

## Speakers' biographies – Event Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>

### Smallholder representatives

#### *Kpomin Minrienne Kole Edi*

Mrs. Kpomin Minrienne Kole Edi is the President of the board of the “Société coopérative agricole fraternité” of Adzopé (SCAFRA), a women-led cocoa cooperative in south Ivory Coast (and one of the few women-led cooperatives in the country). This cooperative has been working hard to tackle child labour – through training members in understanding and mitigating child labour risks, running awareness-raising activities in the community, and surveying local families to learn if they have children who should be in school. The cooperative has also been seeking to diversify and increase the incomes of their members' families (e.g. providing them with farm animals), to help parents hire help for farms (instead of using children) and pay school fees.

#### *Napolean Ningkos*

Mr. Napolean Ningkos is an Indigenous Dayak smallholder palm oil producer and President of the Sarawak Dayak Oil Palm Planters Association (DOPPA). He graduated with Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Science in 1991. In his role, he represents a total of 40,513 indigenous oil palm smallholders covering an area of 234,812 hectares in the Sarawak region of Malaysia. As the DOPPA President, he has been actively involved in educating members to become successful and competitive entrepreneurs in the oil palm sector. DOPPA is dedicated to educating its members concerning long-term profitability, good agricultural practices (GAP), and future mechanization as well as training them in managing their smallholding farms sustainably

#### *Pedro Marenja*

Pedro Marenja is a farmer, agronomist, and Project Officer at FONPA, the Mozambique National Cotton Producers Forum. Consisting of 25,000 direct members, FONPA defends the interests of the cotton producers of Mozambique, the vast majority of which (90%) are smallholders. Cotton is considered one of the most important cash crops in the parts of Mozambique where it is produced, and FONPA supports producers in matters related to livelihoods, gender equality, environmental protection, and access to inputs and services.

#### *Gyinayeh Daniel Amponsah*

Daniel has been a cocoa farmer since 1995 and is currently the President of the Cocoa co-operative called Asunafo Cocoa Farmers. Asunafo was established in 2011 and in 2012 it became Fairtrade certified. The membership base has grown from 1056 farmers to 9493 farmers from 67 communities, 46% of which are women. Some of the farmers of the co-operative are bigger and have hired labour, and some are family farms. Starting to work as a co-operative and collaboration with partners has helped to evolve over the years and brought some benefits to its members: capacity to farm in a more climate friendly way, increased productivity and development of the communities. Previously, the farmers relied only on cocoa but now their income has diversified. However, there are also many challenges that remain to be tackled.

#### *Pison Kukundakwe*

Pison works as the Principal Quality Officer of Ankole Coffee Producers Cooperative Union (ACPCU) in Uganda. ACPCU is composed of 14,000 individual farmer members from 26 primary co-operative societies. Today, ACPCU has nearly 130 staff members. ACPCU is certified by six different certifiers, which is an additional cost to pay to get access to the market. In his role, Pison oversees the quality of the coffee during the processing and works hand in hand with the field officers of the co-operative.

## Panel #1

### *Virginie Mahin*

Virginie Mahin leads social sustainability and stakeholder engagement for Mondelēz International, the global snacking company behind chocolate and biscuit brands such as Milka, Cadbury, Oreo and LU. As chair of the company's cross-functional Human Rights Working Group, she steers the company's approach to human rights due diligence and embedding of the UN Guiding Principles into the company's systems and practices. Within the company's sustainable cocoa program, Cocoa Life, she leads the child protection approach and efforts to holistically address child labor and its root causes within the cocoa growing communities that make up the company's supply chain. Virginie has been with Mondelēz International for over a decade. Prior to her current role as Senior Director Global Social Sustainability & Stakeholder Engagement, she held roles in communications, public affairs and sustainability.

### *Antonie Fountain*

Antonie Fountain is Managing Director of the VOICE Network and co-author of the Cocoa Barometer. He acts as one of the key spokespersons for civil society in cocoa, and has been actively advocating a sustainable cocoa sector for over a decade and a half.

### *Alex Assanvo*

Alex Assanvo is the first-ever Executive Secretary of the Initiative Cacao Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana (ICCIG). He kicked off his international development career with the German development agency, GIZ, between 2002 and 2006 in Dakar, Senegal, as a Rural Development expert. An assignment that gave him brief stints in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Benin, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Mali and Togo, Alex primarily led GIZ's West Africa multilateral programs of resource mobilisations for relief operations notably with AfDB, World Bank, UN funds. He also acted as a link between field officers and GIZ headquarters in Eschborn, Germany. He moved on in 2006 to Fairtrade Labelling International (FLO), in Germany, where he took on the position as Head for Africa and the Strategic Lead for Cocoa and cotton. Stationed in Bonn, he among other responsibilities worked to facilitate awareness and establish relationships with chocolate and Cotton companies to further build their sustainability commitments.

After over 5 years interfacing with chocolate companies at FLO, he left to join the sustainability team at Kraft Foods, now Mondelēz International, in October 2011, as its Cocoa Development Manager based in Zürich, Switzerland. It was in this role that he participated in several key industry association taskforce or committees, e.g the CEN process which is the EU process to develop a sustainable and traceable cocoa norm, and also engaged with donors, government authorities, international organizations and traders in relation to sustainable sourcing program in West Africa.

Alex worked as the Director of Corporate Affairs for Europe and Africa at Mars Inc. He joined Mars Incorporated in October 2013. For the seven and half years that he was with Mars, Alex has served in various roles including Manager Global Programs and Partnerships (2013 – 2016), and Director International Government Relations (2016 – 2017). Alex was the Director of Corporate Affairs, Cocoa, for Mars Wrigley Confectionery, before accepting the appointment to head Initiative Cacao Côte d'Ivoire – Ghana (ICCIG) as the first Executive Secretary.

## Panel #2

### *Hannah Koep-Andrieu*

Hannah Koep-Andrieu is the Head of Due Diligence in the OECD's Centre for Responsible Business Conduct. She oversees the work on due diligence across the minerals, agriculture and garment & footwear supply chains and the practice on alignment of industry and multi-stakeholder initiatives with OECD due diligence standards. She previously led the Centre's work on due diligence in mineral supply chains and joined the OECD in 2014 with a background in private sector consulting. Hannah has extensive field experience and worked on risk and impact assessments in the extractives sector, with a focus on stakeholder engagement, artisanal mining, security and human rights issues particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### ***Sebastian Lesch***

Since mid-2018, Sebastian Lesch is head of division 121 “International agricultural policy, agriculture, innovation” of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The unit is responsible for a wide range of topics ranging from agricultural trade and global agricultural supply chains such as soy, palm oil, cocoa or coffee to the Common European Agricultural Policy as well as for innovations in BMZ projects together with a wide range of partners worldwide. Furthermore, it includes the flagship project "Green Innovation Centers" as well as international agricultural research and agrobiodiversity. Previously, Mr Lesch led the German-Egyptian Development Cooperation in Cairo for four years, from 2010 to 2014 he was BMZ’s press spokesperson and before that senior policy officer for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus. Mr Lesch studied contemporary history, international politics and international law.

### ***Boukje Theeuwes***

Within Solidaridad Europe Boukje is responsible for policy and advocacy programmes related to various international supply chains, including the cocoa sector and the gold mining sector. Boukje represents Solidaridad in various multi-stakeholder initiatives, public private partnerships and roundtables. She holds a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences from Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands, where she specialized in supply chain management and operations research. Prior to joining Solidaridad, she worked for Philips on advancing supply chain sustainability in the electronics industry.

Solidaridad is an international civil society organization with over 50 years of experience in developing solutions to make communities more resilient — from the early roots supporting repressed communities in Latin America to its current work fostering more sustainable supply chains. Solidaridad’s mission is to work throughout the whole supply chain to make sustainability the norm and enable farmers and workers to earn a decent income, produce in balance with nature, and shape their own future. Solidaridad currently works in over 40 countries, on five continents, through eight independently supervised regional offices. Solidaridad’s work covers a wide range of commodities, including Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton & Textiles, Fruit & Vegetables, Gold, Leather, Livestock, Palm Oil, Soy, Sugar and Tea.

### ***Peter Hofland***

Peter Hofland is EU Market & Trade Policy Advisor at Cargill and works closely with Cargill’s food, feed and non-food businesses and at corporate level. Peter’s core focus lays in EU Agricultural and Trade policy and more recently is shifting his focus to EU ESG policies such as deforestation and CSDDD. In addition Peter provides support on issues management in other areas such as regenerative agriculture, carbon farming and related EU environment policies.

Before joining Cargill in 2001, worked at the Dutch Product Boards for cereals and meat products working directly with businesses active in EU import and export management policies. He also worked in a commercial function for a small company in the Netherlands providing solutions for storage of agricultural products.

Peter holds a bachelor’s degree in agriculture science (Dordrecht, Netherlands) and in Environmental sciences (Delft, Netherlands).