



Session 21:
Advancing agroecology for Caribbean SMEs
Tuesday 16 June 2026

BIODATA OF SPEAKERS

Inês Bastos – Head of Networks and Alliances, COLEAD



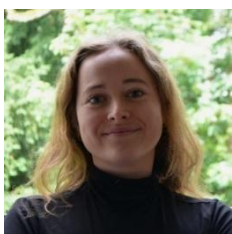
Inês Bastos is the Head of Networks & Alliances at COLEAD, bringing over two decades of expertise across technical assistance, monitoring, network management, and policy development, with a deep specialisation in agri-food sector development. Since joining COLEAD, Inês has led and coordinated technical activities across Sub-Saharan Africa, overseeing programs and projects spanning agri-food production and processing, business management, access to finance, and network development. In 2024, she took on the role of COLEAD's Gender lead, driving women's empowerment across the organisation's programs.

Allister Reynold Glean – Technical Specialist, International Trade and Regional Integration Programme / Representative in Barbados, IICA



Allister Glean is the Representative of the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Barbados. He spent the last 5 years as the International Specialist in Agribusiness and Value Chains, stationed with the St. Lucia Delegation. Allister has worked extensively in the agricultural sector for over 20 years with experience working in agricultural research and development, agribusiness development, food and beverage processing as well as development financing for agribusiness. Allister has lectured on a part-time basis at the tertiary level for over 16 years in the areas of marketing, strategic planning and business ethics. While trained in management and marketing, he also possesses post graduate qualifications in international relations and agribusiness development. He is also a qualified attorney at law. Allister tends to have a particular interest in governance, market development and trade facilitation. Allister has a passion for working with micro, small and medium sized business with emphasis on women, youth and producer groups.

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 IICA. 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.

Anja Fernand – Founder and Director, Food Harmony Incorporated, Saint Lucia



Anja Fernand is a Saint Lucian food systems entrepreneur, regenerative agriculture advocate, and founder of Food Harmony Incorporated. Raised on a tropical fruit farm and descended from generations of farmers, she earned a First Class Honours BSc in Food Science from the University of Leeds and gained industry experience in product development with Pennine Foods in England. After returning to Saint Lucia in 2012, Anja combined her expertise in food science, ecotourism, and local food innovation to create value-added products from tropical crops. A cancer survivor whose personal health transformation inspired a deeper exploration of food and wellness, she founded Food Harmony to advance regenerative agriculture, clean food production, and agritourism. Since establishing her first organic farm in 2018, Anja has developed a multistrata agroforestry research farm with more than twenty crop varieties and is expanding her farmer education platform through a second farm model. She is passionate about restoring soil health as the foundation of human health and building more resilient food systems for tropical communities.

Rashonda Stuart – Tour Guide, Coco Hill Forest, Barbados



Rashonda Stuart is a Barbadian agroecologist, tour guide, and community practitioner dedicated to advancing regenerative agriculture and food sovereignty across the Caribbean. She is currently completing degrees in Ecology at the University of the West Indies and Agriculture at Delaware State University, and has further strengthened her expertise through training in permaculture design, beekeeping, and Blue Economy management. For the past three years, Rashonda has worked at Coco Hill Forest in Barbados, a 66-acre agroforestry and agrotourism site where she applies syntropic farming, food forest development, composting, intercropping, and permaculture principles to support soil regeneration and biodiversity. As a tour guide and volunteer coordinator, she helps connect visitors directly with regenerative land practices. Rashonda is also actively involved in Barbados' regenerative agriculture movement through initiatives such as WIRRED at Walkers Reserve and the Journey to 1,000 Acres Regenerative Agriculture Project. Passionate about creating resilient food systems, she is committed to demonstrating that agroecology can provide both ecological and economic opportunities for Caribbean small island developing states.

Pieterjan De Bauw – Senior Project Manager, COLEAD



Dr. Pieterjan De Bauw is Senior Project Manager for Research and Innovation Brokerage at COLEAD. He holds a PhD in Bioscience Engineering (Agronomy) from KU Leuven and is trained as a systems agronomist, with experience addressing food system challenges across diverse agro-ecosystems primarily in Europe and Africa. He has worked across academia, CGIAR, and the fertilizer industry, operating in multi-stakeholder and public-private environments. At COLEAD, he coordinates research initiatives focused on sustainable crop production, integrated pest management, soil and plant health, and agribusiness development in horticultural value chains. His work includes supervising field trials and technology pilots, developing and validating sustainable practices adapted to ACP contexts, and contributing to the COLEAD's sustainability self-assessment system. He regularly contributes to scientific publications and technical guidance materials.

Margarita Fernandez – Executive Director, Caribbean Agroecology Institute



Margarita Fernandez joined the Caribbean Agroecology Institute as Executive Director in January 2015 after nearly 20 years working on transdisciplinary action research and the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of international cooperation projects in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Venezuela, and the USA. She specializes in transformative agroecology and food systems, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience, with a focus on participatory based approaches. Margarita has worked with multi-actor teams at the research-practice-policy nexus to link evidence with action and policy change. Margarita has over a dozen articles published in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and grey literature. She holds a PhD in Agroecology from the University of Vermont, a Master's in Social Ecology from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a Bachelor's in Biology from Tufts University.

Damian Adjodha – Founder and Director, New Flower Regenerative Garden, Saint Lucia



Damian Adjodha is a regenerative agriculture and agroecological systems practitioner with 25 years of experience in natural farming. His work focuses on ecosystem restoration, soil regeneration, and water conservation in Saint Lucia. He is the founder and director of New Flower Regenerative Garden, a family-run farm that serves as a training and education center dedicated to regenerating local soils and demonstrating best practices for small-scale sustainable farming.

Erle Rahaman-Noronha - Director, Caribbean Permaculture Research Institute & Wa Samaki Ecosystems



Erle Rahaman-Noronha is Director of the Caribbean Permaculture Research Institute (Barbados) and founder of Wa Samaki Ecosystems, a 33-acre permaculture restoration farm in Trinidad producing cut flowers, tropical fish, and indigenous food crops. Born in Kenya and educated in Canada, he holds a BSc in Applied Biochemistry and an MSc in Zoology from the University of Guelph. A permaculture educator and practitioner with over 15 years of teaching experience across the Caribbean, Erle has worked with organizations including IICA and contributed to regional training initiatives in Jamaica, Dominica, and Suriname. His work has earned national recognition in agroforestry, aquaculture, and horticulture. He is also a photographer, adventure racer, and ultramarathon runner.

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