

ADOPTING AFRICAN ORPHAN CROPS

TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND SAFETY

UN CFS 43 SIDE-EVENT



WHEN

MONDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2016 / 13:00-14:30

WHERE

FAO RED ROOM (BUILDING A)

Lunch will be available outside of the Red Room.

ABOUT

Imagine if the crop varieties that rural African families grow were more nutritious, higher yielding, and resilient from climate change, drought and pests. Imagine the positive impacts on food security, nutrition, health, safety and farmers' income. An uncommon partnership of 15 government organizations, scientific, agricultural bodies, universities, companies, regional organizations and NGOs, along with a network of 20 agricultural and horticultural organizations, is making this vision a reality.

The African Orphan Crops Consortium (AOCC), led by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), is sequencing the genomes of 101 African food crops and training African plant scientists and technicians to breed better crops from these genetic "maps." Significant progress has been made to demonstrate that this approach to improving underutilized crops will yield an extraordinary return on investment. It will help to end stunting, hunger and chronic malnutrition on the African continent.

At this side-event at the UN Committee on World Food Security, representatives of the AOCC will explain the consortium's work and share the strides the consortium has made since it was conceived and approved by African Heads of State at the African Union Assembly. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki and Howard-Yana Shapiro will address the significance of the AOCC for Africa and the replication of this model in other areas. Tony Simons, Rita Mumm and Firew Mekbib will share the successes of the African Plant Breeding Academy where the scientists and technicians are being trained to breed new varieties of the orphan crops.

For more information about the African Orphan Crops Consortium, see www.africanorphan crops.org.

ATTENDANCE IS OPEN TO ALL



 **PLAY VIDEO**

SPEAKERS

WELCOME REMARKS



H.E. Amira Gornass

H.E. Amira Gornass is the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security, Ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan to Italy and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan to the UN Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome.



H.E. Yaya Olaniran

H.E. Dr Yaya Olaniran is Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic Nigeria to the Rome-based Food Agencies of the United Nations. He was the elected Chair of the Committee on World Food Security from 2011-2015.

PANELLISTS



Ibrahim Assane Mayaki

Dr Mayaki has been the CEO of the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since 2009. Prior to this, he served as Prime Minister of Niger from 1997-2000 and was the Minister in charge of African Integration and Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Firew Mekbib

Dr Firew Mekbib works at the School of Plant Sciences at the Haramaya University in Ethiopia. His areas of interest include biotechnology, agriculture and plant science, agronomy, soil science, and plant genetics.



Tony Simons

Dr Tony Simons is the Director General of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). He has worked on issues at the interface of tropical agriculture and forestry in more than 40 developing countries.



Rita Mumm

Dr Rita Mumm is an Associate Professor of Quantitative Genetics and Plant Breeding at the University of Illinois and Principal at GeneMax Services. She is also Executive Director of the African Plant Breeding Academy in Nairobi, Kenya.



Howard-Yana Shapiro

Dr Howard-Yana Shapiro is Chief Agricultural Officer at Mars, Incorporated. He is also a senior fellow in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences and a distinguished fellow at the World Agroforestry Centre.

CLOSING REMARKS



Ren Wang

Dr Ren Wang is the Assistant Director General of the Agriculture & Consumer Protection Department at the FAO. He assumed this position in 2013, before which he was Director of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

