

FOOD SYSTEMS TRACK: NOVEMBER EDITION

Priorities at the Farm Level

4 November 2020 | 14:00-15:30 CET



Olivier Dubois,
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Experienced Senior Officer with a demonstrated history of working in the international affairs industry. Skilled in Sustainable Agrifood Systems, Sustainable Forestry, Rural Development, Energy, and Bioeconomy. Strong research and field professional graduated from Faculty of Agronomy, Gembloux, Belgium. Fluent in English, French and Portuguese and good command of Spanish and Italian.



Alice Uwamaliya, SEforALL

Alice Uwamaliya is a climate professional with working experience within the international sector, focusing on ecosystem services, climate change adaptation, vulnerability assessment, and social empowerment.

Ms. Uwamaliya joined SEforALL in 2017, where she primarily worked on the program Sustainable Cooling for All, focusing on data and agricultural cold chain. She contributes to the annual report series 'Chilling Prospects – Tracking Sustainable Cooling for All', which aims to benchmark progress to access to cooling. From 2020, she will be working on investment-grade policy and regulation, which focuses on providing tailor-made policy and regulatory support to countries to break key market barriers.



Alexander Haack, EnDev Global

Alexander Haack is coordinating EnDevs engagement in over 20 countries and is heading the development of new thematic intervention areas.

Prior to his current position as Teamleader at EnDev Headquarters in Germany, Alexander Haack has worked for the GIZ in Turkey as Clustercoordinator for Energy and Climate.

Before that, he advised the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on global sustainable energy policies.

He was part of the pioneering team that established the International Renewable Energy Agency in Abu Dhabi and has a background in the private sector. Alexander Haack holds a Diploma in international relations and law.



Thomas Andre, REN21

Thomas ANDRE is Project Manager and Analyst at REN21, the renewable energy policy network for the 21st century.

Thomas started his career as an electronic hardware engineer and project manager in a French SME. After studying sustainability, He joined Schneider Electric in early 2010 to contribute to the creation of its energy access inclusive business program. He first covered coordination and then business development positions in parallel of conducting a PhD thesis, questioning the interactions between Base of the Pyramid, CSR and corporate strategies. After defending his PhD in late 2015, Thomas took the lead of the strategy of the Access to Energy program.

Thomas holds an Engineering degree from ESME Sudria, a MSc in Sustainability from HEC Paris, and a PhD in Economics from Ecole Polytechnique.

Areas of competency and expertise:

- Renewable Energies, Access to Energy, Energy management
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
- Inclusive business: Base of the Pyramid (BoP) strategies, social business, social entrepreneurship
- Impact investing, Socially Responsible Investment (SRI)
 Professional skills:
- Business development: business intelligence, market studies, public relations, partnership development
- Project management
- Extra-financial and societal performance monitoring, Social impact evaluations (qualitative and quantitative), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Research interests:

- Business Administration
- Finance, Investments, Economics
- Corporate Strategy
- Management Control



Filippo Berardi, GEF

An environmental management and international development specialist, Filippo has more than 12 years of experience managing programs relating to climate change, clean energy, carbon finance and sustainable use of natural capital for private sector and government clients. Filippo leads the climate change mitigation team at the GEF Secretariat, where is in charge of all aspects related to programming of GEF climate mitigation resources, engagement with Parties, GEF Agencies, UN bodies and the private sector. Prior to joining the GEF he spent 7 years with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) where he held a variety of public and private sector roles, focusing on delivery of climate finance. Prior to joining the IDB Group, Filippo worked in the private sector in the United Kingdom, first with EcoSecurities, one of the world's largest developers of carbon offsets under the UN's Clean Developing Mechanism, and later with J.P. Morgan Investment Bank, where he focused on analysis and management of social and environmental risks. Filippo earned his MSC in Environmental Technology and Policy from Imperial College, London, and has a Law Degree from the University of Florence, Italy.



Cherop Soy, SDG7 Youth Constituency

I am Cherop Soy, the Thematic Focal Point (TFP) for Energy Access at SDG7 Youth Constituency. I act as a guide and a tool for youth to actualize SDG 7 through the pillars of policy advocacy, knowledge, capacity building and youth action. The Energy Access theme is one that I thoroughly enjoy championing for as it is at the heart of SDG 7 itself. This means it often brushes shoulders with this important topic on food systems.

Here in Kenya, I devote my time and efforts towards the Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project (K-OSAP) under the Ministry of Energy. This project operates within the scope of Kenya's development blueprint (Vision 2030). It seeks to address the energy access gap in the 14 under-served counties. With the availability of energy that is clean, renewable and sustainable, the communities in these 14 counties have been able to improve their food system structure for instance through solar cooling and clean cooking solutions.

In both capacities, I have witnessed how access to energy is fundamental especially towards food systems. For us to obtain the most efficient transformations in these systems, we not only require just access to energy but also energy access that's sustainable.



Martin Van Dam, SNV

More than 10 years of working experience in rural development in Africa, with a focus on energy access.

- Extended knowledge of market development strategies for BOP populations, with particular experience in off-grid solar and bio-digester sector development.
- Up to date knowledge of technologic and economic developments in the global RE sector and well connected to RE actors.
- Up to date knowledge of climate change challenges.
- Good understanding of the challenges of private sector RE actors.
- Good understanding of the socio-economic situation of African households and their challenges related to energy access.
- Five years of experience in writing proposals and giving feedback on proposals for RE projects in Africa.
- Very practical technical knowledge, in solar PV based on ten years of field experience
- Ability to analyse the energy needs of rural households and to relate that to available RE technologies (solar, biogas, ICS)
- Good analytical skills: high ability to analyse issues from different angles.
- High ability to work in a structured, pragmatic result oriented manner.
- Creative mindset in terms of finding solutions and seizing opportunities in changing contexts.



Dr. Kandeh Yumkella,Special Representative of the Secretary-General

Kandeh K. Yumkella - Former United Nations Under Secretary-General was the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and CEO of the initiative. He also chaired UN-Energy, the coordination body of United Nations agencies dealing with energy related issues.

As Special Representative & CEO, Dr. Yumkella mobilized action toward a sustainable energy future and accelerated the implementation of the Secretary-General's initiative. He also engaged with the leadership of relevant stakeholders in government, businesses, academia and civil society at the highest level to advocate for and promote sustainable energy for all.

Previously, he was the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) from 2005 -2013 and a former Minister for Trade, Industry and State Enterprises of Sierra Leone from 1994-1995.

He holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois, a M.Sc. Agricultural Economics, Cornell University; and a B.Sc. in General Agriculture, from Njala University College, Sierra Leone.



Rodney Muriuki, InspiraFarms

Rodney Muriuki is on a mission to improve agriculture sustainably, in Africa. He leads Sales & Project Development in East Africa for InspiraFarms and works with farmers, agribusinesses and food logistics companies. A prospective MBA, trained as a Processing Engineer and a certified LEED GA, he has gathered his experience working in the dairy, food manufacturing industries and the UN in Europe and in Africa. In the last 5 years he has been engaged in establishing post-harvest infrastructure with InspiraFarms, initially heading the operations team in East Africa before transitioning into his current role. With his understanding of the needs of the African farmer, the need for sustainable energy access and the need to improve SME performance, Rodney now connects agribusinesses to sustainable post-harvest solutions with InspiraFarms to ensure the provision of safe and high-quality produce around the world.



Claudio Pedretti,
Alliance for Rural Electrification

Renewable energy serial entrepreneur, off-grid & distributed generation expert, startup founder. At the forefront to defeat energy poverty and climate change.



Ele Gower,GreenPath Food

I believe in good food, grown well. My expertise is in sourcing, delivering value and selling. Having previously worked for business development teams at three start-ups in London, I'm currently living and working between Ethiopia and the UK. I work for GreenPath Food, which supplies exceptional quality, organic food grown by small-scale Ethiopian producers, to customers around the world. It's proudly doing things differently, serving farmers, retailers, wholesalers and crucially people that believe in good food. I am pleased to have led on delivering commercial growth at GreenPath for close to three years, taking us from a single export customer to over 10 across four diversified end markets.

As I moved to Ethiopia, I put together Consumed - consumed.co.uk- because I believed we set the bar too high for 'doing good'. Building a culture where it's cool to care starts with surprising people with the power they already hold to make change. Social enterprises speak to that untapped energy and I wanted to create a platform to showcase them. I stopped giving time to it whilst I got into the swing of my new job. I am excited to now return to it and use it as a tool to push myself to learn about issues I care about.



Huda Jaffer, SELCOFoundation

Huda Jaffer is a product/-service/-system's designer with a keen interest in user centric design specifically for sustainability and developmental issues. She has an undergraduate degree in design from Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore and a Masters of Science in Engineering and Business (Integrated Design and Management) from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge. She has been critical in building the necessary processes of SELCO Foundation that has led to its stays of being known as a pioneer in the field of building the ecosystem for sustainable energy access for the poor.



Brian Kawuma,Powerforall

Brian is a communications expert with extensive work experience in Uganda's Agriculture sector. His work journey includes supporting the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry on Agricultural policy formulation and improvement, working with Dairy producer cooperatives to transform their livelihoods through improved farm yields and better market access as well as supporting various crop value chain actors on communication and marketing. He currently coordinates the Powering Agriculture Campaign that is advancing policy and fiscal support for productive use of renewable energy to scale Agriculture productivity in Uganda.



Mr. Hack Stiernblad, SunCulture



Fiona Hoffman-Harland, Shell Foundation



Monika Froehler, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens

Ms. Monika Froehler is Chief Executive Officer of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens and is a passionate change maker, advocate, founder and speaker.

She was asked to create the Ban Ki-moon Centre in Vienna under the leadership of former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and former Austrian President Heinz Fischer, after working for years at the UN, the EU, the Austrian Foreign Ministry and in field missions around the globe.

She is passionate about the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and advised Presidents, Ministers, Ambassadors and high-ranking UN officials on policy inputs as much as she involved operationally in practical initiatives. She worked in many countries across the globe including in Africa and Latin America to ban landmines; She worked to improve hospital care in rural Central Asia and Africa; She assisted in ecofriendly city planning in Asia, and helped bettering the living conditions of women in the Middle East and West-Africa. She also contributed to Rio+20 and the Paris Climate Agreement as part of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.

Throughout her career at the UN in Geneva, New York and Vienna she managed to support hundreds of women, young people and communities all over the globe. Particularly with the Ban Ki-moon Centre she now focusses on equality, empowerment and education. She is convinced that more people than ever before need the opportunity to obtain global citizen values, SDG knowledge, and 21st century skills.

She enjoys her work a lot, particularly when the impact is visible, verifiable and sustainable.



Joseph Kienzle, FAO

Experienced Agricultural Engineer with a demonstrated history of working in the international affairs industry. Skilled in Food Security, Sustainable Development, Rural Development, FNatural Resource Management, and International Relations. Strong research professional with a Post Graduale Certificate focused in Rural Development and Project Management from Humboldt University of Berlin.



Mansoor Ahmad, UK

A Fellow Chartered Accountant and International Development professional with over 15 years experience spanning private and public sector within UK and Internationally. Currently focused on developing the Agribusiness Investment Markets and Regional Food Trade in Africa as a Team Lead & Senior Private Sector Development Adviser at the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

Experience at FCDO (legacy DFID) includes leading Africa Regional Department's Clean Energy Market Development team; and operationalisation of FCDO's pioneering Development Capital Investment approach to maximising development impact including curating a pipeline of large scale Investment Platforms.

Mansoor spent 7 years delivering assurance and business advisory services to multinationals whilst working for PwC, primarily in the Energy & Mining sector, as well as experience working with PwC's Sustainability and Climate Change team.

Mansoor was a Founding member and Co-Chairperson of PwC's UK Disability Network, these are interests continued at FCDO, including engagement with and influencing of FCDO's Disability in Development policy and overseeing FCDO's Disability Inclusive Infrastructure workstream.



Lowell Randel, Global Cold Chain Alliance

Prior to joining the Global Cold Chain Alliance and founding The Randel Group, Lowell Randel served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). While at USDA, Lowell also held the position of Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Research, Education and Economics Mission Area of USDA.

In addition to his public service, Lowell has extensive government affairs experience in the private sector. Prior to joining USDA, Lowell was Senior Associate for Meyers and Associates, a Washington based government relations firm. He also held the position of Assistant Legislative Director for AESOP Enterprises, an agriculture focused government relations firm in Washington.

Lowell also has experience working in state government. He held the position of Coordinator of Trade and Federal Issues for the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).

Lowell holds a Bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and Master's degree in agricultural development, both from Texas A&M University. He also holds a law degree from George Mason University School of Law. Specialties: Government relations, lobbying, agriculture, appropriations, regulations



Juliette Besnard, World Bank

Juliette Besnard is Energy Specialist at the World Bank/ESMAP. As part of the Electricity Access team, she is co-leading the Improving Livelihoods and Human Capital initiative and more especially activities related to productive uses of electricity. She has been working in the energy sector for the last 10 years, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Camille Andre-Bataille, Anka Madagascar

Ms. Camille ANDRE-BATAILLE, Anka Madagascar - Chief Executive Officer - ANKA Madagascar (former EOSOL Madagascar - recently merged with MAJIKA)

ANKA Madagascar is a Malagasy company, specialized in developing and delivering modern, reliable, clean, sustainable and affordable energy solutions for rural and isolated communities, as well as individuals and industrials.

ANKA's historical and main focus activity is rural electrification by solar PV energy. The company truly believe in the power of electricity to strengthen people and communities. Its business model relies on one specific innovation which is surprisingly not technological, but commercial: the valorization of productive uses, especially agricultural processing activities and small industry, in order to create added value at the local level and thus boost the increase in purchasing power. This is what we call Minigrid 3.0.

ANKA Madagascar is the result of the merger of two start-ups: EOSOL Madagascar and MAJIKA. Both companies have always shared the same vision for rural development and the role of renewable energies in this path; two stories, two highly motivated teams, and now one single identity.



Kerem Erikci, tarla.io

Kerem Erikci holds Electrical and Electronics Engineering (2002) and MBA (2012) degrees from Bilkent University - Turkey, Masters degree in Information Networking (2004) from Carnegie Mellon University - USA. He has 8 years of system engineering and marketing experience at Aselsan, Turkey. After Aselsan he worked as the business development executive in ErikTronik Muhendislik AS for the next 7 years.

Kerem founded tarla.io and iklim.co startups in order to create an impact for sustainable and better future. Kerem leads his team to transform his enterprise towards becoming a data science company that will change the farming practices and connect all industry stakeholders over information highways to achieve greater good for each individual. Also, his team adapts industries to global warming and mitigate associated risk by use of data science.



Thomas Montmans, BASE

Thomas Montmans is a Sustainable Energy Financial Specialist at BASE, the Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy. He has experience in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia structuring and implementing public / private financial products and tailored risk mitigation mechanisms to accelerate investments in sustainable energy. Since 2018, Thomas leads the BASE "Cooling as a Service" Initiative, which aims to unlock investments in clean and efficient cooling through the disrupting pay-per-use business model. Thomas holds a MSc. in Mechanical Engineering with focus on renewable energy from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and an executive certificate of advanced studies in Sustainable Finance from the University of Zurich.



Ujunwa Ojemeni, onourable Commissioner for Energy & Mineral Resources Lagos State

Ujunwa Ojemeni is an impact investing, energy and development expert with experience in the areas of opportunity maturation, financing, and policy. She is focused on driving the achievement of SDG 7 in Africa by 2030 and is an advocate for gender inclusivity/equal representation in the Energy sector.

At the Office of the Honourable Commissioner for Energy & Mineral Resources Lagos State, she drives policies, investments opportunities and implementation strategies to deliver reliable energy to the citizens of the State. She is also an Advisor with: the Private Finance Advisory Network (PFAN) – the hosted by United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) which is focused on bridging the investment gap between investor, entrepreneurs and project developers.

Ujunwa has coordinated several gas and power development opportunities as well as energy funds worth over \$1 Billion. She has received several awards for her phenomenal work in the energy sector including the 2019 Young Leaders Award in the Energy and Sustainability category by the Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni Association in Nigeria. She was selected as one of 60 young African Clean Energy Leaders by Enel Foundation, and a finalist at the IFC Sustainability Exchange Contest in 2019.

Ujunwa is the founder of the African Women in Energy Development Initiative (AWEDI Network). AWEDI's aim is to promote the growth of women and female students with interest in the sector through mentorship programs, career sponsorship (acceleration), networking opportunities, professional development and leadership training.

She has spoken on several regional and international platforms including: MIT Solve 2020, ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum in Accra, and the West Africa Power and Energy Cooperation Conference in Dakar. Ujunwa's articles have been published by both international and local media outlets such as Forbes, Devex and Business Day. She holds a Master's degree in International Development - Development Finance from the University of Manchester, and has a First-Class Bachelor's of Science degree in Banking and Finance from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.