



ACCELERATING ENERGY TRANSITION

## FOOD SYSTEMS TRACK: MARCH EDITION INNOVATION AND DIGITALIZATION

3 March 2021 | 14:00-15:45 CET



**Alois Mhlanga,**  
UNIDO

Alois Posekufa Mhlanga is the Chief of the Climate Technology Innovation Division in the Department of Energy at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). He has over 23 years of experience in the sustainable-energy and climate-change field.

He is responsible for flagship programmes such as the design and creation of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme. Before joining UNIDO, Mr. Mhlanga was a Renewable Energy Expert at the African Development Bank managing a vast portfolio of renewable-energy and sustainable-energy investment projects across Africa. Before that, he was the principal sustainable-energy expert at the Southern Centre for Energy and Environment and a part-time lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe for the Master of Science in Renewable Energy programme.



**Tobias Engelmeier,**  
TFE Energy

Tobias is a social entrepreneur with experience in building successful businesses in India, Africa and Europe, working on climate change, development and data. He is the founder of Village Data Analytics - or VIDA - an AI and satellite company that enables data-based investments into remote regions to advance the SDGs. Tobias has a family with three children and is the author of two books on politics: [www.villagedata.io](http://www.villagedata.io)



**Patrick Nussbaumer,**  
UNIDO

Patrick Nussbaumer is an Industrial Development Officer at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Patrick develops and implements technical assistance interventions in developing countries in the area of sustainable energy, environmental management, climate technologies, and climate finance. He is the Programme Manager of the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN). Prior to joining UNIDO, he worked several years on energy issues in academia, as well as in the private sector. His background is in engineering, and is complemented by a PhD in Environmental Science and Technology.



**Thomas Motmans,**  
Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy(BASE)

Thomas 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.

Thomas has launched and rolled out 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. Currently, Thomas is leading the 'Virtual Cold Chain Assistant' project which aims to leverage digitalisation, data science and innovative financial mechanisms to enable smallholder farmers in India to access to cooling and optimise their post-harvest processes. 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.



**Deepak Mohapatra,**  
Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)

Deepak Mohapatra works as the Policy and Business Development Officer at the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE), a global business association representing the decentralised renewable energy sector for provision of energy access in developing and emerging countries.

He works closely together with more than 170 ARE Members, as well as international and local partners to improve policy and business development conditions for private sector companies in decentralised renewable energy markets across the globe.

Previously Deepak worked at a German NGO called ‘Lernen – Helfen - Leben e.V. as a Project Coordinator. He holds MSc. in Renewable Energy Management from Technical University of Cologne (TH Köln), Germany and B.Tech. in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT), India.



**Katrin Harvey,**  
Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens

Katrin Harvey is the Chief Operating Officer at the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens. She has over a decade's experience in sustainability, climate change, clean energy, and organizational management. Having lead business development, strategic growth and communications at REEEP, she combines her academic backgrounds in language studies and international development to enhance the impact of non-profit organizations.

Katrin has managed projects in Africa and Asia in partnership with UN agencies, the EU, and development agencies, where she focused on capacity building, market development and public-private dialogue, sustainability in agri-food value chains and in managing international knowledge exchange amongst experts in energy efficiency, energy regulation and international law.



**Maria Carmela Annosi,**  
Wageningen University and Research

Maria Carmela Annosi is a Senior Assistant Professor of Innovation Management and Organizational Behavior at School of Social Sciences, Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands.

She is co-founder of DigiMetis center of excellence on the analysis of socio-ecological systems in a digitalized era, inside Wageningen University and Research. She is member of Research Centre for Business Transformation, LUISS Business School. She is Board Member of International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA) and IFAMA Europe. She is among external collaborating members of McGill Centre for the Convergence of Health and Economics (MCCHE). Previously Researcher in Organizational Learning and Innovation at Ericsson System Research, Ericsson Research, Ericsson, Sweden. PhD in Industrial Engineering and Management, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.

Member of editorial board of Creativity Innovation and Management journal. Her research interests cover topics in the field of organization theory and management of innovation. Specifically, she researches organizational design mechanisms, organizational processes by which actors- individuals, teams and organizations - initiate and implement change.



**Katie Kennedy Freeman,**  
World Bank

Katie Kennedy Freeman is a Senior Agriculture Economist working with the Agriculture and Food Global Practice in the Latin America and Caribbean Region at the World Bank.

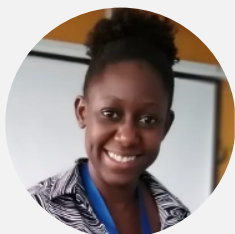
Currently she works on productive uses of energy for agriculture, food system transformation, regenerative agriculture and circular economy in Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay and Chile. Previously she worked on energy access issues in Sub-Saharan Africa, Bangladesh and Haiti with Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and the Earth Institute at Columbia University. She began her career as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic where she built some not-so-improved improved stoves.

She has a Master's degree in Development Economics from the Harvard Kennedy School and is working towards a PhD in Farming Systems Ecology from the University of Wageningen.



**Simon Hazell,**  
INSECO

After completing his postgraduate degree in economics and finance, Simon worked as a management consultant. Thereafter, he co-founded Inseco, a biotechnology company that converts food waste into animal feed using insects. Under Simon's leadership as CEO, the company has won numerous international awards for its sustainable waste management model, including UNIDO's Global Cleantech Innovation Program in 2019. He currently serves on the board of numerous cleantech companies in South Africa, working across various industries.



**Norah Magero,**  
Drop Access

Norah Magero is an award-winning Mechanical Engineer and a Renewable Energy Consultant with experience in the design and management of off-grid energy utilities. She is passionate about energy access in Africa and gender issues. She co-founded Cool Green Campaign, an initiative to mentor high school students on renewable energy. She is the founder and Chief Executive of Drop Access, an organization that develops sustainable rural communities through energy access. Norah holds a number of awards and recognitions. She is a Booking.Com Technology Playmaker Award 2020 finalist and Women in Energy East Africa Community, Philanthropy Award winner 2017. She is also an alumnus of Young African Leaders Initiative, YALI and the Micro-Grid Academy; Norah recently won 2 awards at the World Energy Day- Kenya 2020: The Social Impact Award and the overall award, Energy Champion of the year Award.



**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.



**Wolfgang Rams,**  
Africa GreenTec AG (AGT AG)

Prof. Dr. Rams leads Africa GreenTec AG (AGT AG) on operational activities and financial acquisition, focusing on innovative financing and business models to expand AGT AG to other sub-Saharan African countries with the plans to address energy access challenges in developing countries. Before co-founding AGT AG, he was engaged in founding more than 10 businesses. As a Professor at Proxadis Hochschule, he has extensive experience and expertise ranging from 25 years in corporate strategy, product & marketing management, 21 years in innovation, venture capital and entrepreneurship, 17 years in finance & venture capital, 11 years in food industries, as well as 5 years of company building as a Founder and Consultant.



**Hack Stiernblad,**  
SunCulture

Hack Stiernblad, originally from a small farming town in south Sweden (Skåne), developed an interest in renewable energy while studying electronic engineering at Lund Technical University.

Hack's passion for agriculture, renewable energy and impact led him to join SunCulture in 2014. Hack developed and grew SunCulture's distributed engineering team in his role as Director of Engineering. In 2018, as SunCulture looked to expand its reach into other markets, Hack developed SunCulture's Business Development Department, which oversees all projects and international expansion efforts.

By cultivating partnerships in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and most recently Togo, SunCulture's Business Development team has significantly grown SunCulture's business across Africa.



**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.



**William Brent,**  
Power for All

William Brent is a climate solutions evangelist and entrepreneur, working to promote renewable energy and other cleantech solutions through his deep experience in branding, digital media, community engagement, content, and advocacy.

As Chief Campaign Officer at Power for All, he oversees campaigns, external communications and strategic partnership for this international NGO working to end energy poverty. Prior to that, he was a senior executive and head of the cleantech practice at Weber Shandwick, an award-winning global marketing services agency and part of NYSE: IPG. He has also co-founded several media and content focused companies.

He began his career as a foreign correspondent and editor in China. A native of the United States, William has deep experience working globally, having spent nearly 20 years living in Asia and Europe.





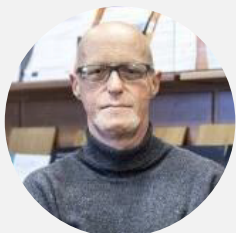
**Bolek Stawicki,**  
SIDA

Bolek Stawicki serves as Senior Advisor at the Power Africa team at Sida and manages an energy efficiency portfolio across East and Southern Africa. Having previously served as Programme Manager at the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund as well as Head of Business Development at the International Livestock Research Institute, one of the CGIAR centres, Bolek acquired broad experience at the nexus of agriculture, energy and climate change which he uses in designing a regional programme which combines productive use of renewable energy with rural development and the application of innovative financial instruments. Bolek holds an MBA degree from INSEAD.



**Surabhi Visser,**  
SunFunder

Surabhi is responsible for the healthy growth of our portfolio by supporting the team in developing bankable financial solutions that address our clients' capital needs and growth strategies. Surabhi joined SunFunder from MRI Group in Singapore where she led the structured trade finance team globally. Prior to that, she was a member of SMBC's power & infrastructure project finance team and also has worked at Standard & Poor's securitisation team. Surabhi holds an MBA from HEC Paris and a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Georgetown University.



**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.