

2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29)

Empowering Farmers: Access to Finance and Innovation for Climate Adaptation and Resilience

SATURDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2024, 16:45-18:15, Side Event Room 1, Blue Zone

CO-ORGANISERS

- World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)
- U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC)
- Rainforest Alliance (RA)

OVERVIEW

The event explores the paradox of abundant finance and groundbreaking innovations, yet limited access for farmers. We will discuss how to unlock these resources and new revenue streams to enhance adaptation and resilience in agriculture, ensuring sustainable food systems in a changing climate.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Connecting farmers' experiences on the ground with actors and mechanisms to overcome challenges and scale-up opportunities
- Complementing ongoing discussions on climate finance with considerations on how to make climate finance work for farmers, including by highlighting the importance of the enabling environment

SPEAKERS

- **Andrea Porro**, Secretary General, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)
- **Krysta Harden**, President & CEO, U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC)
- **Kati Partanen**, Board Member, Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK-Finland,) & Board Member (Europe), World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)
- **Gunsham Seeborun**, President, F.A.L.C.O.N Association Mauritius, & Board Member (Africa), World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)
- **Diane Sibanda**, President, Botswana Farmers' Association
- **Duncan Williamson**, Head of Public Affairs and Advocacy, Rainforest Alliance
- **William (Bill) Hohenstein**, Director of the Office of Energy and Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- **Katja Vuori**, CEO, AgriCord
- **Pete Kaindaneh**, Chief Technical Adviser, Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Food Security, & representative, Alliance for Champions for Food Systems Transformation
- **Ena Derenoncourt**, Origination and Engagement Lead, CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance

MODERATOR

- Ceris Jones, Focal Point, UNFCCC Farmers' Constituency

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AGENDA

16:45 – 16:50 Welcome and Opening Remarks [Duration: 5 minutes]

Ceris Jones, Focal Point, UNFCCC Farmers' Constituency [moderator]

16:50 – 16:55 Scene Scetting [Duration: 5 minutes]

Andrea Porro, Secretary General, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

16:55 – 17:20 PANEL 1: Farmers' Stories on The Ground [Duration: 25 minutes]

Farmers and farmer representatives share their real-life experiences with access to finance and innovation

- Krysta Harden, President & CEO, U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC)
- Kati Partanen, Board Member, Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK-Finland,) & Board Member (Europe), World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)
- Gunsham Seeborun, President, F.A.L.C.O.N Association Mauritius, & Board Member (Africa), World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)
- Diane Sibanda, President, Botswana Farmers' Association

17:20 – 17:30 Q&A Session [Duration: 10 minutes]

17:30 – 17:55 PANEL 2: Strategies for Overcoming Barriers and Scaling Up Solutions

[Duration: 25 minutes]

Key stakeholders react to the 'stories from the ground' and share their strategies to overcome barriers and scaling up successful solutions for the agricultural sector.

- Duncan Williamson, Head of Public Affairs and Advocacy, Rainforest Alliance
- William (Bill) Hohenstein, Director of the Office of Energy and Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Katja Vuori, CEO, AgriCord
- Pete Kaindaneh, Chief Technical Adviser, Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Food Security, & representative, Alliance for Champions for Food Systems Transformation
- Ena Derenoncourt, Origination and Engagement Lead, CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance

17:55 – 18:05 Q&A Session [Duration: 10 minutes]

18:05 – 18:10 Closing [Duration: 5 minutes]

Andrea Porro, Secretary General, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

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RUN OF SHOW

Time	Duration	Agenda	Speaker(s)	Description
16:45	5 min	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Ceris Jones , Focal point, UNFCCC Farmers' Constituency	The moderator welcomes participants and introduces the event's theme
16:50	5 min	Scene Setting	Andrea Porro , Secretary General, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)	The speaker provides an overview of the event's goals and intended outcomes.
16:55	25 min	Panel 1 Farmers' stories on the ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Krysta Harden, President and CEO, US Dairy Export Council (USDEC) Kati Partanen, Board Member, Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK-Finland,) and Board Member (Europe), World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) Gunsham Seeborun, President, F.A.L.C.O.N Association Mauritius, and Board Member (Africa), World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) Diane Sibanda, President, Botswana Farmers' Association 	<p>The moderator invites panellists to answer the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tell us more about the real-life experiences of farmers in your country in accessing finance and innovation.</i> Panellists will have 3 minutes to answer <i>From the experience you have had, what is one key opportunity, and the biggest challenge farmers/ farmers organisations face in accessing finance and innovation? (FOLLOW-UP QUESTION)</i> Panellists will have 1 minute to answer
17:20	10 min	Q&A Session	Ceris Jones , Focal point, UNFCCC Farmers' Constituency	The moderator opens the floor for the audience to ask questions to the panel 1 speakers.
17:30	25 min	Panel 2 Strategies for Overcoming Barriers and Scaling Up Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duncan Williamson, Head of Public Affairs and Advocacy, Rainforest Alliance (<i>certification and its role in sustainable agriculture</i>) William (Bill) Hohenstein, Director of the Office of Energy and Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of Agriculture (<i>government</i>) 	<p>The moderator invites panellists Williamson, Hohenstein, Vuori and Kaidaneh to answer the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tell us more about your organisation or institution and what specific actions or initiatives you are undertaking to address the challenges raised by farmers in the first panel. Additionally, what is the one piece of advice you would</i>

			<p><i>initiatives and support for farmers)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katja Vuori, CEO, AgriCord (<i>agricultural development and financing solutions</i>) • Pete Kaindaneh, Chief Technical Adviser, Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Food Security, and representative, Alliance for Champions for Food Systems Transformation (ACF) <p>*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ena Derenoncourt, Origination and Engagement Lead, CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance 	<p><i>give to farmers and farmers' organisations to overcome these barriers to scale up sustainable farming practices??</i></p> <p>Panellists will have 3 minutes to answer.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Then the moderator introduces Ena Derenoncourt and invites her to answer to the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Based on the insights shared by our speakers in this panel, what are your reflections? Do you feel their initiatives effectively address the challenges and opportunities raised by our farmers in the first panel regarding access to finance and innovation?</i> <p>The panellist will have 3 minutes to answer.</p>
17:55	10 min	Q&A Session	Ceris Jones , Focal point, UNFCCC Farmers' Constituency	The moderator opens the floor for the audience to ask questions to the panel 2 speakers.
18:05	5 min	Closing	Andrea Porro , Secretary General, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)	The speaker recaps critical points discussed and outlines the path forward.

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SPEAKERS BIO



Ceris Jones, Focal point, UNFCCC Farmers' Constituency

Dr Ceris Jones worked in agricultural and environmental research before joining the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales (NFU UK) where her work covers adaptation, mitigation and greenhouse gas accounting. She is the facilitator of the Climate Change Working Group of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) and is the focal point for the Farmers Constituency in the international climate negotiations process (UNFCCC). Ceris has also been a member of the advisory panel for the UK citizens' assembly on climate change.



Andrea Porro, Secretary General, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

Dr Andrea Porro brings 18 years of experience as a project/team leader, agriculture and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) subject matter expert, and partnership facilitator in over 15 countries across four continents. After graduating in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Milan, he started his career in agricultural extension service in 2006, focusing on agrometeorological analysis and technology transfer. He holds a Master's in Crop Production and Protection and a Doctorate in Plant Biology and Production. Dr Porro's academic experience includes a research stint at UNIMI's Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and a full professorship in agroecology at Makeni's Faculty of Agriculture, Sierra Leone. Since 2014, he has served as an agriculture, DRR, and natural resource management expert for international organisations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Nigeria. His roles included being a country representative and project manager, overseeing teams of over 50 people, and managing projects worth over \$20 million. During these endeavours, he also honed his skills in donor relations, networking, monitoring and evaluation, HR, and fundraising. His most recent role was with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization as Head of Risk Analysis in the Agriculture and Food Security Unit for the Afghanistan office. As of January 1, 2024, Dr Porro is the Secretary General of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO).



Krysta Harden, President and CEO, US Dairy Export Council (USDEC)

Krysta Harden is the president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC). In her role, she brings experience with agriculture, sustainability, and food policy to help promote dairy exports and enrich the well-being of people, communities, and the planet. Harden directs a staff of trade specialists, policy professionals, marketers, and strategists, and oversees eight international offices working to facilitate dairy product knowledge, identify opportunities, monitor regulatory activity, and improve the business climate for U.S. dairy. Previously, Harden served dual roles as USDEC's chief operating officer and Dairy Management Inc.'s EVP of global environmental strategy. Before joining DMI, Harden served as chief sustainability officer with Corteva and DuPont. Harden also spent seven years working with Secretary Tom Vilsack at USDA, nearly three of those years as deputy secretary, where Harden helped shape agriculture policy and led implementation of the 2014 Farm Bill.



Kati Partanen, Board Member, Central Union of Agricultural Producers & Forest Owners (MTK-Finland), and Board Member (Europe), World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

Kati Partanen, farmer and esteemed member of the Board of the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, MTK Finland, has played a significant role in the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) since 2011.

From 2015 to 2022, Ms Partanen served as the Facilitator of the WFO Committee on Women. Since 2022, she has represented the European Constituency on the WFO Board of Directors and held the position of Treasurer of the Organisation.

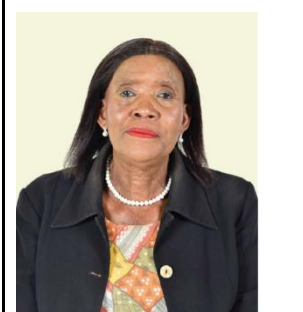
With an M.Sc in agriculture economics, Kati Partanen currently works as a senior lecturer of farm economics at Savonia University of Applied Sciences.



Gunsham Seeborun, President, F.A.L.C.O.N Association Mauritius, and Board Member (Africa), World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

Gunsham Seeborun is from Mauritius and is deeply committed to agricultural development and empowering farmers. He is the Founder and President of the FALCON Association, where he has led several initiatives to improve the lives of farmers and young farmers in Africa and Asia through sustainable practices, innovation, technology, research, and policy advocacy. With over two decades of experience in agricultural leadership, Mr Seeborun has facilitated collaboration and networking among stakeholders to effectively address agricultural challenges.

In June 2024, he was elected representative of the African Constituency on the Board of Directors of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), a testament to his dedication to promoting farmers' interests at the international level.



Diane Sibanda, President, Botswana Farmers' Association

Diane Sibanda, President and Founder of the Botswana Farmers Association, is dedicated to advocating for smallholder farmers to have a seat at the table. With experience serving on boards, she believes empowerment begins with sharing knowledge.

Diane is passionate about ensuring smallholder farmers lead conversations on climate change and its devastating impact on food security in rural communities.



Duncan Williamson, Head of Public Affairs and Advocacy, Rainforest Alliance

Duncan Williamson has over twenty-five years of experience working on food systems, sustainable diets and conservation. He is Rainforest Alliance's public affairs and advocacy senior manager, where he heads the team. He provides thought leadership around food systems and works on policy and advocacy on the international stage. Previously he was the Global Strategic Lead on Food Systems for Forum for the Future, he co-founded and is a trustee at Eating Better, which has 68 member organizations, and is the senior advisor on Sustainable Gastronomy for the Barilla Foundation and. He has his own consultancy Nourishing Food Systems, specializing in research, policy and advocacy strategy development in the food systems, agroecology, land management and finance sectors, as well as pro bono support to individuals and small organizations. He has set up and managed programs on freshwater, climate, sustainable diets and food systems for WWF UK and international, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) and Action Against Hunger, he has an MSC in Sustainable Environmental Management, focusing on freshwater and river basin management.



William Hohenstein, Director of the Office of Energy and Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of Agriculture

William Hohenstein is the Director of USDA's Office of Energy and Environmental Policy (OEEP) within the Office of the Chief Economist. OEEP serves as a focal point for the Department's energy, environmental markets, and climate change activities.

Before working at USDA, Mr. Hohenstein served as a Division Director at EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics. Prior to that, Mr. Hohenstein served in the Climate Change Division of EPA's Office of Policy Planning and Evaluation. He represents the United States at international climate change negotiations and has served as a U.S. representative to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Mr. Hohenstein has a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Cook College, Rutgers University and a M.E.M. in Resource Economics and Policy from Duke University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



Katja Vuori, CEO, AgriCord

Katja Vuori has over 25 years of experience in the field of development and human rights. She has worked in various capacities within the Finnish public administration, research institutions, the United Nations, and several international non-profit organizations. For the past seven years, Katja has been an integral part of the AgriCord alliance secretariat based in Brussels, where she currently serves as the CEO. AgriCord is a global alliance of 13 agri-agencies that specialize in providing technical support to farmers' organizations, helping to strengthen their institutional and service delivery capacities.



Pete Kaindaneh, Chief Technical Adviser, Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Food Security, and representative, Alliance for Champions for Food Systems Transformation

Peter Kaindaneh is the Chief Technical Adviser at the PI-CREF and is one of the technical experts for the ACFFC within the Feed Salone program in Sierra Leone, with over 30 years of experience in managing and leading complex projects. He has worked with international donors such as the IDA/World Bank, DFID, EU, ADB, IFAD, FAO, and UNDP. With a Master's in Agricultural Economics and a BSc. in Economics, his expertise includes fund management, economic policy planning, project design, and team leadership. Fluent in English and with a working knowledge of French, he is skilled in strategic oversight, mentoring, and high-level communications.



Ena Deroncourt, Origination and Engagement Lead, CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance

Ena Deroncourt is a Gender-Smart Investment specialist at the CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance (ImpactSF). She has extensive experience in agribusiness in the global south implementing gender-responsive solutions. She focuses on assessing gender and social inclusion impact of agricultural investments and designing gender-responsive technical assistance programs for agricultural SMEs and value chain actors. She leads the ImpactSF pipeline development efforts in identifying innovative, high-impact investment opportunities through accelerator programs, innovation challenges and engagement with value chain actors and agribusiness networks.