

Session 7: Building sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems in African LDCs – organized in cooperation with FAO

Moderator: Mr. Abebe Haile-Gabriele, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO)



Abebe Haile-Gabriel, a national of Ethiopia, is a long-time champion of the crucial role of agriculture in sustainable development. With extensive experience in the sub-Saharan development landscape, Haile-Gabriel brings to the organization his practical knowledge, technical expertise and strategic approach to the developmental challenges of the region.

In his previous capacity as a senior manager at the African Union Commission (AUC), he engaged with crucial stakeholders and partners ranging from government officials to civil society organizations, private sector, farmers, etc.

Haile-Gabriel began his career in the academia in 1986, and served as a faculty member of the Alemaya University in Ethiopia until 2005. A champion of the higher education system and the potential of the rural area in steering the continent's path towards development, Haile-Gabriel soon joined the AUC as Director of the Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and then assumed the role as Head of the Rural Economy Division.

From 2011 to 2015, he served as Director of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture based at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Haile-Gabriel joined FAO in 2015 as Deputy Regional Representative for Africa and Representative to Ghana. He was also the Regional Programme Leader for Africa since 2017.

The ADG holds a Doctorate and a Master of Arts degree in Agricultural and Rural Development from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) at The Hague, the Netherlands. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the Alemaya (now Haramaya University) University of Agriculture in Ethiopia.

Keynote address: Dr. Máximo Torero, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO)



Mr. Maximo Torero Cullen is the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He joined the Organization in January 2019 as Assistant Director-General for the Economic and Social Development Department. Prior to joining FAO, he was the World Bank Group Executive Director for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay since November 2016 and before the Bank Mr. Torero led the Division of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). His major research work lies mostly in analyzing poverty, inequality, importance of geography and assets (private or public) in explaining poverty, and in policies oriented towards poverty alleviation based on the role played by infrastructure, institutions, and on how technological breakthroughs (or discontinuities) can improve the welfare of households and small farmers. His experience encompasses Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia.

Mr. Torero, a national of Peru, holds a Ph.D. and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of the Pacific, Lima, Peru. He is a professor on leave at the University of the Pacific, Perú, and an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at University of Bonn, Germany, and has also published in top journals (QJE, Econometric Theory, AER-Applied Microeconomics, RSTAT, Labor Economics and many other top journals).

Mr. Torero has received in 2000 the Georg Foster Research Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, won the Award for Outstanding Research on Development given by the Global Development Network, twice, in 2000 and in 2002, and received the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole in 2014.

Panelists:

H.E. Ato Oumer Hussein, Minister of Agriculture of Ethiopia



H.E Ato Oumer Hussien Oba is serving as the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture since October 2018. He also a member of the Oromo Democratic Party (ODP).

Oumer was born on September 15, 1972 in Tijo, Arsi, Oromia, often associated with high production of Wheat and Barley.

Oumer is coming with a wide-range of experiences serving government in different roles such as Director General of the Ethiopia Revenue and Custom Authority;

EPRDF Executive Committee member, he was Vice President of the Oromia Regional Government and Head of Bureaus of Urban Development and Agriculture.

H.E Ato Oumer, has passion to serve smallholder agriculture where he initiated digitizing the sector and identified the sector's capital investment required to transform Ethiopian agriculture.

Oumer received his BA in Economics in Ethiopia and his Master's in Business Administration international Business (MBA-IB) from Greenwich University in London. He is married and father of two daughters.

H.E. Lobin Lowe, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development of Malawi



Lobin Clarkie Lowe is a Malawian politician who has been a Member of Parliament in the Malawi National Assembly from 2009 to present and also currently serves as the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security.

Early Life and Education

Lobin Lowe attended primary school education at Mwenda, Chiseka, Buluzi primary schools; all of these are in Lilongwe and then at Mponda primary school in Zomba district. He later attended post primary education at William Murry secondary school. Thereafter, went to Bunda College of Agriculture where he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture.

Career

Lobin Lowe has worked with Ministry of Agriculture as an Extension Officer and InterAid Organization. After leaving InterAid, Lobin Lowe ventured into commercial farming where he founded and has been the Managing Director of GreenWorld Farms which specializes in the production of Mangoes and Bananas. The GreenWorld farms are located in Lilongwe and Salima districts.

Leadership

Lobin Lowe has served as the member of Parliament for Lilongwe Central Constituency since 2009. He was elected Malawi Congress Party Chief Whip in the Malawi National Assembly. He served as Leader of Opposition in the Malawi National Assembly until his appointment as Minister of Agriculture and Food Security in July 2020.

H.E. Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda (TBC)



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Education Background

Year	Qualification	Institution
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2010	Master of Arts in Public Administration and Management	Nkumba University
2006	Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration	Nkumba University
1996	Diploma in Modern Management	College of Professional Management, UK
1976	East African Advanced Certificate of Education	Caltec Academy
1974	East African Certificate of Education	St Charles Lwanga Kasasa
1969	Primary Leaving Examinations	St Joseph's Bajja Primary School

Work Experience

Year	Position	Institution
2016 to date	Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries	Government of Uganda
2015 - 2016	Minister of State for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries	Government of Uganda
2011 to date	Member of Parliament	Parliament of Uganda
1998 - 2011	LCV Chairperson	Masaka District Local Government
1995 - 1998	Resident District Commissioner, Masaka	Government of Uganda
1992 - 1993	Deputy District Administrator, Mubende	Government of Uganda

Ms. Sara Mbago-Bhunu, Director, East and Southern Africa Division, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)



Sara Mbago-Bhunu is the Director of IFAD's East and Southern Africa Division.

Ms. Mbago-Bhunu's work experience spans more than 20 years in the agriculture sector across Central, East and Southern Africa. She has worked on agriculture policy and sector reviews, value chain development, access to agricultural finance, social enterprise models and the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises in peri-urban and rural areas. She has also led and managed teams in other development organizations in the design of development projects and capacity-building programmes.

Prior to joining IFAD, Mbago-Bhunu worked at the World Bank as a Senior Agricultural Economist for the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo, based in Kinshasa. From 2013 to 2016, she served as Country Director for SNV-Netherlands Development Organisation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mbago-Bhunu holds a Masters in Business Administration from Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands, and a BSc in Agricultural Economics from the University of Reading, United Kingdom.

Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala, President, Pan Africa Farmers Organization (PAFO)



Elizabeth Nsimadala is the President of the Pan Africa farmers Organization (PAFO) and President of Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF). Previously, she served four years as the Regional Women Representative at the EAFF and Treasurer Board Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) a member of EAFF. She also sits at the Governing Council of Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) and Chairs the Governing Council of the Uganda Cooperative College in Tororo among others. Elizabeth is a successful agriprenuer and has been at the Centre of championing farmer-led Agriculture technology and innovation at the EAFF through the E-Granary initiative that virtually aggregates farmers for markets. She is a passionate cooperator and she spearheaded the push to have the regional law on cooperatives – The East Africa Cooperative Societies Bill 2015 through the East Africa Legislative Assembly. As a result of her efforts, she was recently awarded and Globally recognized by the World Farmers Organization (WFO) as one of the exemplary women leaders in Farmers Organizations’ contributing to sustainable development.

Closing remarks

Ms. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for 2021 Food Systems Summit



Agnes Kalibata of Rwanda is the Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. The Special Envoy, working with the United Nations system and key partners, will provide leadership, guidance and strategic direction towards the Summit. Ms. Kalibata will be responsible for outreach and cooperation with key leaders, including governments, and other strategic stakeholder groups, to galvanize action and leadership for the Summit. She will also support the various global and regional consultative events focused on food system transformation, planned during 2020 and 2021.

Ms. Kalibata is the President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) since 2014. She leads the organization's efforts with public and private partners to ensure a food secure and prosperous Africa through rapid, inclusive, sustainable agricultural growth, improving the productivity and livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers in Africa.

Prior to joining AGRA, Ms. Kalibata was Rwanda's Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources from 2008 to 2014, where she drove programs that moved her country to food security, helping to lift more than a million Rwandans out of poverty.

She has records of accomplishments as an agricultural scientist, policy maker and thought leader, awarded the Yara Prize, now the Africa Food Prize, in 2012, Honorary Doctorates from the University of Liège (2018) and McGill University (2019). She was the 2019 recipient of the National Academy of Sciences prestigious Public Welfare Medal for her work to drive Africa's agricultural transformation through modern sciences and effective policy, thereby improving livelihoods of stallholder farmers. She holds a Doctorate in Entomology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is fluent in English, with working knowledge of French.