

Speakers' Biographies



Robynne Anderson – Director General, International Agri-Food Network

Robynne Anderson is an international expert in agricultural and food policies, working with a broad range of clients from farmers to food processors, research institutions to governments. Robynne often represents organizations at the United Nations, bringing the voice of agriculture in multi-governmental processes. She co-ordinates Private Sector Mechanism representing agribusinesses at the UN Committee on World Food Security and the Food Systems Summit. Her savviness at international diplomacy brought innovative issues to prominence, such as the role of women in farming, land tenure guidelines, responsible agricultural investment, and the importance of food waste, and global sustainability. In 2022, she led the launch of the FAO-IAFN pilot Accelerator Mentorship Programme to support women entrepreneurs in addressing key challenges and constraints they face in their businesses. She also co-ordinated global activities for the International Year of Pulses on behalf of the Global Pulse Confederation reaching 1.1 billion people worldwide. Prior to founding Emerging ag in 2010, Robynne established and ran for almost 20 years Issues Ink, a leading publishing company specializing in magazines on Canadian and American agriculture. In addition to her role at Emerging ag, Robynne is involved in her family's seed farm in Dugald, Manitoba, Canada and a founder of the Manyinga school project, a non-profit organization that supports orphans to learn agricultural skills through schools. In 2021, the Manyinga Project became Farmers Abroad Canada a not-for-profit charitable organization focused on supporting agricultural education in developing African countries. In 2017, she became the youngest person inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.



Michael Keller – Chair, IAFN

Michael Keller was appointed Secretary General of the International Seed Federation in June 2014. Michael, a German national, lived and worked in Paris for 18 years before relocating to Switzerland to join the ISF in Nyon. After graduating from the University of Mannheim and University of Bonn where he completed a Law State examination, Michael pursued post-graduate studies at the Paris-Sorbonne University. In 1999 Michael joined the French Senate in Paris as a Parliamentary Advisor and moved to the Mayor's Association of France where, as Head of European and International Affairs, he represented his constituents' interests at European level. Between 2008 and 2014 Michael held the post of Director of Regulatory and Public Affairs at DuPont Pioneer in France. During the same period Michael was a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee at the Union Française des Semenciers (UFS) and Chairman of the UFS Regulation and Innovation Commission.



Yaa Kusi Binka – CEO, Pepper Delight Ghana

Yaa Kusi Binka is innovative, purpose and results driven with experience of over 20 years as an entrepreneur which assisted her to build a successful pepper sauce brand: Pepper Delight in 4 years of starting the business. Additionally, her 11 years experience as a marketing lecturer at University of Ghana Business School and Ghana Communication Technology University where she currently teaches provides her the skills to guide and add value to her students from both a theoretical and a practical, experience-based viewpoint. Over the period as an entrepreneur, she was recognized by 40under40 awards in 2018 for the award in food and beverages 3 years into starting Pepper Delight.

In 2019, BBC World featured her as one of the successful small business female entrepreneurs in Africa making waves globally for her innovative packaging and growth. Her creativity and ability to remain ahead of her competitors stems from her trust in God to steer affairs of her business successfully despite her limitations; one of her favorite verses being Romans 19:6 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy (KJV). Through her training at AWE (Academy of Women Entrepreneurs), she learnt about her strengths and weaknesses. As a result, she is able to work more efficiently under pressure whilst remaining calm and manages her time effectively. She also understands how to strategize based on her brand's unique strengths and remain resolute about her values. Currently she has completed a course in Women Entrepreneurship at Cornell University, New York sponsored by The Bank of America Institute for Women's Entrepreneurship at Cornell University. She plans to use the wisdom gained to build, manage, and scale her business further as well as teach the lessons learnt to other small women-owned businesses so they can be successful too.



Stefanie Hyde – Vice President, Communications, Emerging ag inc

With a passion for creativity, marketing and communications, Stefanie leads the various digital and communication strategies for Emerging's valued clients. She heads up the online communications and brand management, leads digital campaigns, and develops various media resources. Prior to joining Emerging, Stefanie has gained career experience working with Parks Canada in a Promotions and New Media role and developed skills including videography, advertising, marketing, social media and graphic design. Stefanie is a Canadian national and speaks both French and English. She graduated with a Bachelors Degree of Design from Ryerson

University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Stefanie also studied at the Copenhagen School of Design and Technology where she specialized in Sustainable Communications. She is currently based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.



Food and Agriculture
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Nancy Karanja – Expert, Integrated Marketing Communications



Louise O'Shea – Global Director of Brand and Marketing, Cargill



Ivan Prusina – Head of Unit, Private Sector Partnerships, FAO

Ivan Prusina, Head of the Private Sector Unit within the Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnership Division of FAO, leads the team managing the implementation of FAO's Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, aiming at increasing strategic and impactful private sector partnerships, scale up collective multistakeholder efforts, and bring country-owned and country-led innovative solutions to help FAO Members to achieve the SDGs. Before joining FAO in 2020, Ivan worked at the European Commission as Cabinet Member of the European Commissioner for international cooperation and development.

He was in charge of the work on Sustainable agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, ensuring to reduce the number of stunted children, fight against food crises through the launch and growth of the Global Network against food crises as well as the preparation, promotion and rolling out of the European External Investment Plan. He was also in charge of International Cooperation and Dialogue (Australia, New Zealand) as well as of maintaining and further enhancing partnerships with all partner countries in the Pacific region, mid-term review of the cooperation and reallocation of funds, including



increases in the allocations to the Investment Facility for the Pacific for leveraging private sector investments. Prior to his service with the EC, he worked for over ten years in the private sector in the fields of telecommunications, media and marketing. He holds a BSc in International Area Studies (US), MA in International Politics (Belgium) and MSc in Marketing and Communications (Italy).



Anne Sarfo – CEO, Anne's Perfections

Anne is a Registered Dietitian and an Entrepreneur with over fifteen (15) years of experience. She is passionate about healthy living and foods' potential to improve health and enhance lives. She started Annes Perfections in 2009 and has worked hard to grow it into one of the most admired food processing businesses. She holds a BSc. (Hons) in Biological Sciences and an MPhil in Human Nutrition and Dietetics. She is also a trained beauty therapist and had been practising since 2008 until a few years ago when she decided to concentrate fully on the agro-processing

business. She is a Chocolatier, a Fruit and Vegetable Master carver and an author of a Biology textbook for Senior High Schools in Ghana. She has had the opportunity to participate in various training programmes including Good Exporting Practices organised by the African Centre for Economic Transformation and Ghana Export Promotion Authority, product packaging and branding and exports for inclusive and sustainable growth for women. She has also participated in various exhibitions and was a speaker at the Intra-African Trade fair 2021 in Durban, South Africa. She was a panel member for the Ghana Women Entrepreneurship Summit 2022 organised by the Ghana Enterprises Agency, and for the BOMA festival that took place in July 2022, organised by the Africa Union (AU), the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat (AfCFTA) and Afro Champions. She has been nominated for The AfCFTA Conference on Women and Youth in Trade 2022, which will take place in September in Tanzania. She has experience in the medical, telecommunication, insurance and education sectors. She is result-oriented, enthusiastic about her work and her background gives no room for mediocrity when it comes to quality and safety. She believes that "anything worth doing is worth doing well.