of 55.

Ms Sedgho has taken part in several training courses, including one in agri-food processing in Porto Novo, Benin, organised by the African Regional Centre for Technology. She is a trainer of trainers in Population Education and Agroecology. She is also a trainer of producers in the peri-urban areas of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and elsewhere. She has co-authored several information and

training modules.

Ms Sedgho is currently in charge of the activities of the association La Saisonnière, of which she is the founding president. She has been awarded the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Burkinabè.



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