

# South-South Series:

## Empowering and Growing Women-led Business



### UN Women-COLEAD

#### South-South Series: Empowering and Growing Women-led Business

#### Session n°6: Climate-Resilient Business Models for Women Entrepreneurs

Wednesday 26 November 2025 - 14:00-16:00 UTC

#### BIODATA OF PANELISTS

##### Dr. Emem Aniekanabasi Alban – Chief Executive Officer, Emani Farms Giant Ltd, Nigeria



Dr. Emem Aniekanabasi Alban is a Nigerian agribusiness and humanitarian leader championing climate-resilient food systems and women's economic empowerment. As CEO of Emani Farms Giant Ltd, she pioneers commercial hydroponics and aquaponics, producing high-value vegetables with 80% less water while creating dignified green jobs for women and youth. Through her foundation, the End Hunger Humanitarian Initiative, she leads community-based programs that have fed and trained over 2,500 families—linking smallholder farmers, women cooks, and schoolchildren in a sustainable nutrition ecosystem. A certified project manager, professional logistician, and agrifood social innovator, Dr. Alban integrates business innovation with humanitarian action—showing that women-led agribusiness can transform climate risk into resilience, prosperity, and community impact across Africa.


##### Alonso Bobes – Programme assistant, UN Women Caribbean



Alonso Bobes is an international professional specialized in International Relations and Humanitarian Aid, with a strong commitment to global cooperation and sustainable development. He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and a Master's in International Humanitarian Action from University of Groningen, focusing on social inclusion and crisis response. Throughout his career, he has contributed to programmes advancing gender equality, resilience, and inclusive growth across Latin America and the Caribbean. His professional experience spans collaboration with multilateral organizations, civil society, and development partners, promoting equitable and sustainable policies. Alonso combines expertise in programme coordination, communication, and partnership management within complex international frameworks. He currently serves as Programme Assistant with UN Women Multi-Country Office (MCO) Caribbean, supporting initiatives that empower women and advance gender equality across the region.




## Thokozani Amanda Chimasula – Founder, Tac-Maz Sustainable Ventures, Malawi




Thokozani Amanda Chimasula is a dynamic social entrepreneur, development communications specialist, and advocate for gender inclusion and environmental justice with over a decade of experience advancing gender equality, sustainable development, and community empowerment in Malawi. She holds degrees in Humanities and Health Management, is completing a Master's in Development Communication, and is pursuing another in Women's, Children's, and Nature Rights in Environmental Governance. Thokozani has held key leadership roles in organizations focused on gender justice and child protection, and she founded Tac-Maz Sustainable Ventures, an eco-inclusive enterprise that empowers over 2,000 women farmers through sustainable agriculture and market access. A passionate writer, she uses storytelling to highlight resilience, gender justice, and women's lived experiences, publishing three books that amplify marginalized voices. Her impactful contributions have earned her numerous awards and fellowships, and she has presented on global platforms, sharing insights on gender, climate justice, and inclusive development in the context of just transitions.

## Angela Davis – Programme Specialist, UN Women Caribbean



Angela Davis is a regionally respected, highly motivated development professional with 20+ years of experience across public health, sexual and reproductive health, international health, and development. She has a strong record of program management for national and donor-funded initiatives within dynamic political, development, and fiscal contexts. Angela brings expert technical and programmatic knowledge of maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS, and works at the intersection of these areas with social, cultural, and behavioral determinants of health, gender, and sexual and gender-based violence. For the past eleven years, she has provided programmatic oversight and strategic direction for a leading international development partner, stewarding a regional development assistance portfolio of ~US\$6 million annually. Her work requires close collaboration with intergovernmental agencies, national governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, and donors. Results-driven and analytically sharp, Angela pairs clear strategic thinking with excellent oral and written communication skills. She is grounded in both the theory and practice of public health, program management, and international development, consistently translating evidence into impactful, equity-focused programming.

## Nina Desanlis-Perrin – Project Officer, COLEAD

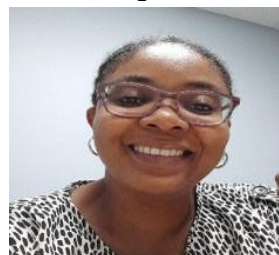


Nina Desanlis-Perrin is a Project Officer in the Networks and Alliance Department at COLEAD, where she develops and coordinates global partnerships to support entrepreneurship development and sustainability in the agrifood sector across the Global South countries. She co-organises agrifood webinars aimed at showcasing innovations of farmer-led businesses and SMEs with key international partners such as UN Women. Nina holds an MSc in Environmental Science for Sustainability from King's College London, and a BSc in Public Administration from Erasmus University Rotterdam. She is an advocate for sustainable development, international cooperation, and climate justice, working to promote resilient and inclusive solutions for communities and food systems worldwide.



## Nisha Glasgow – Business Development Officer, Centre for Enterprise Development, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Nisha Glasgow is a Business Development Officer at the Centre for Enterprise Development Inc. (CED) in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, where she is part of initiatives to strengthen micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) locally and regionally. With 18 years of experience in this field, she has expertise in MSME diagnostics, business continuity planning, and participatory training design, she supports entrepreneurs in building resilience and sustainability. Miss Glasgow is passionate about empowering underserved groups, particularly women-led businesses, through inclusive and climate-resilient business models. She has facilitated workshops, synthesized owner-identified challenges into actionable strategies, and championed partnerships that advance gender equity and community impact. Her work reflects a commitment to practical solutions that enable MSMEs to thrive in the face of climate and economic shocks



## Jeremy Knops – General Delegate, COLEAD



Jeremy Knops holds a master's degree in business engineering from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management. 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. Jeremy is an accredited coach for leadership and professional development. He was appointed as General Delegate of COLEAD in June 2019.

## Sandra McLeish – Chief Executive Officer, Sankhard Co. Ltd. & Agro Cold Storage Limited, Jamaica



Sandra McLeish is a Jamaican entrepreneur, renewable-energy advocate, and CEO of Agro Cold Storage Limited (ACSL) and Sankhard Company Ltd, two women-led enterprises transforming Jamaica's food and climate resilience landscape. She leads the national rollout of solar-powered cold-chain hubs that reduce post-harvest losses, stabilize farmer incomes, and expand opportunities for rural women. Through Sankhard's award-winning Springvale brand, she champions climate-smart agro-processing and women's economic empowerment across the Caribbean. Sandra also serves as Vice President of the Jamaica Manufacturers & Exporters Association (JMEA) and sits on several national boards, where she promotes gender-responsive value chains and inclusive climate finance. A public-health and climate specialist, she has supported climate-health resilience initiatives across CARICOM and most recently exploring opportunities in Dominica.



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