



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## Joint Actions on Operationalization of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA)

### WEBINAR No. 12:

## Revamping Manufacturing of Agricultural Machinery in Africa

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 09:00 - 11:00 hrs (GMT)

### Moderator



**Geoffrey Mrema** is a Professor of Agricultural Engineering at the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro, Tanzania. He also serves as a technical advisor to the African Conservation Tillage Network under the Africa-Mechanize Platform Secretariat. He retired from the FAO in April 2011 where he had been working as the Director of the Rural Infrastructure and Agro-industries Division at its headquarters in Rome Italy from 2001-2011 with two years [2005-06] serving as the FAO Representative in Eastern and Southern Africa based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Prior to joining FAO in 2001, he had served as the first CEO of ASARECA [1995-2001]. During 2016/18 he served as a senior adviser to FAO and AUC on developing the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa [SAMA].

### Speakers



**John Bosco Kalisa** is an economist by profession specialized in Econometrics, Trade policy, Investment Promotion, Private Sector Development and Taxation related issues. He holds a Master's Degree in Commerce with Economics from the University of Pretoria, South Africa and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the National University of Rwanda. He has an in-depth understanding of the regional economic communities and has participated fully in negotiations of international, continental, and regional agreements. Kalisa has experience in private sector development and competitiveness having previously served as the Country Director of South Sudan for TradeMark East Africa (TMEA). He has also worked with the Rwanda Private Sector Federation (PSF-Rwanda) and Rwanda Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. He has global connections with leading international development partners such as USAID, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) African Development Bank and the World Bank. As the EABC CEO/ Executive Director, Mr. KALISA steers the high-level policy advocacy at the EAC Heads of State and Ministerial level to push forward the EABC's vision and mission of a borderless East Africa for increased business and investment.



**Niels Schulz** works as Industrial Development Officer in the Unit on Agro-Innovation and Bioeconomy within the Division of Agri-Business and Infrastructure Development of UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization). UNIDO contributes towards inclusive and sustainable industrialization strategies. Improving market access, for better value addition to agricultural commodities, is central to UNIDO's mandate. Niels is trained as Biologist/Ecologist, he worked previously on topics of production ecology, energy systems, climate change, and industrial transformation. Regenerative

and circular food system strategies are central to the projects he currently manages in Africa (Gambia, Cote D'Ivoire, South Sudan).



**Prof. Minli Yang** is the leading professor of China Agricultural University, the director of China Research Center for Agricultural Mechanization, the director of National Agricultural Mechanization Information Center and the dean of "Belt and Road" International Innovation Institute of Agricultural Equipment and Smart Agriculture. She also serves as the deputy secretary-general of the Expert Steering Group for Whole-process Mechanization of Crop Production of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China as well as the deputy secretary-general of Chinese Society of Agricultural Machinery (CSAM) and the chairman of agricultural mechanization branch of CSAM. Minli YANG's research fields focus on agricultural mechanization development strategy, policy and planning, mechanized production modes and intelligent farm production system, agricultural machinery informatization and big data analysis, and agricultural machinery service cooperatives and industrial development. She was awarded Top 10 Heroine in China Agricultural Machinery Industry in 2007, and has won 8 provincial and ministerial science and technology achievements awards and multiple individual achievement awards. She is also the expert with special government allowance from the State Council of China.



**Sarbjeet Singh Panesar** has 30 years of experience as agriculture implement manufacturer. His career began at young age as helping hand in managing the family run manufacturing firm "Dasmesh Mechanical Works" and now grown up to be Managing Director of the firm. His keen interest in innovation in agricultural mechanization and improving farming practices encourage him to introduce new agricultural implements under the brand name "Landforce". His knowledge of Information Technology is a key to making the manufacturing facility at global standard which ensured the quality of products. He is an effective communicator and motivator who identifies a business opportunity and make it successful by teamwork.

Panesar serves as the managing director of two companies, holds the position of Vice Chairman at AMMA India—an association of agricultural implement manufacturers in India, and fulfils the role of Secretary General at Combine & Agriculture Implements Mfs. Welfare Association (CAIMWA).



**Jelte Wiersma** is a Secretary General CEMA -European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association. Before joining CEMA, Wiersma worked in journalism for over 20 years. He was an EU Affairs Correspondent in Brussels from 2014 up to 2022. He is specialized in agriculture, international affairs and trade.

## Webinar 11 Organizing Committee



**Josef Kienzle** is currently leading the sustainable agricultural mechanization group in the Plant Production and Protection Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), based in Rome. Mr Kienzle's work emphasizes the crucial role of farm power, innovative and efficient mechanization solutions and the importance of appropriating them to the context of smallholder farmers in developing countries. His work also highlights the important role that the public and private sectors play in mechanization input supply chains and capacity building for mechanization service providers.



**Joseph Mpagalile** is an Agricultural Engineer and a member of the sustainable agricultural mechanization group in the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), based in Rome. He works on mechanization along the value chain (production, post-harvest handling, value addition, agro-processing and logistics). Until recently, he was out-posted at the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) in Accra. In the past, he worked as an Agro-Industry Officer (Value Addition and Logistics) in the then Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division of FAO.



**Nomathemba Mhlanga-Akubia** has been with FAO since 2008. She was first based in the FAO HQ in Rome, Italy and moved to the sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) in 2016. In the sub-region, she leads the organization's normative and field programme on agribusiness/value chain development, that touches on youth in agriculture, post-harvest management, agro-processing and agricultural finance/investment. Before joining FAO, she worked as a Research Officer at ICRISAT's Socio-Economics and Policy Programme. Noma was the FAO lead technical officer for the development of the SAMA Framework.



**Professor Afeikhena Jerome** has over two decades' experience working on policy issues in Africa. He is currently Special Advisor to the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as well as Visiting Professor of Economics at Igbinedion University, Okada, Nigeria. He has held several distinguished positions including Visiting Scholar, International Monetary Fund; Visiting Fellow, the World Bank; and Senior Associate Member, St. Anthony's College, Oxford University. He has consulted extensively for the World Bank, African Development Bank, FAO, UNIDO, Brookings Institute and ACBF.



**Saidi Mkomwa** is the Executive Director of the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT). As CEO of ACT, Saidi has efficiently managed development projects supporting smallholders in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe with development partners including AGRA, CFGB, COMESA, European Union, FAO, IFAD and NORAD. Previously, Saidi worked with the Ministry of Agriculture in Tanzania as Senior Agricultural Engineering Researcher. He is the coordinator of the Africa-Mechanize Platform Secretariat supporting knowledge management, capacity building and Networking in operationalization of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA).



**Geoffrey Mrema** is a Professor of Agricultural Engineering at the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro, Tanzania. He also serves as a technical advisor to the African Conservation Tillage Network under the Africa-Mechanize Platform Secretariat. He retired from the FAO in April 2011 where he had been working as the Director of the Rural Infrastructure and Agro-industries Division at its headquarters in Rome Italy from 2001-2011 with two years [2005-06] serving as the FAO Representative in Eastern and Southern Africa based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Prior to joining FAO in 2001, he had served as the first CEO of ASARECA [1995-2001]. During 2016/18 he served as a senior adviser to FAO and AUC on developing the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa [SAMA].



**ElHassane Bourarach** is a technical advisor of the African Conservation Tillage Network serving in the Africa-Mechanize Platform Secretariat supporting knowledge management, capacity building and networking in operationalization of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA). He is a former teacher and researcher at the Agronomic and Veterinary Institute Hassan II (Dr. Ing.) (1980-2019). He is honorary vice president of the International Commission of Rural Engineering (CIGR), founding member of the Moroccan Association for Conservation Agriculture (AMAC) and the International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (iAABE).