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Operationalising Private Investment in Agri-Food Systems Transformation

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21st October 2025 | 13:30 – 14:45 | Hybrid: FAO's Philippines Room & online

Curious how agribusinesses, donors, governments and development institutions are joining forces to drive lasting impact on food security and nutrition?

Join us to explore practical ways to engage the private sector in food systems transformation, from structuring public private partnerships and blended finance to building effective multistakeholder platforms. Featuring examples from Rwanda, Tanzania, South Africa & beyond.



Rick van der Kamp
Lead Global Technical Specialist, Markets & Value Chains,
PMI, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Moderator

Panellists



Antoine Bergerot
Head of Unit of Multilateral financing for
development and climate. French Treasury,
Ministry for the Economy, Finance &
Industrial & Digital Sovereignty



Fuminori Aihara
Director for International Agricultural
Organizations, International Strategy
Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,
and Fisheries, Government of Japan



Rajesh Singh
Procurement & Sustainability Director
Africa Improved Foods (AIF)



Keisei Ichihara
Coffee Trader, Coffee Sec., Beverage Dept.,
Marubeni Corporation



Wendy Vesela'-Ntimbani
Founder of Matomani
Private Sector Mechanism Entrepreneur



Naomi Nakahira
General Manager, Agri-Research Center
Sustainability Management Division
UCC Japan Co., Ltd

Featuring



Organized by



Panellists & Organizers



Rick van der Kamp is IFAD's global lead for markets, value chains and rural finance, based in Rome. He has 20+ years of experience in agribusiness, markets and value chains, and rural finance projects, in particular in cocoa, coffee and agro-inputs.



The **Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission, Pillar 3 (FARM P3)**, hosted at IFAD, was launched by France under the EU Council Presidency. FARM P3 engages with the private sector and development partners to create sustained value for smallholder farmers. **Antoine Bergerot**, as Head of Unit in charge of Multilateral financing for development and climate for the French Treasury, monitors the activity of multilateral development banks and funds active in climate finance.



The IFAD-hosted **Enhanced Linkages between Private Sector and Small-scale Producers (ELPS)** initiative was launched under Japan's 2023 G7 Presidency. ELPS engages multinational companies to link small-scale producers to global supply chains. **Fuminori Aihara** has 25+ years of experience as government official at Japanese governmental agencies including Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cabinet Office, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



The **Private Sector Mechanism (PSM)** is a platform that represents the agri-food businesses at the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). It brings together over 600 private sector actors—farmers, cooperatives, SMEs, food companies, and others—to engage in global food security and nutrition policy. <https://agrifood.net/psm/about/>



Wendy Vesela'-Ntimbani is the founder of Matomani, an innovative food business established in 2021, focused on sustainable nutrition through indigenous and insect-based protein solutions, particularly the local South African food "Masonja" (mopani caterpillars/worms). <https://matomani.com/>



Rajesh Singh has worked with AIF B.V, since 2023 as a procurement & sustainability director in Kigali, Rwanda. He has collaborated for 20+ years with cooperatives, communities & farmers looking at sustainable long-term partnerships and growth for agriculture in Africa. **Africa Improved Foods (AIF)** is a company offering nutritious & affordable products. <https://africaimprovedfoods.com/>



Naomi Nakahira Naomi Nakahira has 30+ years of experience in the coffee industry. He works with UCC Ueshima Coffee Co., Ltd. and holds internationally recognized Q Grader and Brazil Classificador certifications. Since 2001, he has supported coffee sector development projects with JICA, FAO, and IFAD worldwide.



Keisei Ichihara joined Marubeni Corporation in 2023. Since then, he has been engaged in green coffee bean trading, initially handling Colombian coffee and, from this year, expanding his portfolio to include African origins such as Tanzanian and Ethiopian coffees.

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