



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**Joint Actions on Operationalization of the
Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA)**

WEBINAR No. 13:

**Role of sustainable agricultural mechanization in scaling the adoption of
smallholder Conservation Agriculture in Africa**

Monday, 22nd July 2024, 15:30 - 17:00 Hours (GMT)

Moderator



Abebe Haile-Gabriel is the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of FAO for Africa. A national of Ethiopia, Haile-Gabriel has more than 30 years of extensive experience in strategic leadership and management in complex environments at national, sub-regional and regional levels, focused on agricultural and rural development in Africa. Haile-Gabriel holds a Doctorate and a Masters' degree in Agricultural and Rural Development from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, the Netherlands, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the Alemaya (now Haramaya) University in Ethiopia.

Speakers



H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko is the current Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) of the African Union Commission. Mrs Sacko was the special adviser to the Minister of agriculture, assigned with the responsibility of advising on issues related to international cooperation both bilateral and multilateral. She also served as the Secretary General of Interafrican coffee organization, with a special mandate to represent the economic interest of the 25 African Coffee producers, management of the Secretariat and present the recommendation.



Katie K Freeman works with the World Bank's Agriculture and Food Global Practice as a Senior Agriculture Economist focused on the areas of climate smart agriculture, digital agriculture and the intersection of agriculture and energy. Currently she works on these areas specifically in Latin America. Before coming to the World Bank in 2012, she worked at the Earth Institute at Columbia University implementing research programs on ICT in agriculture and energy for agriculture. She is specialized in rural development; agricultural development; rural energy development; ICT for use in management and monitoring of agriculture and energy programs; microfinance; microinsurance; rural climate adaptation.



Sieglinde Snapp is perhaps best known as the "mother" of the mother and baby trial design, used to engage farmers in development and co-learning about conservation agriculture and crop improvement around the globe. She is Program Director of the Sustainable Agrifood Systems Program at CIMMYT, El Batán, Mexico, and adjunct Professor of Soils and Cropping Systems Ecology at MSU. She leads a team of >100 interdisciplinary scientists working with partners on sustainable intensification, with a \$120M portfolio of programs serving smallholder farmers. Snapp pioneered discovery of crop functional diversity and management practices for soil carbon and nitrogen

efficiency gains, for climate-resilient, environmentally friendly pathways out of food insecurity. She has published >170 articles, three books, and awarded International Service in Agronomy, Fellow in Agronomy & Soil Sci. Soc. America, MSU's Beal Outstanding Professor, Academic Advancement Fellow, Hudzik Leader in International Studies & Fulbright Fellow. @Sieg_SAS



Geoffrey Mrema is a Professor of Agricultural Engineering at the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro, Tanzania. He also serves as a technical advisor to the African Conservation Tillage Network under the Africa-Mechanize Platform Secretariat. He retired from the FAO in April 2011 where he had been working as the Director of the Rural Infrastructure and Agro-industries Division at its headquarters in Rome Italy from 2001-2011 with two years [2005-06] serving as the FAO Representative in Eastern and Southern Africa based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Prior to joining FAO in 2001, he had served as the first CEO of ASARECA [1995-2001]. During 2016/18 he served as a senior adviser to FAO and AUC on developing the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa [SAMA].



Josef Kienzle is currently leading the sustainable agricultural mechanization group in the Plant Production and Protection Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), based in Rome. Mr Kienzle's work emphasizes the crucial role of farm power, innovative and efficient mechanization solutions and the importance of appropriating them to the context of smallholder farmers in developing countries. His work also highlights the important role that the public and private sectors play in mechanization input supply chains and capacity building for mechanization service providers.



Saidi Mkomwa is the Executive Director of the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT). As CEO of ACT, Saidi has efficiently managed development projects supporting smallholders in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe with development partners including AGRA, CFGF, COMESA, European Union, FAO, IFAD and NORAD. Previously, Saidi worked with the Ministry of Agriculture in Tanzania as Senior Agricultural Engineering Researcher. He is the coordinator of the Africa-Mechanize Platform Secretariat supporting knowledge management, capacity building and Networking in operationalization of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA).

Webinar 11 Organizing Committee



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Joseph Mpagalile is an Agricultural Engineer and a member of the sustainable agricultural mechanization group in the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), based in Rome. He works on mechanization along the value chain (production, post-harvest handling, value addition, agro-processing and logistics). Until recently, he was out-posted at the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) in Accra. In the past, he worked as an Agro-Industry Officer (Value Addition and Logistics) in the then Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division of FAO.



Nomathemba Mhlanga-Akubia has been with FAO since 2008. She was first based in the FAO HQ in Rome, Italy and moved to the sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) in 2016. In the sub-region, she leads the organization's normative and field programme on agribusiness/value chain development, that touches on youth in agriculture, post-harvest management, agro-processing and agricultural finance/investment. Before joining FAO, she worked as a Research Officer at ICRISAT's Socio-Economics and Policy Programme. Noma was the FAO lead technical officer for the development of the SAMA Framework.



Professor Afeikhena Jerome has over two decades' experience working on policy issues in Africa. He is currently Special Advisor to the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as well as Visiting Professor of Economics at Igbinedion University, Okada, Nigeria. He has held several distinguished positions including Visiting Scholar, International Monetary Fund; Visiting Fellow, the World Bank; and Senior Associate Member, St. Anthony's College, Oxford University. He has consulted extensively for the World Bank, African Development Bank, FAO, UNIDO, Brookings Institute and ACBF.



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ElHassane Bourarach is a technical advisor of the African Conservation Tillage Network serving in the Africa-Mechanize Platform Secretariat supporting knowledge management, capacity building and networking in operationalization of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA). He is a former teacher and researcher at the Agronomic and Veterinary Institute Hassan II (Dr. Ing.) (1980-2019). He is honorary vice president of the International Commission of Rural Engineering (CIGR), founding member of the Moroccan Association for Conservation Agriculture (AMAC) and the International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (iAABE).