



## Enhancing resilience for food and nutrition security in small-island economies

### High-Level Panel

Addis Ababa, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014

### BIODATA OF PANELLISTS

#### **Gyan Chandra Acharya**

*Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States*



Ambassador Gyan Chandra Acharya, of Nepal, was appointed to the position of Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) on 5 September 2012.

Mr. Acharya as Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, contributed since 2009 as Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries, to the successful conclusion of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the follow-up process. He was also closely involved in the 2010 Millennium Development Goals mid-term review process and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held recently in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

He was also a member of the Bureau of Landlocked Developing Countries and was elected Chair of the Commission on Social Development. From 2010 to 2011 he served as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's Working Group on Lessons Learned.

Mr. Acharya brings to the position some 29 years' experience in diplomatic service involving the articulation and promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. Over the last several years he has been consistently highlighting, advocating for and projecting the interests and concerns of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

Prior to that, Ambassador Acharya was Foreign Secretary with the Government of Nepal (2007-2009), Permanent Representative to the United Nations and the World Trade Organization in Geneva (2003-2007), Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry (1999-2002) and Joint Secretary (Director-General) responsible for South Asia, Europe and the Americas and Regional Organizations, Economic Relations and Coordination Divisions (1998-2003).

A strong advocate of the issues affecting LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, Ambassador Acharya has stressed that "LDC, LLDC and SIDS issues are livelihood issues requiring urgent global attention and support" and continues to call for the pro-active role of all the stakeholders in galvanising international support in a spirit of global partnership.

#### **Michael Hailu**

*Director of the CTA*



Michael Hailu, an Ethiopian national, is the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) based in the Netherlands. CTA is a joint institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union working under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. Mr. Hailu has over 25 years of professional experience in agricultural research and development in Africa and Asia. Prior to joining CTA in mid-2010, he held senior leadership positions at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) based in Nairobi, Kenya and at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia. Mr. Hailu has led the

development and implementation of CTA's 2011-2015 strategic plan refocusing the Centre's work on three priority themes-supporting agricultural policies and strategies; enhancing inclusive value chains; and strengthening capacities of ARD institutions and networks in knowledge management and ICTs. He has degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and Addis Ababa University. He has also been trained in strategic leadership at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

**Ambassador Edwin Laurent SLC. OBE. CMG.**

*Senior Advisor, UNEP's Caribbean Green Economy Initiative*



Caribbean economist and former Diplomat Mr. Edwin Laurent is a Trade and Economic Development Consultant whose career began at Saint Lucia's Ministry of Finance. He later became Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism. Mr Laurent served as East Caribbean States Ambassador to the European Union and Belgium and St Lucia's Ambassador to France, Germany and its Permanent Representative to the WTO, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Mr Laurent was Special Envoy of the Heads of Government of Dominica and Saint Lucia. He later served as Head of Trade and Regional Cooperation at the Commonwealth Secretariat. He is currently UNEP Senior Advisor with the Caribbean Green Economy Initiative. He has written and published extensively on trade and commodity issues and was educated at the Universities of the West Indies, Manchester and the Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies.

**Mereia Volavola**

*Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Island Private Sector Organisation*



Mereia Volavola has been the Chief Executive Officer of PIPSO since 2010. She has vast knowledge and experience in the area of Finance and Banking. Prior to joining PIPSO, Ms Volavola held the position of CEO of the Capital Markets Development Authority in Fiji. She has also worked for the Reserve Bank of Fiji, HFC Finance Ltd and Housing Authority. Mereia Volavola holds an MBA in Banking and Finance with a Distinction from the University of Wales, UK and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of the South Pacific in Economics and Business Management. She is also a

Board Member of Merchant Finance.

**Adimaimalaga Fanny Tafuna'i**

*Co-founder, Women in Business in Development, Samoa*



Adimaimalaga Tafuna'i is a co-founder and the executive director of Women in Business Development Inc in Samoa. For more than 20 years she has led the organisation, and last year was recognised by the Vital Voices Global Partnership which presented Mrs Tafuna'i the Economic Empowerment Award at The Global Leadership Awards. Mrs Tafuna'i was also involved in bringing virgin coconut oil pressing to Samoa and in 1998 confirmed a fair trade contract with The Body Shop. She was instrumental in reviving Samoa's finemat weaving and transforming it into an income-generating activity.

Regionally, Mrs Tafuna'i was one of the initiators of the Pacific Organic Ethical Trade community, and has assisted other Pacific organisations become organically certified and negotiated their inclusion world markets. In 2006, she was chair of the Pacific Island Association of Non-Governmental Organisations. That year, she was also a Commonwealth Observer Group member for the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Uganda.

### **Jethro Greene**

*Chief Coordinator, Caribbean Farmers Network (CaFAN)*



Jethro T. Greene comes from a rural, farming background and has accrued 30 years of experience in the development of the sector - particularly among farmers and rural communities in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Caribbean region. Inspired by his motto: 'Hopelessness and Failure are not words in my vocabulary', Greene has committed himself to working with people to develop innovative, practical, sustainable and grassroots approaches to leadership, group formation, management and group sustainability.

A graduate of the COADY International Institute at Saint Francis Xavier University in Canada, Greene places a high premium on innovative leadership strategies that will build capacity in the agriculture sector, rural communities and with those on whom the future of development rests - our youth and empowerment of people. Currently the Chief Coordinator of the Eastern Caribbean Trading Agriculture Development Organization (ECTAD) and the Caribbean Farmers' Network (CaFAN), Greene is also a director of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Development Foundation, and a member of the CARICOM Food and Nutrition Technical Working Group and CARICOM Common Agriculture Policy Working Group. He also provides training and consultation to several national and regional organizations and international organisations and institutions.

### **Carmen Nurse**

*President, Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP)*



Ms Carmen Nurse is a Guyanese by birth and St. Lucian by nationalization. She is a Trained Teacher with a First Degree in Education from the University of Guyana.

She has thirty-nine (39) years teaching experience in Secondary Schools - seventeen years in Guyana and the remaining twenty-two years and on going in St Lucia. She specializes in the teaching of Food and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles and Health and Family Life Education. In St Lucia her students participated in many Food competitions using local foods and won many of the categories.

Ms. Nurse lived in Guyana during the presidency of the late Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, when citizens were encouraged and in some cases forced to grow, buy and eat locally produced foods. Almost every household planted short term crops for household use and/or for marketing. She learnt to process starchy root vegetables to produce flours and use the flours to prepare products that were traditionally produced using wheat flour; to preserve a wide variety of local fruits to replace the imported raisins, currants, cherries and prunes. These and other processing techniques she continues to share and promote to her secondary school students, parents and in women's organizations.

In 2010 she was elected President of the St. Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (Micoud Cluster), in 2011 President of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP), in 2013 President of the St. Lucia Chapter and also in 2103 became a member of the newly formed UN Women's Group – Caribbean Civil Society Advisory Group (CCSAG).

### **Gibson Susumu**

*Food security expert, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)*

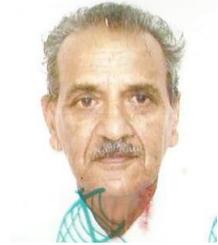


Gibson Susumu is a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), located in the Northern Pacific Region. Mr Susumu holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from the University of the South Pacific (USP) and a Master of Science in Agriculture from the National University of Science and Technology (NPUST) in Taiwan. He is the Food Security Officer for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), an intergovernmental organization of the Pacific Island Countries. As the Food Security Officer of SPC, much of his work is related to food security vulnerability assessments and evaluation of resilient food production systems in the Pacific Region. His early job career was in the Education sector where he was an Agriculture Instructor in FSM for over 5

years. After his teaching career, he became the FSM Agriculture and Forestry Program Manager, where he coordinated the development of the first FSM Agriculture Policy as well as a Forest Action Plan for the Nation. While still serving his Government, he became the Vice Chairman of the Pacific Islands Forestry Committee, a Sub-Committee of the US Territories and affiliated States under the US National Association of State Foresters. In 2010, he joined a project with the FAO of the UN on the development of Food Security Framework for Pacific Island Countries.

**Sant Kumar**

*President, Fiji Organic Producers Association, Foundation Member, Pacific Organic Producers Association (FOPA)*



Sant Kumar is a leading figure in the Fiji horticulture export industry and is highly regarded through the Pacific Island region. He worked for 32 years in the Ministry of Agriculture Fiji Islands, where he became Director of Extension. For 12 years he has been General Manager of Natures Way Co-operative (Fiji) Ltd (NWC). NWC undertakes quarantine treatment of fruit and vegetables for export. The Cooperative has over 100 farmer and exporter members. He is the foundation President of the Fiji Organic Association, Chairman of the Fiji Fruit and Vegetable Industry Council and is a member of the Pacific Organic Producers Association.