



ADAF23 conference Program

AFRICAN DIASPORA AGROFOOD FORUM

Theme: From Local to Global;
strategizing for growth in
agrofood entrepreneurship

20th to 22nd October 2023
Gare Maritime Tour & Taxis
Brussels Belgium





INTRODUCTION

The Food Bridge vzw, on behalf of all the partners, welcomes you to the opening conference of the 7th African Diaspora Agrofood Forum.

The contributions of African Diasporas to the development of the continent will always be part of the migration narrative. Thus African diasporas have an interest and play important roles in the political, economic and socio-cultural development of the continent.

Over the years discussions about the role of African diasporas in development, focused on remittances. However, funding entrepreneurship in the continent, is an important component of the role of African diasporas as development actors in Africa. African diasporas fund either their own businesses or entrepreneurial projects of other people in their communities and other countries. Such investments have empowered many African youths and women too, helping create jobs and sustain local economies.

The theme for this 2023 edition is From Local to Global, strategizing for growth in the agrofood sector.

This theme reflects how connected our global foodsystem is and the need to have a diverse and inclusive approach, that links the local food systems to the global. For many African nations, achieving the SDGs is not yet feasible especially SDG 2, Zero Hunger. So the continent needs more agrofood entrepreneurs with innovative ideas, whose businesses can benefit Africa and the world.

ADAF23's focus is on new trends, resources and innovations that can facilitate access to finance and premium markets, enabling sustainable growth in the African agrofood sector.

The impact of recent global political and health upheavals, showed how vulnerable the current global food system is and the need for input from diverse stakeholders, whose projects and approaches at the local level and globally, can help reduce some of the challenges our food system is facing.

We thank all the partners and sponsors, who understand the need to develop a vibrant African diaspora entrepreneurship ecosystem and are working with us, to support African diaspora entrepreneurs active in Africa and Europe. We appreciate the support we received from the FAO Brussels office, ENABEL's PEM Wecco & N'zassa projects, IOM's O'Remit Project, EUDIF, Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs, International solidarity City of Brussels and the office of Ms Lydia Mutyebele, alderwoman in charge of equal opportunities city of Brussels.

7th African Diaspora Agrofood Forum

Day One

Event Moderators

Mr Jo Spalburg, Executive Director / Secretary General, Caribbean Chamber of Commerce Europe and Ms Diana Dimbueni, PR & Communications Expert; Board member, The Food Bridge

9.00am -9.45am - Registration and welcome coffee

10am – 10.20am - Welcome And Opening Remarks

Ms Maureen Duru - Founder | Director , The Food Bridge

Ms Lydia Mutyebele - Alderwoman City of Brussels

10. 25am – 11.40am - Diaspora Engagement In Policymaking For Entrepreneurship And Development

Moderator : Ms Bwalya Nwali, Advisor Diaspora Engagement and Human Development

Her Excellency Tokozile Xasa, Ambassador of South Africa to Belgium,

Mr Raschad Al-Khafaji, Director FAO Liaison Office with the European Union and Belgium,

Ms Marise Habib, Chief of Mission, International Organization of Migration (IOM) for Belgium and Luxembourg

Mr Sven Huyssen , Director of Operations ENABEL

Mr Kwaku Boamah, President Sankaa vzw Belgium and Coliso Ghana

11.40am – 11.50am - Presentation Of The 2023 Compendium Of African Diaspora Agrofood Entrepreneurs by Mr Ralph Genetzke, Director ICMPD

11.50am – 12.05am - Coffee Break

12.10pm – 13.40pm – Harnessing African Diaspora Contributions For Impactful Growth In Agrofood Entrepreneurship

Moderator: Ms Cherine Layachi, Campaigner, Diaspora Projects Soliris Brussels .

Mr Alpha Diallo, Founder Africapaid and Welli Farms Senegal

Ms Agatha Nsimiire, Founder Econgranja Uganda

Ms Vanessa Ngoga, Founder Cabou Burundi

Ms Virna Rakotonirina, Founder Nature Madagascar

Mr Maranatha Nduaya, Founder Kipeps Belgium

Ms Solange Domaye, CEO Symfonio.bio Netherlands

13.45pm– 14.05pm -African Diaspora Agrofood Entrepreneur Of The Year Award presented by Mr Bjorn Macauter, General Manager Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs

14.05pm – 14.35pm Lunch Break & Networking

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14.40pm – 15. 40pm - **Breaking Barriers; Re-Evaluating Funding Opportunities And Strategies For African Diaspora Owned Businesses**

Moderator: Mr Francois Stepman, Senior Knowledge Management Expert
Ms Stella Opoku-Owusu, Executive Director, AFFORD UK

Ms Fridah Ntarangwi, Co-founder and Managing Director ZidiCircle
Netherlands

Mr Arturo Biglia, Intervention Officer- Entrepreneurial mobility ENABEL

15.45 – 16. 30 - **A Place On The Top Shelf; Marketing African Food Products In Europe**

Moderator: Ms Rhoda Yeboah, Account Manager & Event Host

Ms Orfirah Hogeman-Helstone, Founder, Route To Bloom Netherlands

Ms Liesbeth Van Meulder, Advisor Private Sector, Rikolto Belgium

Mr Koen Van Troos, Fairtrade Belgium

16.30pm – Closing Remarks And Vote Of Thanks

Partners



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