Katie Naeve
Senior Impact and Partnerships Manager; Lead for the Women and Agriculture Initiative, Root Capital.

Katie designs and oversees impact measurement tools, metrics, and evaluations to assess and communicate Root Capital's impact and inform strategy and growth. She also manages strategic partnerships, including the new pay-for-impact initiative, and oversees Root Capital's gender strategy. Prior to joining Root Capital, Katie conducted and managed evaluations for an array of international development projects around the globe with Harvard's Center for International Development and Mathematica Policy Research. Before that, she led policy and advocacy and developed partnerships for an agricultural finance initiative in Senegal and Ethiopia with Oxfam America, and helped launch a social enterprise (Instiglio) based in Colombia that aims to improve public services through innovative results-based financing. Katie holds a master's degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Mima Nedelcovych
Founder and CEO of AfricaGlobal Partners.

AfricaGlobal Partners is a strategic consulting firm dedicated to project development, project finance, trade facilitation, and public-private partnerships in developing countries, and focusing on Africa's agro-industrial and power sectors. Mima also serves as Chairman of Schaffer International, an agro-industrial project developer focused on Africa. From 2014-18, Mima took a “leave of absence” from these firms to serve as President and CEO of the Initiative for Global Development (IGD), a nonprofit organization that engages corporate leaders to reduce poverty through business and growth in the developing world. Mima earned a master’s degree in public policy from Harvard University.

S. Suzanne Nielsen
Professor, Department of Food Science, Purdue University.

Suzanne has been a Purdue faculty member for 36 years, serving as Department Head of Food Science from 2003-2013. Prior to that role she had an active research program in the area of protein chemistry. She has taught numerous Food Science classes, and edited five editions of a Food Analysis textbook. She has been involved in international development projects for over 25 years, and is currently Interim Director of the Purdue-led Feed the Future Food Innovation Lab on Food Processing and Post-harvest Handling. In her half-time role as a Faculty Fellow in Purdue's Office of Corporate and Global Partnerships, she manages Purdue's strategic partnership with Catholic Relief Services, leads an initiative to capitalize on Purdue's strengths in the area of postharvest loss reduction and value chain enhancement, and recently organized the Scale Up Conference at Purdue on scaling up agricultural technologies and innovations in the developing world.

Jerry Shively
Associate Dean and Director of International Programs in Agriculture, Purdue University.

Jerry is also Professor of Agricultural Economics and Faculty Fellow for Global Affairs in Purdue's Office of the Executive Vice President for Research and Partnerships. He has served on the Purdue faculty since 1996 and has more than 20 years of research experience in the areas of agricultural development, food security and natural resource management worldwide. He has published more than 200 scholarly works and has received numerous teaching and research awards. He is a Fellow of both the International Association of Agricultural Economists and the African Association of Agricultural Economists. He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

PANELISTS

Mima Nedelcovych – CEO, AfricaGlobal Schaffer
Ian Barker – Head of Agricultural Partnerships, Syngenta Foundation
Katie Naeve – Senior Impact and Partnership Manager, Root Capital
Shaun Ferris – Director of Agriculture and Livelihoods, Catholic Relief Services
Katrin Kuhlmann – President and Founder, New Markets Lab

Q and A

Closing Remarks

Beth Dunford – Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Food Security, USAID
Gilbert Houngbo – President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (invited)

Reception
Speakers

Ian Barker
Head of Agricultural Partnerships, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA).
Ian heads SFSA’s Seeds2B program and has extensive experience in R&D management related to plant pathology and diagnostics technology. Before joining SFSA, he served as Head of Seed Systems for the International Potato Center (CIP) in Nairobi, chaired CIP’s private-public partnership committee, and developed innovative public-private partnerships to increase the availability of quality potato seed in East Africa. Previously, he was Head of Diagnostics at the UK Food and Environment Research Agency. Ian graduated from Wye College, University of London, and holds a PhD from the University of Exeter, UK. He serves on the Independent Steering Committee of the CGIAR’s “Roots, Tubers & Bananas” research program and chairs the Independent Advisory Committee of the Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals Collaborative Research Program.

Beth Dunford
Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Food Security, U.S. Agency for International Development and Deputy Coordinator for Development, Feed the Future.
A career Foreign Service Officer, Beth coordinates implementation of Feed the Future across the U.S. Government, oversees its execution, reports on results, and leads engagement with the external community. She also leads USAID’s technical and regional expertise focused on improving food security to sustainably reduce hunger, poverty and undernutrition. Previously, Beth served as Director of USAID’s Mission in Nepal, overseeing the country’s massive earthquake recovery and reconstruction effort. She has also served in Ethiopia and Afghanistan, where she directed agriculture, resilience and emergency food assistance programs, and in a number of senior roles in Washington, D.C. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University and her Ph.D. in Sociology from Michigan State University.

Larry Cooley
Founder and President Emeritus of MSI, a Tetra Tech company.
Larry directed the multi-country Implementing Policy Change program for 11 years. Since 2001 he has been developing and applying a management framework and set of tools for assessing scalability and accelerating the scaling of development outcomes through public sector and commercial pathways.
He has supported more than 100 scaling efforts in many sectors; served as the scaling advisor to the MacArthur Foundation’s 100KChange; and is founder and curator, with Johannes Linn, of the Global Community of Practice on Scaling Development Outcomes. Larry is the current Chair of the Governing Council of the Society for International Development and serves on the Boards of Directors of the National Academy of Public Administration, ELMA Philanthropies, and World Learning. He holds graduate degrees from Columbia University, Princeton University, and the Cranfield Institute of Technology in the UK.

Shaun Ferris
Director of Agriculture and Livelihoods, Catholic Relief Services.
Shaun leads CRS’ team of agriculture experts who work with smallholder farmers in over 50 countries worldwide, helping them boost yields and incomes; recover from damage caused by natural disasters, pests, plant diseases, and the increasing impact of climate change; and grow into agricultural entrepreneurs. Shaun has been working in agricultural innovation for more than 32 years, including with global leaders such as USAID, USDA, FAO, UNCTAD, and FAO, DFID, and the World Bank. Before joining CRS, Shaun spent 16 years with the CGIAR, working with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). He holds a bachelor’s degree in horticultural science from Reading University, a master’s degree in tropical agriculture from Nottingham University, and a Ph.D. in plant physiology from Cranfield University.

Martin Fregene
Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank.
Martin is a plant genetist and molecular breeder with 20 years of experience in genetics and breeding of cassava. He developed the first molecular genetic map of cassava and started the first cassava molecular breeding program to accelerate development of improved cassava varieties in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He began his career as a cassava breeder at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Nigeria. In 1993 he received a Rockefeller Foundation post-doctoral fellowship on genetic mapping that took him to the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia. Later he joined the BioCassava Plus project at the Danforth Center, a multi-national development program funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, where he rose to become Director. Dr. Fregene received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His Ph.D. in plant genetics and breeding was completed in collaboration with IITA, the John Innes Center, Norwich UK, and CIAT.

Julie Howard
Senior Adviser (non-resident), Center for Strategic and International Studies.
Julie is an independent consultant on international development issues with a focus on agricultural development and technology transfer, youth employment, and sub-Saharan Africa. She serves on the Board of Directors for the World Vegetable Center and the Somali Agriculture Technical Group. From 2015-16, she was senior adviser to the associate provost and dean for international studies and programs at Michigan State University. From 2011 to 2014, Dr. Howard served as the first chief scientist in the Bureau for Food Security at USAID, as senior adviser to the USAID administrator on agricultural research, extension, and education, and as Deputy Coordinator for Development of Feed the Future. At USAID, Dr. Howard directed the research, policy, and human and institutional capacity development programs of Feed the Future. Before joining USAID, Dr. Howard served as chief executive officer for the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa. She holds a B.A. from the George Washington University and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Michigan State University.

Katrin Kuhlmann
President and Founder of the New Markets Lab.
Katrin is also a Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School, and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Her work focuses on the intersection between law and economic development, market regulation, regional trade, entrepreneurship and legal technology, and international legal and regulatory reform. She is also a Senior Associate with the Global Food Security Project of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a member of the Trade Advisory Committee on Africa of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and a member of the Brenton Woods Committee. She held senior positions at think tanks and non-profit organizations, worked as an international trade negotiator, and practiced international law. Ms. Kuhlmann holds degrees from Harvard Law School and Cighton University and was the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship to study international economics.

Gilbert Houngbo
President, International Fund for Agricultural Development.
Born and raised in rural Togo, Gilbert has spent more than 30 years working to improve the lives of some of the world’s most vulnerable people. Prior to his appointment as IFAD President, Houngbo was the Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) where he led field operations in more than 100 countries and managed bilateral and multilateral partnerships. He served as Prime Minister of the Republic of Togo from 2008 to 2012, where he introduced economic reforms and enhanced the rule of law and civil liberties. From 1996 to 2008, he served at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) including as Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary-General – Africa Regional Director. Prior to this, he spent a decade in the private sector, including at Price Waterhouse, Canada. He has a Masters in Business and Entrepreneurship from the University of Lome, Togo, and a Diplome d’Etudes Superieures in Specialised Accounting from the University of Quebec, Canada. He is a member of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.