



## **Rural Development Briefing in Central Africa** **A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues**

Regional Development Briefing n.1

### ***Land access, land acquisitions and rural development: New challenges, new opportunities***

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#### **Biodata of speakers**

##### **Lorenzo Cotula – International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)**

Lorenzo Cotula is Senior Researcher in Law and Sustainable Development at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), a policy research institute based in the UK. Together with partners in lower and middle income countries, IIED works to promote a fairer and more sustainable world through research, capacity building and policy advocacy. Lorenzo's work focuses on the role of law in sustainable development, particularly in the areas of land, investment and governance. Before joining IIED in 2002, Lorenzo worked on assignments with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and with two Italian NGOs. He holds a Law Degree from the University "La Sapienza" of Rome and a Master in Development Studies from the London School of Economics. He is completing a PhD at the School of Law of the University of Edinburgh.

##### **Olivier De Schutter - Special Rapporteur on the right to food, United Nations Human Rights Council**

Professor De Schutter was appointed by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations as Special Rapporteur on the right to food in March 2008, and he inaugurated his mandate on May 1st, 2008. His three year mandate is to monitor and report on the right to food to the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council. A specialist in human rights, Olivier De Schutter teaches at the University of Louvain (Belgium) and the College of Europe (Natolin Campus, Poland). He is a Visiting Professor at Columbia University and a Member of the Global Law School Faculty of New York University. He was also previously Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).

##### **Ousmane Guindo - FAO**

Mr Guido, a national of Canada, holds a B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics, an M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics (Agricultural Policy), an M.A. (Economic Science – International Development) from Laval University, Quebec, Canada and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics (Agricultural Policy and Trade, Marketing and Economics of Natural Resources) from the University of Guelph, Guelph, Canada. Mr Guido started his career in 1986 as an International Research and Training Officer and Resident Representative of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Haiti. From 1992 to 1993, he was Project Coordinator, Special Relief Operations Service (TCOR), in Haiti. Then from 1994 to 1995, he was Lecturer and Associate Researcher in Economics of Natural Resources and Environment at McGill University Montreal, Canada. In 1995, he was appointed Project Coordinator for the Food Security and Agricultural Projects Analysis Service (ESAF) in Burkina Faso and, in 1996, International Consultant for the Global Information and Early Warning Service (GIEWS) in Burundi. From 1997 to 1998, he worked as Project Coordinator for the Food Security and Agricultural Projects Analysis Service (ESAF) in Chad and, in 1998, as International Consultant for the Special Programme for Food Security Management and Coordination Service (TCOS) at Headquarters. In 1999, he was International Consultant for the Niger Private Irrigation Promotion Office (ANPIP)-World Bank in Niger. From 1999 to 2000, he worked as International Consultant for TCOS in Haiti and, in 2000, in Iraq as International Consultant for the Special Relief Operations Service (TCOR). In 2000, he was Mission Leader for the Investment Centre (TCII), responsible for the formulation of SPFS projects financed by Libya in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and

Sudan. Between 2001 and 2003, he was Chief of the Special Emergency Programmes Service (TCES) in Iraq. From 2003 to 2007, he was Food Security Officer, TCOS, at Headquarters. In 2007, he was appointed Senior Officer (TCOS), responsible for supervision of the formulation and implementation of the SPFS, the national and regional food security programmes (NFSP/RFSP) and South-South Cooperation in 15 francophone countries in West and Central Africa. Mr Guindo succeeds Mrs Diallo Ba as FAO Representative in Cameroon.

### **Thobekile Hlongwane - Mondi**

Ms Thobekile Hlongwane is graduated in Marketing, Human Resources and Community development. In addition she has a Bcom Industrial Psychology and currently doing Honours in Industrial Psychology. She is the Land Manager BU Central. In charge of Mondi landholdings in Mpumalanga Province (Amsterdam to Piet Retief) and Kwazulu Natal Province (Paulpietersburg to Tygerskloof). Ms Hlongwane has been in the development field for more than 10 years. Been fully involved in the Mondi 1<sup>st</sup> Forestry Land Deal where the land was bought by Government for 2 communities in Kranskop in 2008.

### **Simplex Kambale - Forum des Amis de la Terre**

Simplex Kambale Malembe, a consultant in rural development (T.D.R) and development economics (B.Sc in Development Economics), has gained a wealth of experience in the field of rural development in the DRC in general and in North Kivu province, where he has been working since 1986, in particular. Initially Programmes Head with the NGO "COTEDER", the *Conseil Technique pour le Développement Rural* – Technical Rural Development Consultancy, a position which would eventually lead him to analyse the hindrances to agricultural intensification in the highlands in the Beni and Lubero districts, he eventually became head of legal education and citizenship for the farmer members of farming organisations. He worked against a background of widespread land disputes and their consequences not only for agricultural intensification, but also, and mainly, on social security – war, in other words.

For three years he ran the *Forum des Amis de la Terre*, a driving force in the African Great Lakes sub-region. In this capacity he organised a number of workshops and took part in others, including exchange visits, mainly to Madagascar, in West Africa (Burkina, Niger). He also undertook research into land problems in North Kivu province in 2007 and 2009 in collaboration with the GRET and the CCFD. He is currently working on his doctorate at the Pontifical University of Porto Alegre (PUC), on the establishment of a social movement and the defence of the land rights of small farmers in the African Great Lakes region.

### **Devlin Kuyek - GRAIN**

Devlin Kuyek is based in Montreal, Canada. He has worked with the organization GRAIN since 2003, as its most active researcher and with a focus on global agribusiness. GRAIN is a small international non-profit organisation, with head offices in Barcelona, Spain, that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems. In this regards, GRAIN has, since 2008, been actively documenting and exposing the new global rush to buy up or lease farmlands abroad as a strategy to secure basic food supplies or simply for profit. GRAIN has released several reports on the issue and maintains the open-publishing website [farmlandgrab.org](http://farmlandgrab.org). Prior to joining GRAIN, Devlin was a researcher and programme officer working with various NGOs and farmers organisations in Asia. He is active within several organisations and networks in Canada that work on food and agriculture issues, and he is the author of *Good Crop/Bad Crop: Seed politics and the future of food in Canada* (2007). Devlin has a master's in Environmental Sciences from the University of Quebec at Montreal.

### **Jacky Le Gosles - DG Health and Consumers, European Commission**

Jacky is a veterinarian who worked in the French veterinary services as from end 1980 dealing with various contagious animal disease control and eradication policies and in food safety, being head of office and then deputy to the sub Director for food safety and from 1994-1998 Sub Director for food safety, conducting the French delegation to the CCFH (codex Committee for Food Hygiene Washington). Since January 1999, he worked as Principal Administrator at the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), DG SANCO (Health and Consumer), European Commission being successively acting deputy head of Unit and acting Head of Unit dealing with animal diseases, food of animal origin safety and animal welfare and from May 2000 to mid April 2008 Head of Unit dealing animal diseases, food of animal origin safety (Bird and Fish). Since mid April he is Adviser to SANCO Directorate D dealing with European neighborhood policy (SPS aspects), management and training regarding food of animal origin (especially fishery products) import and follow-up of FVO missions on animal health and welfare to Member States.

### **Ralf Leonhard - FIAN**

Dr. Ralf Leonhard is an independent journalist. He was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1955 where he graduated as a Lawyer from Vienna University (1978). He holds a diploma of Vienna's Diplomatic Academy (1980). Between 1982 and 1996 he covered the social and armed conflicts in Central America for a number of publications and radios in Europe. From 1993 to 1996 he was editor-in-chief of the bi-monthly magazine *Nueva Tierra Nueva* which circulated all over Latin America. Since 1996 he has been writing on Austrian and international affairs from Vienna. He is board member of FIAN (FoodFirst Information and Action Network), Austrian section and has participated in several fact finding missions on the right to food all over the world. He has written studies on the right to food for FIAN. He is co-author on a study of land grabbing in Kenya and Mozambique, published in 2010.

### **Aurore Mansion - Gret**

An anthropologist by training, Aurore Mansion is a project and research coordinator at GRET, the Research and Technological Exchange Group, where she specialises in land and land policy issues. She initially worked on questions regarding the security of land tenure in urban areas as part of the restructuring of vulnerable suburban areas in large cities (Nouakchott, Mauritania). She then carried out and followed up a series of studies and works in rural areas in West Africa (Benin, Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso), Central Africa (Burundi, DRC and Rwanda) and South-East Asia (Vietnam and Cambodia). Since 1996, she has been responsible for the secretariat and coordination of the "Land and Development" Technical Committee of the French Cooperation, and for the "Land and Development" portal. She has participated in coordinating the large volume of work carried out within this framework (white paper of the French cooperation partners, analysis document and proposal on large-scale land appropriations, etc.). She is currently working on an anthropology thesis at the "Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales" devoted to the role of hybrid forums in the construction of land cooperation policies.

### **Paul Mathieu – FAO**

Paul Mathieu is Senior Officer, Land Tenure, in the Land Tenure and Management Unit of FAO's Natural Resources and Environment Department. An economist and social scientist by training, he has a PhD in Environmental Studies and has been working as an academic and researcher (Institute of Development Studies, Catholic University of Louvain la Neuve, Belgium; visiting academic at the University of Madison, Wisconsin) before joining FAO in 2002. He has also worked on short term assignments with numerous NGOs (from Belgium and UK) and published extensively on land tenure, local management of natural resources in Africa, sustainable development, as well as on conflicts and institutional dynamics in Africa.

### **Patrice Mezui - CEEAC**

Patrice Mezui, aged 43, has been a financial expert at the regional office of the African Development Bank (ADB) in Libreville for 9 years and is currently seconded to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for the implementation of the Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCo). He is responsible for the financial supervision of this programme and at the same time for the administrative and financial management of the project for implementing the regional water policy in the ECCAS countries. At the ADB, he was responsible for the formulation of applications, evaluations, economic and financial analysis, monitoring and supporting the drawing up of requests for and research into project funding. He also coordinates thoughts relating to the implementation of a consultation platform within the ECCAS on land governance. It was in this capacity that he participated in the regional consultation on land governance in Central and West Africa organised in Ouagadougou in June 2010 and the concurrent session organised by the two regional communities. As part of this experience, he has participated in meetings and work in the forestry and environmental sectors in the sub-region, primarily (i) planning, development strategy, institutional framework, the management and financing of national parks in Gabon; (ii) the implementation of forestry information systems (FIS) in Central Africa; (iii) the conservation and sustainable management of forests and advanced processing of wood in Central Africa. He participates in meetings of the Board of Directors for the International Agency for the Development of Environmental Information (ADIE) and the Management Committee of the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) administered by the ADB.

### **Thierry Matabishi Musole - Aide et Action pour la Paix**

Thierry Matabishi Musole, aged 26, with a law degree (graduated in 2007 from the Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs), a human rights activist, committed to helping to promote peace and the peaceful resolution of disputes and land disputes in particular, a "passionate" believer in action research, devoted to justice and equal opportunities between men and women and committed to promoting respect for children's rights and fair access to land for all, in particular the most vulnerable. I have a considerable grounding in Congolese law and proven experience in the field of humanitarian protection. Good facilitation skills and expertise in the empowerment of communities. Solid experience in the implementation of emergency development programmes. I worked as a Protection Officer with "World Vision International" from 2008 to June 2009. I am currently the Director General of a national NGO in eastern Democratic Republic of CONGO, namely Aide et Action pour la Paix (AAP). This organisation operates in the area of land laws, linked to development (land tenure, access to land, management and transformation of land disputes, lobbying for legal and institutional reforms, etc.). Languages spoken: Swahili, French, Lingala and English. I have worked as a consultant with SCOs, the UNDP in North Kivu and I have participated in international workshops and seminars in the Netherlands, Cambodia, neighbouring Rwanda, Burundi, etc.

### **Serge Ngendakumana - ICRAF West and Central Africa**

Serge Ngendakumana, a Burundian national, is the Research Associate with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in West and Centre Africa Region. He is a socio- agronomist and Environmentalist with specialities in innovations sociology, policy analysis and organisational Development. He joined ICRAF in December 2005 as Scaling up expert for the ICRAF /USAID Project (LAMIL) in Mali, Guinea and Sierra Leone. With two Msc degrees respectively in Agronomy and Environmental science, his main research domains of his interest are landscape base incentives and rewards mechanisms in the context of climate change; forest land tenure systems and forest resource governance in humid tropics. Over the past 11 years, his work has been focused on Biostatistics and plant physiology, participatory research for development based on innovative technologies and approaches in partnership with National Research and Extension Institutes, Universities, NGOs, Community Based and civil society Organisations, mainly in Central and West Africa leading to many reports and publications. Since 2008, Serge Ngendakumana has undertaken a doctorate driven research on appropriate incentives for agroforestry to enhance livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.

### **Christian Prétot – Neo Ecology Oil**

Following a brilliant career as a Naval officer, in 2004 Christian Prévot became interested in Jatropha and, after several months of research, mainly in Madagascar, he created New Ecologic Oil, NEO SA, in 2007. He then set up a team of agronomists and specialists to assess the real and verified potential of this vegetable substance. Thanks to his experience and education, he has been able to adopt an economic and social approach to this field of activity in keeping with the reality on the ground. Through NEO, his objective is now to develop Jatropha oil production activities on the African continent by setting up farming agreements with local players. He has subsequently undertaken a number of studies objectively analysing how this crop should be farmed. The studies focused primarily on the ability of Jatropha to adapt itself to a variety of environmental conditions (in particular its phenotypic plasticity). It very quickly became apparent that socio-economic conditions are very important in large-scale farming operations, particularly as regards involving the local population, in order to ensure that the project continues over the long term. In 2009, he took out a lease on 30,000 ha in Madagascar. Although the Malagasy crisis has not halted the project, it has nevertheless put it on hold. However, he can still count on the support of the Malagasy administration and the WWF while waiting for the local situation to settle down.

### **Prime Rupiya – ACORD Burundi**

An agricultural engineer by training, Mr Prime Rupiya, a Burundian national, works with ACORD in Burundi as leader of the peace consolidation programme. He has gained a wealth of experience working in the field of upgrading the skills of the associations involved in community development and food security in general, and in the transformation of social conflict and the socioeconomic rehabilitation of war victims in particular. He was involved in designing the model of the social contract for peaceful cohabitation and the re-launch of participatory and inclusive development on behalf of communities divided by conflict. This model, based on dialogue, negotiation and conflict-sensitive planning, was shared with other participants in the humanitarian field and in the area of the African Great Lakes Region development. In addition to his degree in agricultural engineering, Mr Prime Rupiya is working towards a Masters in Leadership and Management at Lumière University in Bujumbura in collaboration with "Development Associates International in association with the Center for Organizational Excellence at Eastern University, Colorado Springs, USA".

### **Meghan Sapp - Partners for Euro-African Green Energy**

Meghan Sapp is Managing Director of HG Consulting.eu BVBA and Secretary General of Partners for Euro-African Green Energy (PANGEA), both with headquarters in Belgium. Ms. Sapp founded HG Consulting.eu BVBA in 2006 with the express intention of developing sustainable biofuel projects in Africa transferring Brazilian, European and American technology. She believed that there must be a cross-point between private sector and development aid that would create economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development, long before 'sustainability' became an issue in the biofuels industry itself. Ms. Sapp founded PANGEA in 2008 at the behest of trade ministers from African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) Least Developed Countries seeking a lobbying voice in Europe to support the nascent bioenergy industries in Africa.

### **Pabamé Sougnabé - Laboratoire de recherches vétérinaires et zootechniques**

Pabamé Sougnabé is a researcher at the 'Laboratoire de Recherches Vétérinaires et Zootechniques' (LRVZ) in N'Djaména, Chad. He holds a Ph.D. in socio-economic development from the 'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales' (EHESS), Paris (France) and since 2004 has been carrying out research into the problem of land practices in the savannah region of Chad. As part of the 'Pôle de Recherche Appliquée au Développement des Savanes d'Afrique Centrale' (PRASAC), a specialised research institute of the CEMAC which carries out applied research into the development of the savannah in Central Africa, Pabamé SOUGNABE coordinates, at regional level, the research programme dedicated to the land practices of Central Africa comprising three countries: the Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic. His work falls within the scope of this programme and focuses on "changing land practices in the savannah of Central Africa".

### **Blondeau Talatala – Cameroon national Assembly**

The Honourable TALATALA Blondeau was awarded degrees by universities in Cameroon, in Montpellier and Paris, France, in the period up to 1997 in the field of rural development. He is an agricultural economist. He worked as an agricultural engineer between 1987 and 2007, alternately as Professor at the Regional College of Agriculture of EBOLWA in the south of Cameroon, in particular in the field of plant genetics, and as a researcher at the Directorate of Fauna and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Forests in Cameroon, then as the National Director for Cameroon of the International Agency for the Development of Environmental Information in Central Africa. Since July 2007, the Honourable TALATALA Blondeau has been an MP in Cameroon, where he is technical adviser to the network of MPs for the sustainable management of the forested area of the Congo Basin and leader of the “natural capital” study group. At the same time, he is the co-ordinator in Cameroon of the Multi-purpose Network of Information and Communication Support Organisations for Rural Development (UNGC-REPADER), which is currently a partner of the CTA. He has served as a consultant in the field of biodiversity, including: With the World Conservation Union, for the development of the “Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan for Central Africa in 2000; With the World Bank, for the feasibility study and implementation of the Biodiversity Information System in Cameroon in July 2000.

### **Michael Taylor – International Land Coalition**

Dr Michael Taylor has been Programme Manager for Global Policy and Africa at the secretariat of the International Land Coalition (ILC) since 2006. ILC is a global alliance of 84 organizations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue and capacity building. Michael is a citizen of Botswana. He has worked for 15 years on community-based natural resource management and land tenure questions in Africa and globally. Prior to ILC he managed a UNDP/UNEP project on community-based rangeland management in the arid zones of Africa. He has also lectured in the anthropology of development at the Universities of Edinburgh and Botswana, and has published widely on human-environment interactions. He has a BSc in Environmental Science and BSocSci(Hons) in African Studies from University of Cape Town, and a PhD in Social Anthropology from University of Edinburgh. He was nominated a Wenner-Gren Fellow from 1996-2001.

### **Lionel Vignacq – Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France**

Lionel Vignacq is graduated in economics and management (PhD), head of the modernization of the state and local governance at the Mission on the governance of the management of the Global Economy and Development Strategies of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs since August 2007. He was Deputy Adviser of cooperation and cultural activities with the Embassy of France in Mali from 2003 to 2007, cooperation attaché with the Embassy of France in Benin from 1999 to 2003 and expert at the office of Law and civil liberties of the Ministry of Cooperation from 1995 to 1999.