



## PAFO-COLEAD INNOVATIONS SERIES:

Innovations and successes of African farmer-led businesses and SMEs

### SESSION N°25

#### Foresight: Key agrifood changes impacting entrepreneurs

Wednesday 5 November 2025 - 12:00-14 :00 UTC

#### BIODATA OF THE SPEAKERS

##### **LAILA ACHIENG, CEO, CNS NUTRI FOOD, KENYA**



Laila Achieng is a seasoned entrepreneur and business leader with more than 18 years of experience in agribusiness, logistics, and international trade. She is the Chief Executive Officer of CNS Nutrifoods and Trio Link Logistics Limited, two Kenyan enterprises advancing innovation and sustainability across Africa's agrifood value chains. At CNS Nutrifoods, she drives the export of premium Kenyan products such as avocados, cashew nuts, mangoes, vegetables, and herbs, promoting climate-smart sourcing and market access for farmers. Through Trio Link Logistics, she champions digital, data-driven logistics solutions that improve transparency and competitiveness from farm to market. A Harvard CORE and USIU–Africa MBA alumna, Laila previously held senior roles at Syokimau ICD, Mantrac Kenya, Nokia Siemens Networks, and SGS Kenya, and she continues to advocate for a foresight-driven, innovation-led agrifood future for Africa.

##### **DAVID ADAMA, SENIOR SPECIALIST, CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS, AGRA**



David Adama serves as Senior Specialist for Continental and Regional Engagements at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), where he drives policy dialogue and strategic partnerships that advance agricultural transformation across the continent. He has extensive experience in public policy, advocacy, and multilateral coordination, working with governments, regional bodies, and development partners to strengthen Africa's food systems. His expertise spans inclusive market systems, evidence-based policy reform, and alignment of national strategies with the African Union's agricultural and trade agendas.



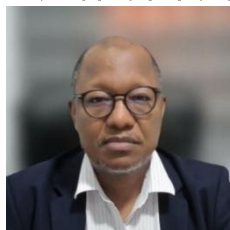
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#### **AUGUSTINE APPIAH-KUBI, FOUNDER OKUBIS FARMS, GHANA**



Augustine Appiah-Kubi is a young Ghanaian agripreneur and founder of Okubis Farms in the Ashanti Region of Ghana, where he has been farming for over a decade. He cultivates maize, ginger, turmeric, cocoa, oil palm, plantain, cassava, and cocoyam, and is currently establishing a ginger processing centre to reduce post-harvest losses and enhance value addition for smallholder farmers across four key communities, Gyankoba, Hwediem, Atwima Foase, and Trabuom. With a BSc in General Agriculture from the University of Cape Coast and multiple certifications in green enterprise development, conservation agriculture, and agribusiness innovation, Augustine is committed to empowering rural farmers through climate-smart production, agroforestry, and inclusive value chain development.

#### **ABDULRAZAK IBRAHIM, CLUSTER LEADER, INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY & FUTURE SCENARIOS, FARA**



Dr. Abdulrazak Ibrahim is the Cluster Leader for Institutional Capacity and Future Scenarios at the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). With over two decades of experience in agricultural science, innovation management, and policy foresight, he leads initiatives that strengthen Africa's institutional capacities to anticipate and respond to emerging challenges in food systems. His work focuses on integrating foresight, technology adoption, and strategic planning within research and policy institutions to drive transformation and resilience across the continent's agrifood sector.

#### **JUDITH KIPCHUMBA, FOUNDER, SPRING AGRIVENTURE, KENYA**



Judith Kipchumba is an Agri-Enterprise Development Specialist, advocate for climate-smart agriculture, and champion of youth and gender inclusion in agribusiness. She is the Founder of Spring Agriventre, a farmer service centre based in Elgeyo Marakwet, Kenya, that supports smallholder farmers through certified potato seed multiplication, input supply, climate-smart training, and market linkages. With a Master's degree in Agri-Enterprise Development, Judith has extensive experience in sustainable agriculture, farmer capacity building, and inclusive agribusiness, having worked with organisations such as the Cereal Growers Association and Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation. An alumna of the Young Farmer Exchange Program in Germany, she is passionate about empowering youth and women and advancing climate-resilient agriculture to improve rural livelihoods across Kenya.

#### **JEREMY KNOPS, DÉLÉGUÉ GÉNÉRAL, COLEAD**



Jeremy holds a master's degree in Commercial Engineering from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (SBS-EM) in Belgium. Before joining COLEAD in 2009, he was involved in the daily operations of a farmers' cooperative in Guatemala that exports loquats to the EU and the United States. Jeremy began working at COLEAD as an expert in private standards and certification for fruit and vegetable producers and exporters from ACP countries. He was appointed COLEAD's General Delegate in June 2019. Jeremy is also an accredited coach in leadership and professional development.

### **NOËL N'GUESSAN, CO-FOUNDER, LONO, CÔTE D'IVOIRE**



Noël N'Guessan is a Bioprocess engineer with experience in energy and nutrient recovery from organic waste. He founded with Louise Antonia Bijleveld LONO, an engineering SME based in Côte d'Ivoire, that makes carbon and nutrient recycling accessible to farmers. Since launching in 2017, the company has developed two products under the brand name Kubeko that smallholder farmers can use to directly recycle the nutrients and organic matter back into their soils. The company works directly with cooperatives and larger value chain organisations to integrate their sustainability strategies such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) for palm oil and ECOCERT for cacao and fruit production. The company is also developing larger industrial composting projects that create local bioeconomy for organic waste.

### **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 Organization 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.

### **AHOEFA SOKLOU, PROJECT OFFICER, COLEAD**



Ahoefa Immaculée Soklou is a Project Officer at COLEAD, where she designs and implements programmes that promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainability in the agrifood sector across the global south countries. She holds a master's in development studies from Senghor University, Egypt, and a bachelor's in economics from the University of Kara, Togo. Ahoefa has extensive experience coordinating high-impact leadership and entrepreneurship initiatives, supporting participants in skills and capacities development, expanding business opportunities, and fostering inclusive economic growth. Before joining COLEAD, she led a large-scale digital and entrepreneurship capacity-building programme for 1,200 women entrepreneurs, primarily in agrifood, in collaboration with national and international partners. Passionate about inclusive economic opportunities, women's empowerment, and resilient food systems, she is committed to creating impactful programmes that enable local communities to thrive.

### **AIMABLE TWAGIRAYEZU, PROGRAMS OFFICER, PAFO**



Aimable Twagirayezu is a Programs Officer at the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO), where he supports the design and coordination of programmes that strengthen farmer organisations, promote agribusiness development, and enhance smallholder participation in continental and regional value chains. With experience in project management, agricultural policy, and youth engagement, Aimable contributes to initiatives advancing innovation, digitalisation, and sustainable food systems across Africa. He plays a key role in facilitating partnerships between farmers, private sector actors, and development partners, helping to translate policy frameworks into practical opportunities for African agripreneurs.



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