



2ND DRY LAND AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Theme: *Innovating Dry land Agriculture for Resilience, Sustainability, and Climate-Responsive Food Security*

Dates: 17th–18th June 2025

Venue: ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya

**Aligned with the World Day to Combat
Desertification and Drought**

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

ORGANISERS:



PARTNERS:



The
Food and Land Use
Coalition



AGRA
Sustainably Growing
Africa's Food Systems



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Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, EGH

Cabinet Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development



Dr. Paul Kipronoh Rono

Permanent Secretary, State Department for Agriculture,
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock



Hon. Jonathan Mueke

Permanent Secretary,
State Department for Livestock Development



Dr. Judith Wafula

Deputy Vice Chancellor,
Lukenya University

It is with great honor and anticipation that I welcome you to the 2nd National Conference on Dryland Agriculture in the Face of Climate Change, held under the theme “Innovating Dryland Agriculture for Resilience, Sustainability, and Climate-Responsive Food Security.”

This conference brings together leading scholars, practitioners, policy makers, development partners, and community leaders to reflect on innovative solutions tailored to the realities of Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). As climate change continues to reshape our ecological and agricultural landscapes, this gathering offers a timely platform for sharing cutting-edge research, indigenous knowledge, and inclusive strategies that can transform the future of dryland farming.

I am particularly proud of the commitment shown by participating institutions and the dynamic engagement of our youth, women, and local communities. The insights and partnerships formed here will be critical in shaping a more food-secure and climate-resilient Kenya.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I extend my sincere appreciation to our partners Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, the Alliance for a Green Revolution Africa (AGRA), Food and land use Coalition (FOLU), PELUM Kenya, ILRI, Wofa AK, TARDA, KEFRI, South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU), Kenyatta University among other partners.

Thank you, to all presenters, exhibitors, and delegates. I also appreciate our sponsors Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, AGRA, Food and land use Coalition (FOLU), PELUM Kenya and ILRI to mention but a few, and well-wishers. May this conference inspire action, inform policy, and deepen collaboration across sectors.

Dr. Judith Adikinyi Wafula

Convener, 2nd National Dryland Agriculture Conference
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Student Affairs)
Lukenya University



Priscilla Kerebi

CEO,
Edsource Africa

A very warm welcome to the 2nd Dryland Agriculture and Food Systems in the Face of Climate Change Conference. It is a true honour to convene such an important gathering here at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), as we collectively reflect, share, and collaborate towards resilient food systems for arid and semi-arid lands.

As we begin this two-day dialogue, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our partners and supporters who made this convening possible. Special thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, whose leadership and presence underscore the importance of advancing dryland agriculture on our national development agenda. We also sincerely appreciate the support of Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), AGRA, PELUM Kenya, and our gracious hosts and partner ILRI for their collaborative spirit and commitment.

This conference has brought together distinguished speakers and panelists, research institutions, farmer organizations, civil society, development partners, and private sector actors, each of you playing a vital role in shaping sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient agricultural systems. Your insights will guide not only knowledge exchange but also practical actions and partnerships moving forward.

Our agenda covers key thematic areas including regenerative agriculture, livestock and pastoralist development, youth engagement, private sector innovations, and research utilization. We are also honoured to align this convening with the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on 17th June, amplifying global calls to restore and safeguard our dryland ecosystems.

We welcome you to open dialogue, bold ideas, and renewed partnerships, for catalytic change to ensure that dryland communities are not left behind but are empowered to thrive amid the climate crisis.

Thank you, and I wish you a productive and inspiring conference.

DAY ONE

17th June 2025

2nd Dryland Agriculture and Food Systems in the Face of Climate Change Conference

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
7.30am - 8.30am	Registration	Event Secretariat
8.30am - 9.00am	Welcome Remarks Re-cap from 1st Dryland Agriculture and Food Systems in the Face of Climate Change Conference	Edsource Africa Lukenya University
9.00am - 10.00am	Climate-Smart Innovations for Dryland Agriculture Panel Discussion: Scaling Drought-Resistant Crops and Technologies for Dryland Farmers	Lead Insight – Dr. Robert Mbeche , World Resources Institute Dr, Gilbert Muthee, Climate Smart Technologies Unit, State Dept of Agriculture Eng. Kennedy Makudih - BREFONS Moderator: Purity Mutheu
10.30am – 11.00 am Health Break		
10.00am – 11.30am	Opening Ceremony - Opening Remarks: Dr. Judith A. Wafula, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research, and Student Affairs) Lukenya University Keynote Speakers: Insights on global best practices in sustainable land use and food systems transformation – Prof. Tilahun Amede, Director Climate Adaptation, Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience at AGRA. Remarks - Mr. Michael Onchabo, Director, Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) Kenya Remarks – Camilla Ravnsborg Aschjem, Head of Development Cooperation. Ambassaden ,Nairobi – Norwegian Embassy in Nairobi Remarks - Principal Secretary State Department for Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development - Hon. Jonathan Mueke, CBS Remarks - Principal Secretary State Department for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development - Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh Paul, CBS Opening remarks on Kenya's policy direction for sustainable dryland agriculture: HON. MUTAHI KAGWE, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development, Kenya	
11.00am – 12.20pm	Paper Presentation: Growth and Nutritional Quality Performance of Selected Forage Grasses in Lower and Upper Midland Zones in Kenya Revitalizing indigenous seed systems for resilient dryland agriculture: Lessons from Eastern Kenya	Peggy Karimi, Alliance Bioversity/ CIAT Angela Kiamba MSC Student Lukenya University
12.20 – 12.40pm	Transforming African Food Systems for Climate Resilience and Sustainability: A Review of Current Policies, Practices, and Pathways in Dryland Agriculture	Purity Mutheu Department of Agriculture, Lukenya University, Kenya 2. South Eastern Kenya University, Kenya 3. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Kenya
12.40pm – 1.00pm	Biotechnology and regenerative approaches Farmer Case Studies AGRO-HYDROPANS FOR WATER CONSERVATION IN ASAL'S	Project Alsiht Team, Green Thumb Movement, Kenya Geoffrey Musembi and Albanus Kituu
1.00pm – 1.45pm Lunch Break		

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
2.00pm – 3.00pm –	<p>Regenerative Agriculture: Restoring Ecosystems for Climate-Resilient Food Production</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Exploring practical approaches to integrate regenerative agriculture into existing farming systems, with a focus on soil health, agroforestry, and water conservation.</p> <p>Farmer Case Study Automated Watering System in the ASALs using Renewable Energy</p>	<p>Lead Insight – Dr. Abednego Kiwia Mavuthu , Systems Agronomist and Regenerative Agriculture Specialist at AGRA.</p> <p>David Ojwang, PhD Sector Leader – Agri-food Systems SNV Kenya and Burundi</p> <p>Ms Maram Makhamreh, Economic Counsellor Embassy of Jordan, Nairobi</p> <p>Irene Ndavi, Director, Resource Planning and Development, Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA)</p> <p>Moderator – Mr. Bernard Kiviyatu</p> <p>Antony Muuo</p>
3.00pm – 4.00pm	<p>De-risking Agriculture and Leveraging Insurance for Resilience and Sustainability</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Innovations in Agricultural Insurance for Smallholder Farmers</p> <p>Paper Presentation Effects of Project Management Adoption as Enabler for Successful Financial Technology Performance: A Case of Mobile Banking Application in Kenya</p> <p>Farmer Case Study: INTEGRATED AQUAPONICS AND POULTRY FARMING IN ASALS</p>	<p>Lead Insight- Farid Wangara – Chief Operations Officer & Principal Officer</p> <p>Maurice Ouma, DRIVE –Project Co-ordinator Kennedy Anahinga – State Dept of Agriculture Moderator – Mr. Joseph Odhiambo</p> <p>Mutuku Muli</p> <p>ROY MWAKA</p>
4.20pm – 5:20 pm	<p>The Pivotal Role of Organizations in Research Utilization for Advancing Dryland Agriculture</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p>	<p>Lead Insight – Dr Shaphan Chia, Research Scientist International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)</p> <p>Dr. Hezekiah Korir, IITA</p> <p>Dr. Sego Kipronoh, Mifugo ni Mali services & Executive Council Member, Kenya Livestock Breeders Association</p> <p>Moderator - Dr. Virginia Mwanzia</p>
End of Day one – Networking and Touring the Exhibitions		

DAY TWO

18th June 2025

2nd Dryland Agriculture and Food Systems in the Face of Climate Change Conference

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
7.30am – 8.30am	Arrival and Registration	Secretariat
8.00am – 9.00am	<p>Paper Presentation Effect of rate of hydrogel application and source of Fertilizer nitrogen on growth and yield of maize in a sub-Humid environment of Kenya</p> <p>Environmental, Economic and Social Impact Assessment of Coal Mining in The Mui Basin-Kitui County, Kenya</p> <p>Enhancing Dryland Resilience and Agricultural Productivity through Algae-Based Systems: The Case of Project Alight Demo Farm in Central Kenya</p> <p>Harnessing Agriculture for Climate Action: Sustainable Biomass Briquetting in Kenya through Local Resources, Community Engagement, and Emission Reduction</p> <p>Farmers Case Studies: FRUIT FARMING IN THE ASALS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURE IN THE ASALS</p>	<p>Antony Mangusho Twaem Twaem Antony Senior Agricultural Officer (Data & Information Officer), Plant Protection and Food Safety Directorate</p> <p>Esther Nthenya Muli Lukenya University</p> <p>Project Alight Team, Green Thumb Movement, Kenya</p> <p>Raphael Otakwa Lukenya university</p> <p>Henry Kivanga Daudi Bakari</p>
9.00am – 10.00am	<p>Navigating Challenges and Harnessing Pathways for Sustainability and Development of Pastoralist Communities</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Sustainable Livestock Management and Pastoral Development and The role of dairy and livestock value chain</p>	<p>Lead Insight – Dr. Guyo Roba – head of dryland development unit, IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD)</p> <p>Irene Nganga – ILRI Peggy Karimi, Alliance Bioversity/ CIAT</p> <p>Moderator - Jael Birgen</p>
10.00am – 10.30am	<p>Paper Presentation Transforming Pastoral Livelihoods with Community-Based Rangeland Management and Digital Tools: Building adaptive capacity for pastoralism in a changing climate</p> <p>Empowering Youth as Catalysts for Smart Agriculture and Food System Transformation in Africa.</p> <p>Generation change in agriculture</p> <p>Farmer Case Study LIVESTOCK KEEPING IN ASALS</p>	<p>Joshua Laizer (Regenerative Grazing Associate– AfriScout)</p> <p>Angella Oyieleze Akanwa (The Department of Environmental Mgt, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, (COOU), Uli Campus, P.M.B 02, Anambra State, Nigeria).</p> <p>Gailyne Muthoni – Nakuru Tubers Kenya</p> <p>Rebecca Saitolok</p>
11.00am – 11.30 am Health Break		

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
11.00pm – 12.00pm	<p>Generational Change in Agriculture: Pathways for Sustainable Youth Engagement and Succession</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Empowering Youth as Agents of Change in Food Systems</p> <p>Farmer Case study: IMPORTANCE OF FARMER GROUPS IN ASALS</p>	<p>Lead Insight – Dr. Jason Sircely - Senior Scientist International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)</p> <p>Meshach Makokha – State Dept of Agriculture Arthur Muiruri Ann President, Kenya Agriculture Students Association Boniface Harrison Founder and Executive Director of MuemAction Post</p> <p>Moderator – Purity Mutheu</p> <p>Magdalene Ndumi</p>
12.00pm – 1.00pm	<p>Private Sector Engagement and Market Access Interventions</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Paper Presentation Integrated Approaches to Agricultural Land Restoration and Climate Risk, Management for Food Security in Northern Nigeria</p>	<p>Lead insight – Charles Nyadero, Investment Manager – Kenya Climate Venture Ltd</p> <p>Jacinta Mwau, EAGC Country Manager, Kenya, DRC, Burundi & Ethiopia</p> <p>Dr. Diba Wako – Mercy Corps, Agrifin</p> <p>Moderator- Celestine Musavi</p> <p>Angella Oyieleze Akanwa (The Department of Environmental Management, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, (COOU), Uli Campus, P.M.B 02, Anambra State, Nigeria.)</p>
12.45pm – 1.45pm Lunch Break		
2.00pm – 2.20pm	Farmer Presentations	PELUM Kenya
2.20pm – 3.20pm	<p>Breaking Barriers: Supporting Women's Access to Land and Resources in Agriculture</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Gender Equity in Land Ownership and Resource Allocation</p> <p>Paper Presentation: Staging Empowerment: Women's Land Rights and Gender Advocacy in Francis Imbuga's Aminata</p>	<p>Lead Insight – Lead Insight – Winnie Ogutu Advocacy Lead, The Institute of Social Accountability (TISA)</p> <p>Stephanie Mate – GIZ UN Women Moderator- Raphael Otakwa</p> <p>Allan Kodundo (PhD Candidate, University of Nairobi) Lukenya University</p>

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
3.20pm – 4.00 pm	<p>AGROECOLOGY FOR RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS, EXPERIENCES FROM PELUM KENYA NETWORK</p> <p>Driving Innovation and Investment for Agriculture 4.0 in Sub-Saharan Africa</p> <p>Farmers Case Studies: TREE NURSERY FARMER</p> <p>Paper Presentation: 1. Innovative Climate smart solutions for sustainable dryland agriculture 2. Climate smart and multi-sectoral innovations for dryland Resilience</p> <p>Analysis of Morphoanatomical and Agronomic Traits Effects of Silicon (Si) Technology on Iron Stress Tolerance on selected Phaseolus vulgaris L. Beans Varieties in Kathiani sub-county, Machakos county, South Eastern Region, Circular Bio Fiber innovation project</p> <p>Circular Bio Fiber innovation project</p> <p>Growth performance of selected grasses under shade conditions in Dryland Conditions in Makueni, Kenya</p> <p>Evaluation of black soldier fly larvae (Hermetia illucens) frass as biopesticide and biofertilizer on kales at jaramogi oginga odinga university of science and technology insectary farm,</p> <p>Biotechnological and Regenerative Approaches for Resilient Cassava Systems in Drylands: A review</p>	<p>Manei Naanyu - Head of Programmes at Participatory Ecological Land Use Management(PELUM)</p> <p>Samuel Karanja – Mercy Corps -Agrifin</p> <p>PELUM Ziphora Mwaka</p> <p>Antony Maina (Food Cloud)</p> <p>Kombo Milka (Kisii County Government) Angela Akanwa</p> <p>Mutua Eunice Loko (Department of Agriculture, Lukenya University Department of Life Sciences, South Eastern Kenya University)</p> <p>Apollo Ngitto (Alkebulan Agri-business Venture, University of Eastern Africa Baraton)</p> <p>Peggy Karimi – Alliance Bioversity/CIAT</p> <p>Otieno Clinton (Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology)</p> <p>Purity Mutheu Department of Agriculture, Lukenya University, Kenya 2. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Kenya</p>
5.00pm- 5.30pm	<p>Closing Remarks The Agricultural Engineering Secretary, Eng. Laban Kiplagat</p> <p>Way forward</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development</p> <p>Edsource Africa, Priscilla Kerebi, Lukenya University</p>
5.30pm	Departure	All



Dr. Abed Kiwia

Systems Agronomist and Regenerative Agriculture Specialist,
AGRA

Dr. Kiwia Mavuthu is a Systems Agronomist and Regenerative Agriculture Specialist at AGRA. He earned his PhD (and MPhil) focusing on natural resource management and sustainable agricultural systems. As a scholar, conservationist, and policy expert, he has extensive experience in natural resource and resilient agricultural systems.

He works at the intersection of research, non-profit leadership, and policy development to promote sustainable land and food security solutions across East Africa. He also provides technical leadership in regenerative agriculture and soil health initiatives within AGRA's country programs.

Dr. Kiwia manages the STRAK project (Strengthening Regenerative Agriculture in Kenya), funded by the IKEA Foundation, driving innovations to enhance soil health, climate adaptation, and livelihoods for smallholder farmers. A strong advocate for collaboration, he actively engages with government agencies, universities, and farmer networks to scale innovations for sustainable agriculture in Kenya and beyond.



Dr. Abdou Tenkouano

Director,
International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)

Dr Tenkouano holds a PhD in Genetics and an MSc in Plant Breeding, from Texas A&M University, USA; and a diplôme d'ingénieur agronome from the University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. His research has focused on genetics, breeding, biotechnology, pathology, agronomy and postharvest strategies, working with multidisciplinary teams to support extension and development of various crops including sorghum, millet, maize, cassava, yam, banana and plantain.

From 2016 – 2023, Dr Tenkouano was the Executive Director, West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), based in Dakar, Senegal. He joined the

Council from the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg, previously the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center – AVRDC), where he served for eight years, first from 2008 – 2013, as the Director, Regional Center for Africa, based in Arusha, Tanzania; and then, from 2014 – 2016, as Regional Director, West and Central Africa, based in Bamako, Mali.

Previously, he held a 12-year stint (1996 – 2008), and various positions at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), working on genetics, breeding and improvement of plantain and banana, cassava and yams. From 1994 – 1996, he was the Coordinator, West and Central Africa Sorghum Research Network, International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), in Bamako, Mali.

Dr Tenkouano is actively engaged within the regional and global scientific community, having published widely in refereed publications, through his professional services and memberships, as a member of various regional international committees focusing on research for development, as an awards jurist, and through visiting positions in academia. He has received several recognitions including the CGIAR Science Award for Outstanding Partnership (2009) between AVRDC and ICRISAT).



Arthur Muiruri Ann

President / Executive Director,
Kenya Agricultural Students Association / Smallholder Africa

Arthur is a dynamic leader and passionate advocate for sustainable agriculture in the country. As the President of the Kenya Agricultural Students Association, he represents the voice of young agricultural professionals, driving innovation, collaboration, and policy engagement across institutions. In his role as Executive Director of Smallholder Africa, Arthur works closely with rural communities to empower small-scale farmers through climate-resilient practices, agribusiness training, and market access initiatives. His work is grounded in a deep commitment to improving food security and livelihoods across the continent.

Currently pursuing an MSc in Climate Smart Agriculture at Murang'a University of Technology, Arthur is focused on research and practical solutions that address the impacts of climate change on smallholder farming systems. His academic and field experience blend technical expertise with a community-first approach, making him a thought leader in the transformation of African agriculture. Through his leadership and scholarship, Arthur continues to champion sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and the next generation of agripreneurs.



Boniface Harrison

Founder and Executive Director,
MuemAction Post

Boniface Harrison is the Founder and Executive Director of MuemAction Post, a social enterprise committed people to take action on critical social issues such as digital skills, climate action, and civic engagement. His mission is to empower people with knowledge and skills to take informed action and lead sustainable and better livelihoods. A trained social work and community development professional from the Technical

University of Kenya, he has collaborated with the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) to write policy briefs.

Harrison participated in the Global Climate Justice forum in Tanzania in 2024, served as a Youth Multimedia Assistant with UNESCO Eastern Africa and the Media Council of Kenya. He has also collaborated with the Embassy of Finland in Kenya, the Constitution and Reform Education Consortium (CRECO), among others, to drive transformative projects. Boniface has written over 100 articles on diverse social issues on www.muemactionpost.org.



Charles Nyadero

Investment Manager,
Kenya Climate Ventures Limited

Charles Nyadero is an experienced investment professional with over 15 years of expertise in investment analysis, deal structuring, and portfolio management, primarily within impact-

focused funds. Currently serving as Investment Manager at Kenya Climate Ventures Limited, Charles plays a key role in deal sourcing, assessing, and onboarding climate-smart investment opportunities.

Prior to this role, Nyadero served as an Investment Analyst with Root Capital, where he focused on agribusiness SMEs, and as a Portfolio Officer at the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF), supporting impact investments across the agricultural value chain. Charles is a Certified Investments and Financial Analyst (CIFA) and a Financial Modelling and Valuation Analyst (FMVA). He holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance from the University of Nairobi.



Dr. David Ojwang

Sector Leader – Agri-food Systems.
SNV Kenya and Burundi

Dr David Ojwang is currently working as the Sector Leader – Agri-food Systems for SNV Kenya and Burundi, oversee agri-food sector program implementation. He has previously worked for ICRISAT, USAID/FINTRAC, Solidaridad East Africa and Heifer International. He is a market system, livelihoods and business development specialist, with over 23 years of experience.

Dr. Ojwang was recently, in 2025, awarded the prestigious Warrior for Good in Impactful Leadership and Service, by RELINK GROUP, highlighting his exceptional leadership and dedication to building sustainable livelihoods in the agri-food sector through innovative research and development.

David holds Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Horticulture, Master of Science degree in Horticulture and Bachelor of science degree in Agriculture from the university of Nairobi. He is passionate about creating sustainable impact in the agri-food sector, that is permanent and scalable.



Stephanie Mate

Gender and Land Rights Advisor | Women Empowerment
for Resilient Rural Areas Project, GIZ

Stephanie currently serves as the Gender and Land Rights Advisor for the Women Empowerment for Resilient Rural Areas Project at GIZ. With over 9 years of experience in managing and implementing national development programs, she specializes in gender equality, community engagement, and institutional capacity-building.

Her work integrates a gender-responsive approach into policy and program design, providing technical support to government agencies and civil society organizations on social accountability, advocacy, and inclusive governance. She has successfully led initiatives addressing land rights, women's empowerment, and gender-based violence, particularly in rural, peri-urban, and informal settlement contexts.

She brings extensive experience in supporting county and national-level technical working groups, promoting gender-transformative solutions in land governance, agriculture, and community development. Her commitment lies in advancing equitable, participatory development that leaves no one behind.



Farid Wangara

Chief Insurance and Principal Officer,
Acre Africa

Farid Wangara has extensive expertise in financial management, insurance, and strategic partnerships. As the Chief Insurance Officer (CIO) and Principal Officer, he is dedicated to optimizing operational efficiency and ensuring compliance within the organization.

Farid fosters collaboration and establishes key relationships among diverse stakeholders within agriculture value chains. His strategic vision extends to business and product development, where he leverages his comprehensive understanding of the industry to drive innovation and growth.

Farid excels in overseeing day-to-day business operations, playing a pivotal role in shaping, and implementing strategic initiatives.

With a profound passion for fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders within agriculture value chains, Farid is instrumental in establishing and nurturing key relationships. His strategic vision extends to business and product development, where he leverages his comprehensive understanding of the industry to drive innovation and growth.

In his capacity as the Principal Officer, Farid Wangara serves as a direct link to various stakeholders in the agriculture value chain, facilitating seamless communication and cooperation. His leadership is characterized by a commitment to excellence, ensuring that operational processes align with organizational goals and regulatory standards.

Farid's unique blend of financial acumen, operational management, and commitment to building strong partnerships make him an invaluable asset in steering the organization towards sustained success within the dynamic landscape of agriculture and related industries.



Dr. Guyo Roba

Head of Dryland Development Unit, IGAD Center for
Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD)

Dr. Guyo Roba is currently the head of dryland development unit at the IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD). Prior to this, he held the position of the head of the Jameel Observatory for Food Security Early Action, based at the International Livestock Research Institute in Kenya. Guyo held technical roles at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and worked at a policy analyst at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA).

A leading expert in natural resource management, rural development and drylands, with extensive experience implementing natural resource programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa and the wider Horn of Africa, Guyo oversees programmes at the Jameel Observatory to mitigate food security and reduce malnutrition in East Africa, through forecasting, long-term preparedness and emergency response to climate-related food and health risks. Guyo's work focuses on the importance of improving the reliability of early warning and risk management systems to mitigate the effects of drought.

Guyo has extensive experience working in research and policy engagement and is conversant with climate change issues in the region and climate financing among pastoralists and smallholder farmers. He comes from the pastoral areas of Northern Kenya and brings personal and technical insights to his work with dryland communities. He took a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental planning and management from Kenyatta University, followed by a master's in energy studies from the University of Dundee, UK and a PhD in agricultural sciences from Universität Kassel, Germany.



Irene Ndavi

Director, Resource Planning and Development,
Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA)

Irene Ndavi is a distinguished development strategist and environmental planner with over two decades of experience in sustainable agriculture, catchment management, and integrated resource planning. Currently serving as the Director of Resource

Planning and Development at the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA), Irene has been instrumental in shaping and implementing regional strategies that enhance community resilience, food security, and environmental restoration.

Her expertise lies at the intersection of policy, science, and community action—driving practical solutions in agroforestry, water resource management, and regenerative agriculture across Kenya's critical ecosystems. Irene's leadership has been central to the Authority's efforts in rehabilitating degraded river basins and aligning regional development with national adaptation priorities.

From spearheading feasibility studies and resource mobilization initiatives to guiding transformative agricultural projects in dryland regions, Irene brings a rare blend of technical depth and visionary leadership. Her voice on this panel—under the sub-theme “Exploring Practical Approaches To Integrate Regenerative Agriculture Into Existing Farming Systems”—will be shaped by years of first-hand engagement with vulnerable communities, policy institutions, and environmental science.

A respected voice in government and development circles, Irene Ndavi continues to champion inclusive, evidence-driven approaches to restore ecosystems for climate-resilient food production in Kenya and beyond.



Jacinta Mwau

Country Manager,
EAGC Kenya, DRC, Burundi & Ethiopia

Jacinta Mwau is a passionate Business Development Expert and intrapreneur in the African grain sector and currently serves as the Team Leader overseeing EAGC programs in Kenya, DRC, Burundi, and Ethiopia. With expertise in Market Information

Systems, Policy and Communications, Jacinta plays a strategic role in enhancing market access for the grain sector through the development of inclusive value chains and digital innovation platforms.

At EAGC, she leads the coordination of digital and ICT platforms for monitoring Informal Cross Border Trade (ICBT), market prices, regional food stocks, and Climate Information for Grains (CI4G) policymakers. These tools support evidence-based advocacy and inform cross-border trading decisions, thereby strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of agribusinesses in the context of climate change.

Jacinta has been instrumental in facilitating private sector engagement through high-level stakeholder platforms such as the Africa Grain Trade Summits (AGTS), Global Grain Trade Round Tables (GGRTs), and trade missions, where she fosters dialogue between policy makers and agribusiness leaders. Her work continues to shape transformative approaches in food systems by improving sector actors' access to regional and international markets.

She is an alumna of the Leading African Women in Food Fellowship, offered by the African Food Change Makers, and holds a Master's degree in Governance and Leadership and a Bachelor's degree in Commerce.



Dr. Jason Sircely

Ecosystem Ecologist

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Dr. Sircely is a Senior Scientist at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). He has over 20 years of experience in theoretical and applied ecology and conservation, including interdisciplinary collaborations with farmers, herders, civil

society, and governments.

His work presently centers on management and restoration of communal grazing lands for better livelihoods and the environment, using approaches ranging from local to global simulation modelling, to multi-stakeholder action research, to the testing and scaling of interdisciplinary management approaches.



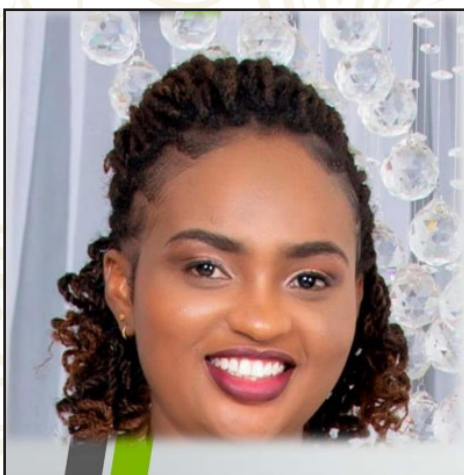
Jeremiah Rogito

Specialist Food, Land Use, Soil Health and Climate,
AGRA

Dr. Jeremiah Rogito serves as the Specialist Food, Land Use, Soil Health and Climate at AGRA. He holds a PhD in Strategic Business Leadership with an emphasis on youth-led food systems transformation, he has a Master of Management in Agribusiness and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and an African Youth Change Maker Fellow-2018.

In 2025 he was recognized by Forbes Africa as a Forbes Top 30 under 30 in Africa as well as Top 40 Under 40 in Africa for his contribution to environmental conservation, youth and agriculture in Africa.

He previously held various roles at SNV Netherlands Development Organization, Duetsche Welthungerhilfe, Think Organic Kenya and Agripanda Limited. He is passionate about youth entrepreneurship in Agriculture, SME and MSME development, regenerative agriculture and climate resilience and is dedicated to promoting youth participation in agrifood systems transformation in Africa.



Manei Naanyu

Head of Programmes,
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)

Ms. Manei Naanyu is an agricultural scientist with hands on experience on agroecology, advocacy, climate governance and gender mainstreaming in agroecology. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and Master of Science degree in Agriculture Information and Communication Management from the University of Nairobi. She currently serves as the Head of Programmes at Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya where she is spearheading programmes focusing on promoting agroecological principles and practices among smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Kenya.



Maram Makhamreh

Economic Counsellor,
Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Nairobi - The Republic of Kenya

Maram Makhamreh currently serves as the Economic Counsellor at the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, having assumed this role on June 15, 2024. She is an accomplished professional with a focus on international trade analysis, project management, and quality assurance. Maram brings a wealth of expertise and a proven track record of optimizing organizational processes across both the public and private sectors.

Before her current role, Maram served as the Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Trade Policy Directorate at Jordan's Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply. In this capacity, she led strategic initiatives and managed trade relations across American, European, Asian, and African markets. She coordinated with diplomatic missions and oversaw international agreements and grant projects funded by major entities such as the EU, USAID, and GIZ.

Maram has also held key leadership positions, including Lead Excellence & Quality Management at the Ministry. Her private sector experience includes overseeing large-scale international and local projects in collaboration with regional and global entities. She has demonstrated exceptional skill in driving process improvements and implementing frameworks such as CMMI, RADAR, ISO 9001:2015, and AGILE.

Maram holds an MBA in Global Business from the University of Bedfordshire, UK, and a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Information Systems from Philadelphia University, Jordan. She is a certified Lead Auditor for ISO 9001:2015, an EFQM-certified assessor, an ICF business coaching member, and has completed various professional development courses, including in commercial diplomacy and Project Management Professional (PMP).



Michael Orang'i

Director,
Food and Land Use (FOLU) Coalition – Kenya

Michael Orang'i Onchabo is the Director Food and Land Use (FOLU) Coalition – Kenya. He provides overall leadership, developing and delivering on FOLU Kenya strategy, programming framework, fundraising, project delivery, building and managing partnerships & communications.

Mr. Orang'i gives strategic direction on approaches and best practices related to food systems transformation in Kenya by operationalizing and delivering on Productive and regenerative agriculture; Protecting and restoring nature; Reducing food loss and waste; Healthy diets and Whole food system transitions. He serves as a bridge between the Kenya country platform, FOLU partners and the FOLU Global Secretariat.

Michael has over 20 years of working experience in different organizations and sectors and has served in different capacities as the Country Director, Kenya|Tanzania of the Rainforest Alliance, business development advisor for Fairtrade Africa, trainer for Ethical Tea Partnership, field manager with the Wood Foundation Africa in Rwanda, Sasini Coffee and Tea and Kenya Tea Development Agency Limited (KTDA).



Dr. Shaphan Yong Chia

Research Scientist,
International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)

Dr. Chia works under the Insects for Food, Feed and Other Uses (INSEFF) Programme. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Entomology from Wageningen University (The Netherlands), an MPhil. in Agricultural Entomology from the University of Ghana (Ghana), and a BSc in Zoology from the University of Buea (Cameroon).

Dr. Chia has led cutting-edge research on edible insects with over ten years of international experience. His work focuses on harnessing insects for sustainable animal feed production, organic waste valorization, and soil health restoration through the application of insect frass as organic fertilizer. Rooted in circular economy principles, Dr. Chia's research supports climate-resilient dryland agriculture by linking nutrient recycling, livestock productivity, and ecological regeneration.



Dr. Sego Kiprono

Head, Resilience, Climate & Soil Fertility
AGRA

Dr. Sego Kiprono is a seasoned Veterinary Surgeon with over 20 years of experience in veterinary services, having earned his Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) from the University of Nairobi. He currently serves at Mifugo Ni Mali Services, a consultancy firm dedicated to supporting livestock enterprises through expert guidance and innovative solutions. His extensive knowledge and hands-on expertise make him a valuable asset to Kenya's livestock industry, where he plays a pivotal role in improving animal health, productivity, and welfare.

In addition to his professional practice, Dr. Kiprono holds several influential leadership positions within key agricultural organizations. He is the Chairman and Council Member of the Kenya Guernsey Cattle Society and serves on the Executive Council of the Kenya Livestock Breeders Association and the Kenya Stud Book. Renowned for his keen eye and deep understanding of livestock quality, he is a respected show livestock judge and a dedicated trainer of both show judges and livestock inspectors. His contributions have significantly shaped the standards and professionalism in Kenya's livestock sector.



Prof. Tilahun Amede

Head, Resilience, Climate & Soil Fertility
AGRA

Prof. Tilahun Amede is a renowned expert in sustainable agriculture, soil health, and climate resilience, currently serving as Director Climate Adaptation, Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience at AGRA. With a background in soil science and agronomy, Prof. Amede has decades of experience in developing climate-smart farming practices, particularly for Africa's semi-arid regions. He received his PhD in Eco-physiology from the University of Hohenheim, Germany. His work emphasizes enhancing soil fertility, conserving water, and promoting biodiversity to improve resilience and food security for smallholder farmers.

Tilahun has been conducting research for improving the Natural Resources base in Eastern and Southern Africa for the last 20 years, with particular focus on Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. He previously worked with the CGIAR at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Prof. Amede is also dedicated to mentoring young scientists and enhancing partnerships to drive sustainable agricultural innovation across Africa. His academic contributions include extensive research on sustainable land management, climate resilience, and soil health. Prof. Amede has authored numerous publications in high-impact journals, shaping both policy and practice in sustainable agriculture. He is also a mentor to emerging scientists, furthering agricultural research and innovation across the continent.



Winnie Ogutu

Programs Officer, Advocacy and Partnership at TISA,
Right to Food Coalition Coordinator

Winnie Ogutu Okelloh is an agricultural economist and policy advocate committed to inclusive food systems and accountable governance. She is the Programs Officer for Advocacy and Partnerships at TISA (The Institute for Social Accountability) and coordinator of the Right to Food Coalition, leading citizen-driven policy reforms and rights-based food advocacy.

With a BSc and MSc in Agricultural Economics from Egerton University in partnership with the University of Pretoria, Winnie brings expertise in public policy, capacity development, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable agriculture. Previously, she worked with Africa Harvest Biotech International Foundation and ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics), championing youth and women's inclusion in agricultural value chains and influencing county-level policy.

At TISA, she develops evidence-based strategies that elevate civic voice and drive equity in agriculture. Winnie is also part of AWARD's (African Women in Agricultural Research and Development) Emerging Policy Practitioners Network, contributing to the future of gender responsive food policy across Africa.

Thank You

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