



Speakers' Biographies



Samirah Ade-Adebiyi – Managing Director, AFEX Investment Limited

Samirah is the Managing Director, AFEX Investment Limited with over 20 years' of financial services experience in operations, treasury, corporate, and commercial and retail banking. She has a deep understanding of the capital markets, fundraising, and brand-building, participating in several landmark transactions which have contributed immensely towards the development of the Nigerian commodities market.

She is part of the executive team that oversees corporate finance and strategic investments for AFEX, where she leads the team that aims to create distinctive and innovative products and services for the commodities ecosystem. Samirah is passionate about building deeper stakeholder relationships. She believes that each client's situation is unique, and we as wealth advisors should take pride in establishing close relationships, understanding them, and coming up with the best solutions. Along with passion, she brings an endless curiosity and over 21 years of experience successfully managing and providing financial services and resolutions for some of Nigeria's best business entities across sectors such as Agribusiness, oil and gas, FMCG, and more.



Robynne Anderson – Director General, International Agri-Food Network

Robynne Anderson is an authority on global agricultural and food policies. Her engagement reaches throughout the value chain, providing support on strategy and management to a broad range of clients ranging from scientists to governments, farmers to food processors. Robynne has engaged in processes at the UN General Assembly, Rio+20, the UN Committee on World Food Security, the UN negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals.

She broke new ground in bringing new issues to prominence in the international policy fora, such as the role of women in farming, Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure, the importance of post-harvest losses and food waste in food security. Robynne represents accredited organizations at the United Nations, bringing the voice of agriculture in multi-governmental processes. Her company serves as the Secretariat of the [International Agri-Food Network \(IAFN\)](#), she founded the [Farming First](#) coalition in 2007, and has co-ordinated the Farmers Major Group, and the [Global Business Alliance 4 the Environment \(GBA4E\)](#). She led the two-year long negotiations for obtaining the declaration by the UN General Assembly of the [International Year of Pulses](#) and then co-ordinated the activities for the year on behalf of the Global Pulse Confederation reaching 1 billion people on social media.

Robynne is the youngest person inducted into the [Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame](#), and is one of just 8 women in the Hall. She also received the 2018 Demeter Award for Woman in Agriculture.

Prior to founding Emerging Ag, Robynne established Issues Ink, an agricultural publishing company specializing in 12 magazines and electronic titles on Canadian and American agriculture. She started her career in Canadian politics as legislative assistant to the then Deputy Prime Minister of Canada. In addition to her role at Emerging Ag, Robynne is part of a family farm in Manitoba, Canada. She is also the founder and current chairman of the [Manyinga school project](#), a non-profit organization that supports orphans to learn agricultural skills through schools.



Suze Percy Filippini – Country Representative Zambia, FAO

Ms. Suze Percy Filippini has an extensive cross-cultural leadership experience in the fields of diplomacy, agriculture, food security, environment and strategic planning and programming. Ms. Percy Filippini holds a degree in Agricultural Engineering from the Metropolitan Autonomous University (UAM) of Mexico and a Post Graduate Diploma (DESS) in agroforestry from the Tropical Agronomic Center for Research and Higher Education (CATIE), Costa-Rica. She also holds master's degrees in international relations from the Centre d'Études Diplomatiques et Strategiques of Paris (Roma branch), in International Service from the School of International Service (SIS), American University, Washington DC, USA; and in Hemispheric Security and Defense (Summa cum laude) from the Inter-American Defense College (IADC), Fort McNair, Washington DC, USA. She began her career in 1988 as a United Nations Volunteer at the Center for Agricultural Research and Training, Chiapas, Mexico. From 1989 to 1992, she was agricultural technical officer at the Haitian Christian Community Development Center (DCCH), Laborde, Haiti. From 1993 to 1994, she was Technical Advisor at the Southwest Florida Farm Workers Project Center in Immokalee, Florida, USA. Ms. Percy Filippini is a career diplomat. From 1994 to 2003, she served as Counsellor, subsequently Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Haiti to FAO, WFP and IFAD in Rome. Among the functions recovered, she held the position of Chairperson of FAO Credentials Committee in 1997; Chairperson of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) 1999; FAO Staff Pension Committee member from Nov.1997 to Dec.1999 and Member of WFP Executive Board from 1997 to 2003. From 2003 to 2005, she was Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Haiti to the UN in New York, delegate to the UN Second Committee and ECOSOC. From 2005 to 2010, she was Minister Counsellor, Alternate Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS), Washington DC where she served as Vice-Chair Hemispheric Security Commission at the OAS from July 2009 to September 2010 and Delegate to the Inter American Women Commission (CIM) (2009-2010). From May 2010 to February 2012, Mrs. Percy Filippini was a Member of the Cabinet and Diplomatic Adviser (with rank of Ambassador) to the Office of the President of the Republic of Haiti. After the 2010 earthquake, she was during the same period,

Member of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC) Board, Co-chaired by the former US President M. William J. Clinton and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti. She served as Senior Food security Advisor at the World Food Program (WFP) from March 2012 to February 2015. From February 2015 to August 2020, she was FAO Representative in the Republic of Congo where she was perceived as one of the best practitioners in addressing Food insecurity and climate change issues and an experienced negotiator. She also served as UN Resident Coordinator ad interim in the Republic of Congo from March 2019 to February 2020. Ms. Percy Filippini is since August 2020 FAO Representative in the Republic of Zambia.

Ms. Percy Filippini has been awarded the Gold Medal of Excellence by the Universidad El Salvador de Argentina and has been conferred one of the Republic of Congo's most prestigious national honors, the Officer of the Order of Merit. She speaks fluently French, English, Spanish, Italian, and Haitian Creole. She is married and has two children..



Oluyemisi Iranloye – Founder and CEO, Psaltry International Company Ltd

Oluyemisi Iranloye is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Psaltry International Limited, a cassava processing company. She built the success of her business on an inclusive business model that places smallholder farmers at the center of operations. She finished her first degree in Food Biochemistry from the Federal University of Technology Minna in 1997 and completed her Master's in Biochemistry and Nutrition from the University of Ibadan in the

year 2000. She started as an entrepreneur formulating food for diabetic patients using wheat and making natural drinks. In 2001, she moved over to Ekha Agro Processing Ltd, a company that uses cassava to produce glucose syrup. She spearheaded the project and that was where she fell in love with the crop. she stayed with the company for 10 years and left to start Psaltry.



Margaret Munene – CEO, Palmhouse Dairies Ltd

Margaret Munene is an entrepreneur, business leader and philanthropist. Margaret is the co-founder of Palmhouse Dairies and a founding trustee of the Palmhouse Foundation. Palmhouse Dairies, a member of the Global Dairy Platform, is a milk processing plant based in Githunguri, Kenya that processes 5000 liters of milk daily. As CEO, Margaret has grown the business from one cow to now having more than 500 smallholder farmers (mostly women) delivering to her business. Margaret is also a founder trustee of the Palmhouse Foundation, a Kenyan education trust that finances the secondary education of needy and deserving students and mentors them through life, to impact positively on society. Palmhouse Foundation was set up in 2003, to assist the needy families and farmers who were supplying milk to Palmhouse

Dairies. The support was initially unstructured and based purely on the desperate cases presented by farmers from the area. The increasing appeals motivated the funder trustees – Margaret and her husband – to formalise this support. Over time, the Foundation has grown steadily with 10 trustees and 15 members of an Oversight and Advisory Board to build a base of efficient and effective operating structures of the Foundation. As of 2019 The Foundation has over 700 beneficiaries in high school all across Kenya, and over 400 have already completed their secondary education. Palmhouse Foundation has received a corporate philanthropy award from the East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN) for their work in local corporate philanthropy. In 2011, Margaret received the 'Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (MBS)' award from the President of Kenya for her service to the community. Margaret holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi and a Masters in crop protection from Bath University.



Eunice Mwongera – CEO & Co-Founder, Hillside Green Growers

Ms. Eunice Mwongera is the CEO and Co-Founder of Hillside Green Growers, a Kenyan company whose mission is to lead the way in connecting farmers to buyers through a process of ripening and repackaging raw food for safe presentation to the market. The Company also farms and exports fresh and healthy fruits & vegetables to Europe and middle East. Hillside believes that flourishing health is largely contributed by what one eats. To accomplish the mission Hillside re-launched Eat Safe in 2017, a segment

focusing on local markets. For 25 years Eunice pioneered in horticulture industry as one of few female exporters in the 90s and 2010 breaking barriers to empower local farmers access international markets in Middle East, Scandinavia and Europe.

Eunice set up a successful Hillside brand whose value chain span from farm to fork employing hundreds of staff at packhouse whilst managing hundreds of farmers groups. Eunice is a social impact entrepreneur who believes in empowering women to excel in their crafts. Currently Eunice is working and spearheading planting of 6 million trees every rainy season as a climate action champion of the Evangelical Women Alliance of Kenya, leading to restored environment and improved livelihoods. Eunice is well versed in matters partnerships and networks having built Hillside brand with support of Partners such as USDA, CBI, ITC, Chambers of Commerce of Netherlands & Sweden. Eunice is an Award Winner Africa Agribusiness Entrepreneur of the year 2013 by Cornell. Currently Eunice is Consulting as a trainer & coach and mentor with Bopinc.org under Bill & Melinda Gates program, EU-COLEAD and FAO-IAFN. Eunice is also a registered member of Chartered Institution of Arbitrators CI Arb kenya where she's pursuing a course on Arbitration Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolutions. Eunice has an MBA in strategic management, Diploma certificates in strategic business management, in Leadership and in Financial Management and in Project Management. Eunice is currently undertaking a CHRPC course. The Certified Human Resource Professional Course to sharpen her organisational skills her mentorship capabilities as well improve her expertise a trainer to SMEs, AFIOs and MSMEs.



Irina Wandera – Policy Manager, Emerging Ag

At Emerging, Irina is working as a Policy Manager. Irina strongly believes multistakeholder policy processes have great promise in delivering win-win policy solutions that work for people and planet. For over ten years, she has worked with different constituents, from grassroot communities to private sector players, to actively participate in policy processes ensuring public policies are shaped by multiple stakeholders. Her experience runs across various sectors including food, agriculture, environment, community conservation and health. Prior to joining Emerging, Irina

worked at The Wildlife Foundation in Kenya and the Friends of Nairobi National Park, helping implement Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programs to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts. Irina is a Rotarian and has served on several secretariats including the Rotary Leadership Institute and Rotary Day at the UN. A Kenyan national, Irina has lived, worked, volunteered, and studied in Kenya, Tanzania, Canada, Uganda, and Burundi. She holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) and Professional Development Certificate from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science from Kenyatta University in Kenya, and Certificates in Policy Advocacy and Research Skills, and NGO Management from MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation in Arusha, Tanzania.