

7th ECA European Cocoa Forum Lisbon, Portugal – 17, 18 & 19 September 2019

Speakers' profiles



Mr ABDOELLAH Soetanto
Head of R&D Division,
Indonesian Cocoa Board

- Speaker Panel I -

Mr Abdoellah Soetanto was born in Surabaya, Indonesia. He finished his PhD from the Faculty of Agriculture, at Gadjah Mada University in Jogjakarta, Indonesia, in 1995. From 1981 to 2017, he worked as a researcher in the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute (ICCRI), where from 2000-2012, he acted as the Head of the Research Division. In 2012 he was appointed as the chairman of the Indonesian Cocoa Board (ICB), where he served in this role until 2018.

Mr Abdoellah is involved in collaboration between ICCRI and some international institutes (i.e FAO, ICO, ICCO, CABI, CIRAD, ACIAR, and WCF).

Now, Mr Abdoellah is in charge as an expert in the R&D division of ICB.



Hon. AIDOO Boahen Joseph
Chief Executive,
Ghana Cocoa Board

- Speaker of the Common
Floor Price discussion
and Panel IV -

Hon. Aidoo Boahen was elected to Ghana's Parliament in 2001 and served as a legislator for three consecutive terms. In 2001, he was appointed as Minister of State in-charge of the resource-endowed region of Western Ghana and distinguished himself in this position for five and half years.

For 17 years the Hon. Aidoo Boahen undertook a major international collaborative research project with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPR) & HR Wallingford.

He also contributed to the research for the World Bank and FAO on land tenure, land use and agricultural productivity. These studies were carried out largely in the cocoa growing areas of Ghana.

The Hon. Aidoo Boahen holds an MPhil Degree in Geography from the University of Ghana, and a Certificate in land reform, agricultural and rural development from the International Centre for Land Policy Studies and Training (ICLPST), Taiwan.



Mr ALLIOT Christophe
Director, BASIC

- Speaker Panel II -

Mr Alliot has 20 years of experience in value chain analysis, social and environmental impact assessment, fair trade, and development issues.

In 2012, Mr Alliot co-founded the Bureau for the Assessment of Societal Impacts for Citizen information (BASIC).

Since then, he has coordinated more than 15 studies on international and national food value chains and their impacts, focusing on products such as coffee, tea, banana, cocoa, milk, rice, meat, fruit and vegetables, as well as studies on the textile and mining sectors.

Before that, Mr Alliot worked as a coordinator for the Alliance of Fairtrade Producers Networks. From 2008 to 2010, he coordinated the strategic review of Fairtrade International and from 2006 to 2008, he was Director of international relations of Max Havelaar France.

Since 2002, Mr Alliot is also Treasurer of the French Committee for International Solidarity (platform of 23 French civil society organizations that conducts programs in the fields of agriculture, social economy and strengthening of civil society).

He is also involved as a volunteer for Engineers Without Borders (he was chairman of this NGO from 1999 to 2002).

Mr Alliot has both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from Clark University in Massachusetts, USA.



Mr DAVIS Paul
ECA Board Member;
Head of Cocoa, SUCDEN

- Moderator Panel II -

Mr Davis commenced cocoa trading in 1987 with Pacol Ltd. in London, part of the Gill and Duffus Group, qualifying as a floor trader in 1988, then trading for ED&F Man following their acquisition and integration of the G&D Group in 1989. Mr Davis was appointed Director and senior group trader for ED&F Man Cocoa in 1997 and Managing Director from 1999 to 2006.

In 2006 Mr Davis helped establish Tropix Capital LLC in Wilton, Connecticut, a partner to the Ospraie wingspan platform, specialising in Cocoa, Coffee and Sugar trading, before setting up his own agricultural commodity fund management business in 2010: Holland Capital LLP (London). Mr Davis returned to physical trading when appointed Global Head of Cocoa for the Noble Group in 2013, before joining the Sucden Group (Paris) in 2016, where he was appointed Head of Cocoa in 2018.

Mr Davis was elected to the Council of the FCC serving as the Chairman in 2006 and re-appointed in 2019.

Mr Davis served as a Board Member of the ECA from 2002 to 2006 and was re-appointed in 2018.

Mr Davis also served on the No.8 Futures Contract Working Group for LIFFE, a member of the LIFFE Cocoa Commodity Advisory Group (CAG) from 2001 and Chairman from 2004 to 2006. Mr Davis served as an advisor to the Ivory Coast Government prior to re-stabilisation of the cocoa sector in 2010 and privately with a number of other companies involved in the commodities world.

Mr Davis travels between Paris and London, is married with two adult children, and is a Freeman of the City of London.



Ms DE LANGE Albertine
Advocacy Lead,
Rainforest Alliance

- Speaker Panel IV -

Ms De Lange started her career working as an anthropological researcher in rural areas in West Africa, focusing on child labour migration and education.

She then worked for the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Regional Office for Africa, on rural employment issues.

Since 2010, Ms de Lange has worked for UTZ, which merged with the Rainforest Alliance in 2018. Ms de Lange has been based both in the Netherlands and in Ghana.

After setting up the field network for implementing certification and working with local organizations and farmers groups in West Africa on several sustainability issues, Ms de Lange is now the RA Advocacy Lead for cocoa, with a special focus on farmer income, child labour and deforestation.



H.E. DONWAHI Alain-Richard
Minister of Waters and Forests,
Ivory Coast

- Speaker Opening ceremony -

H.E. Donwahi, born 1 July 1962 and holder of a Bachelor in Business Economics obtained at Pitzer College in Claremont (California, USA), is the Minister of Water and Forests of Ivory Coast since July 2017, after serving as Minister of Defense from January 2016 to July 2017.

From 1987 to 2002, he held senior positions in banking and agriculture companies operating with a deep knowledge of the cocoa and agribusiness sectors.

Since 2013, H.E. Donwahi has been the President of the NAWA Regional Council.

H.E. Donwahi is married and has 6 children. His wife, Laure Baflan Donwahi is currently Mayor of Mayo, a municipality in the La Nawa Region and also President of the Federation of Women (Nawa Region).

H.E. Donwahi has received several decorations, the most important of which are:

- Officer of the Legion of Honor (France)
- Officer of the National Order (Ivory Coast)
- Commander of the Order of Maritime Merit (Ivory Coast)
- Commander in the Order of Merit of National Education (IvoryXCoast)
- Commander of the Order of Merit of Solidarity and Social Cohesion (Ivory Coast)
- Commander of the Order of Agricultural Merit (Ivory Coast)



Ms ENTZMINGER Catherine
Secretary General,
European Cocoa
Association

- Speaker -

Ms Entzminger is the Secretary General of the European Cocoa Association and has been deeply involved in the management of the ECA since 2010.

Before joining the cocoa sector, Ms Entzminger worked for 4 years at the European Parliament in Brussels as a Political Advisor. Previously, she enjoyed her experience in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, and in the Alsace Region as Head of the European Department from 1996 to 2002. She started a career as a lobbyist within the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and at Hill & Knowlton in Brussels from 1992 to 1996.

Ms Entzminger holds a Master's degree in European Studies (University of Reading, UK), a B.A. in History and an MPhil in Political Sciences (University of Paris X).

Catherine Entzminger is a French national and was born in Reunion in the Indian Ocean.

Married, she has 3 sons and lives in Brussels.



Mr GROEN Wim
ECA Vice-Chairman;
CEO, ECOM/
Theobroma BV

- Speaker Closing Ceremony -

Mr Groen has started his career in commodities at the grains division of Cargill in 1978.

In 1981, Mr Groen joined Theobroma - then one of the only trading houses in cocoa with a separate cocoa product trading team - which is where he started as a junior trader. In 2000, he became Director of the company and after the merge with Ecom, Wim was appointed CEO Ecom cocoa. Mr Groen served 8 years in the FCC council, and 14 years on the ECA Board, during which - amongst others - he was part of the team that designed the cocoa products contracts - (CP 1, 2, 3 & 4) as we know them today.

Mr Groen is an arbitrator for cocoa products.

In June 2018, he became ECA's Vice-Chairman.



Mr HEUBERGER Renat
CEO, South Pole

- Speaker Panel I -

Mr Heuberger is a pioneer and social entrepreneur in the field of sustainability, where he has been engaged since 1999. As a founding partner and CEO of South Pole, he coordinated the set-up of the company's global sustainability and landscape finance business, which includes some of the world's largest forest conservation finance and agroforestry schemes.

Mr Heuberger has been elected "Social Entrepreneur of Switzerland" by the World Economic Forum's Schwab foundation, and he serves on a number of boards and advisory councils including WEF, InnoSuisse, Climate-KIC, and Impact HUB Zurich.

Mr Heuberger holds a Master Degree in Environmental Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and has completed executive education programs at INSEAD and the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS).



Dr JÜLICHER Sabine

Director for Food and Feed
Safety, Innovation,
DG SANTE,
European Commission

- Keynote Speaker Panel III -

Dr Jülicher is the Director for Food and Feed Safety, Innovation in the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission. She is responsible for policies relating to a range of sectors such as food information & composition, food waste, food processing technologies, novel foods, biotechnology, pesticides, biocides as well as veterinary medicines & animal nutrition. From 2013 to 2015, Dr Jülicher served as Head of Unit responsible for policy matters related to authorization and monitoring of medicines and relations with the European Medicine's Agency.

Before that, she was responsible for audits and inspections in food from animal origin in EU Member States, accession countries and third countries trading with the EU.

Dr Jülicher joined the European Commission in 1999, initially as veterinary inspector, before taking up management functions.

She holds a veterinary degree from the Free University Berlin and completed her thesis on microbiology and food safety. Moreover she holds a postgraduate qualification in food hygiene.



Hon. KONÉ Brahima Yves

General Director of the
Conseil du Café Cacao,
Ivory Coast

- Speaker of the Common
Floor Price discussion -

Hon. Koné has been Director General of the CCC since August 2017. He is an agronomist engineer, CEO of the company Cocoa Products Côte d'Ivoire (PROCACI/UNICAO), President of SOTRA, and honourable member and President of the economic and financial affairs committee of the National Assembly.

Hon. Koné is also Officer of the national order and Commander of the Order of Agricultural Merit.



Mr MANLEY A. Gerard
ECA Board Member;
Managing Director and
CEO, Olam Cocoa

- Moderator Panel III -

Mr Manley is the Chief Executive Officer of Olam Cocoa. He is a member of Olam Group's Executive Committee and is the Executive Chairman of the group's Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Function and has oversight on Olam's European operations.

Mr Manley is a Board Member of the ECA and the World Cocoa Foundation and a Founding member of Cocoa Action.

He is a former Chairman of the Federation of Cocoa Commerce and has served on the Boards of the Cocoa Association of Asia and the London Cocoa Terminal Market.

Mr Manley has over 30 years' Board experience in the cocoa world, joining Holco Trading Company (part of ED&F Man) in 1983.

For ED&F Man, he held Directorships in the UK, Poland and Malaysia where he managed the product trading operations with significant responsibility for the Group's processing operations. He has been with Olam for the past 21 years.

Mr Manley has a BA Honours in Geography and holds an MBA from the City University in London.



Mr MEADOWS Damien
Advisor on European and
International Carbon
Markets, DG CLIMA,
European Commission

- Keynote Speaker Panel I -

Mr Meadows is the Advisor on European and International Carbon Markets at the European Commission (DG Climate Action). He has been involved in developing market-based responses to climate change since 2000, including as Head of the European Commission's unit for the International Carbon Market, Aviation and Maritime, and as Deputy Head of the unit responsible for the EU ETS from 2006-10.

Mr Meadows has worked on the drafting, negotiation and implementation of the EU ETS, ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and other climate-related legislation.

He also worked on the negotiation and adoption of the REACH law that comprehensively reformed EU chemicals regulation. Before joining the European Commission, Mr Meadows was a solicitor in the UK, working for the UK government and in private practice, as well as for the UNFCCC Secretariat at COP4.



Dr MIZZI Leonard
Head of Unit,
DG DEVCO,
European Commission

- Keynote Speaker Panel IV -

Dr Mizzi is the Head of Unit at the European Commission, Directorate-General (DG) for International Cooperation and Development - Rural development, Food security and Nutrition, since 1st of January 2017.

Prior to this, he was Head of Unit for 10 years in DG Agriculture and Rural Development, in charge of agri trade and development issues (2007-2014) and then leading the inter institutional unit hence relations with the European Parliament, Council and consultative bodies and well as steering the Civil Dialogue Groups (2015-2016).

Dr Mizzi is a graduate in Public Administration from the University of Malta (BA Hons First Class); and has degrees from CIHEAM-Montpellier (Master of Science) and a PhD in Agricultural economics from the University of Reading (UK). He has been an author of a number of articles and publications on agri food issues and nutrition in the Mediterranean region.

Dr Mizzi has a broad working experience in the Maltese public administration and the Maltese private sector. He first worked in the Economic Planning Division of the Office of the Prime Minister (Malta) and from 1996 to 2006 was the first Director of the Malta Business Bureau in Brussels - the office of the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise and the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association.

Dr Mizzi was also visiting lecturer at the Boston University (Brussels campus), Open University and Malta University. He often lectures at the College of Europe in Bruges.

His areas of specialisation are global food security governance, agriculture, food and nutrition security, the Mediterranean and Sub Saharan Africa.



Mr POELMA Harold
ECA Board Member;
President Cocoa &
Chocolate, Cargill

- Moderator Panel IV -

Mr Poelma was appointed as President for the global cocoa & chocolate activities in January of 2016.

Since June 2012, he served as Managing Director for Cargill Refined Oils Europe (CROE).

Prior to this, he was Managing Director of Cargill's cocoa activities in Europe, Africa and Asia. He has worked in the cocoa industry for Cargill in the Netherlands since 2001.

He joined Cargill in 1987 and has held various management positions in Cargill's refined vegetable oils business, in Cargill's oilseeds processing division and grain trading division in Europe and the United States.

He has a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering & Management Science from the University of Technology in Eindhoven.

He is a Dutch national and is 57 years of age. He is married and has one daughter.



Mr POIRRIER Patrick
ECA Board Member;
CEO, Cémoi
Chocolatier

- Moderator Panel I -

Mr Poirrier, born in 1971, is the third-generation President managing the CÉMOI Group. After graduating from a French Business School, he created and led the Ivory Coast subsidiary of CÉMOI in 1996. He then went on to become Industrial Manager for the CÉMOI Group, and later Chief Operating Officer.

Since 2005, he is the CEO of the company that now counts 3300 employees and 24 sites throughout the world.

In 2014, in addition to his latest responsibilities as President of the Group, he was nominated President of CAOBISCO (Association of Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industries of Europe).

He is currently the President of the Syndicat du chocolat in France. Additionally, Mr Poirrier is:

- Administrator of ANIA (National Association of Food Industry)
- Board Member of ECA (European Cocoa Association)
- Administrator of the WCF (World Cocoa Foundation)



Mr RETZLAFF Steven

ECA Chairman;
President of Global Cocoa,
Barry Callebaut

- Speaker of the Opening and Closing ceremonies,
Moderator of the Common Floor Price discussion -

Mr Retzlaff was appointed President of Global Cocoa and member of the Executive Committee of Barry Callebaut AG in January 2008.

He joined Barry Callebaut in 1996 and has since then held various senior finance and general management positions. As well as being Chairman of the ECA, Mr Retzlaff is Vice Chairman of the World Cocoa Foundation.



Mr ROSE David

Director, LACS Training

- *Master of Ceremony* -

Mr Rose has 21 years of international experience in providing moderation and facilitation for international meetings, conferences and events, together with advisory consultancy and made-to-measure training on communications.

Based in Brussels, he delivers tailored services across Europe and the Middle East to the corporate sector, EU institutions and agencies, advocacy associations, national governments, political parties, international organisations and NGOs.

Mr David Rose also has a long experience of coaching high-profile figures, including the CEOs and senior management of leading companies, government ministers, European commissioners, high-ranking diplomats and leaders of national and European organisations. In parallel, he regularly consults on keynote speeches and presentations, advises on EU-wide advocacy campaigns and guides on the design of EU policy conferences and corporate events across a diverse range of topic areas.



Mr SMITH Benjamin
Senior Specialist
International
Labour
Organization

- Speaker Panel IV -

Mr Smith is Senior Officer, Child Labour in the International Labour Organization's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch.

Mr Smith supports ILO member States and workers' and employers' organizations and companies in the development of policies and programmes to combat child labour.

He develops Public-Private Partnerships to tackle child labour and promote decent work in supply chains in sectors including cocoa, garments, and cotton.

Mr Smith began his career with the ILO in 2000 in Costa Rica, and from 2002 to 2006 led a ground-breaking project to combat child labour in El Salvador.

From 1998 to 2000, he was a Presidential Management Fellow at the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labour Affairs.

Mr Smith holds an M.A. in International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. in International Studies from American University.



Dr SUKHA Darin
Research Fellow,
Food Technologist,
Cocoa Research Centre,
University of the West Indies

- Speaker Panel III -

Dr Sukha is a Research Fellow at the Cocoa Research Centre at The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine. He leads the Food Technology Section that works in four thematic areas: research; training and outreach; quality management and product development.

Research activities are geared towards producing technology toolkits for fine or flavour cocoa in micro and varietal based fermentations, traceability and quality standards, niche marketing and Geographical Indications, as well as cocoa bean quality certification and the development of cocoa based products (food and nutraceutical). Dr Sukha has worked with many cocoa stakeholders, from farmers to chocolate manufacturers, in different cocoa producing regions on internationally funded cocoa projects and consultancies in his 20+ year career. He is actively engaged in local, regional, and international training and outreach activities on cocoa post-harvest, quality management, sensory evaluation, chocolate making and standards development.

Currently, Dr Sukha serves on the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) Panel of Experts on fine or flavor cocoa, the Working Group on International Standards for Cocoa Quality and Flavour Assessment, the International Panel of the Fine Chocolate Industry Association-Heritage Cacao Preservation Fund, and also the Cocoa of Excellence Programme Technical Committee and Taste Panel.



Dr TRETZEL Joachim
President of Sure
Global Fair (SGF)
international

- Speaker Panel III -

Dr Tretzel, born in 1951, is a chemist, as well as a Business Consultant in Beverage & Food, Health & Nutrition, and Bio/Technology Innovation.

Dr Tretzel studied chemistry and medicine at University of Würzburg.

From 1980 to 1990, he was Manager for R&D, Technical Marketing and Production at ENKA AKZO FIBERS in Germany and the Netherlands, and General Manager of the Enzyme Division of RÖHM, Darmstadt.

From 1990 to 2017, Dr Tretzel was Managing Director and Head of Group R&D at DÖHLER, Darmstadt.

Since 2013, he has served as President of SGF International e.V.



Mr TRIPOLI Mischa
Economist, Trade and
Markets Division,
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United
Nations

- Speaker Panel II -

Mr Tripoli is an Economist in the Trade and Markets Division of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Prior to joining the Trade and Markets Division, he worked in the FAO's Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Hungary, and as an economist in the United Nations World Food Programme.

Mr Tripoli's areas of interest include trade and investment in agriculture; innovation and technology in agriculture; international trade policy; trade facilitation; export promotion; and value chain development.

Mr Tripoli's academic background is in development economics and environmental studies, and he holds both a Master's and Bachelor's degrees from Clark University in Massachusetts, USA.



Mr WEEKHOUT Henk Jan
ECA Treasurer;
Director,
C. Steinweg -
Handelsveem B.V.

- Speaker Closing Ceremony -

Mr Weekhout joined C. Steinweg - Handelsveem over 30 years ago, after 3 years at one of the leading trade commodity finance banks in the Netherlands.

The Steinweg Group operates as a logistic provider with an international network of ocean terminals and warehouses. Being posted in Amsterdam, Brazil, Russia and Rotterdam, Henk Jan is worldwide responsible for all cocoa activities as well as other soft commodities.

Mr Weekhout served 6 years on the ECA Board and in 2018 he was appointed ECA's Treasurer.



Dr WILLIAMS Maria Floencia

Global R&D Manager
and Head of Global
Sensory,
Barry Callebaut

- Speaker Panel III -

Dr Williams is the Head of Premium Products and Global Sensory at Barry Callebaut. She is responsible for generating and maximizing value from raw materials to final products.

Her work encompasses both the creative aspects of delivering new flavours from specialty beans coupled with the implementation of good manufacturing practices to ensure that distinctive sensory profiles are preserved in customer offerings.

Before joining Barry Callebaut, Dr Williams worked at Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate as a Chocolate Specialist, where she led research projects to optimize the quality of chocolate with end to end approach combining ingredients, processes and know-how.

Dr Williams has been responsible for more than fifteen national and international product launches in her 15 years of extensive technical and managerial experience.

She holds several patents in the field.

Dr Williams graduated from Chemical Engineering at the University of Mar del Plata (Argentina) and earned her PhD in Chemical Processes from the Technical University of Munich (Germany).



Dr WOLF Guy

Global Head of Market
Analytics, Marex Spectron

- Speaker Panel II -

Dr Wolf is the Global Head of Market Analytics at Marex Spectron, one of the world's largest brokers of financial products in the commodities sector.

He is well-known within the industry for being the developer of Nanolytics®, a proprietary tool for analyzing liquidity flows within commodity derivatives, an achievement recognized by Energy Risk in 2014 when naming Marex Spectron as Commodity Research House of the Year.

Dr Wolf also over-see's the development of algorithmic execution for the firm as well as the satellite joint venture project with Earth-i.

As Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder, Dr Wolf holds a doctorate in Economics, focused on Game Theory, from the University of Cape Town and gained his undergraduate degree in PPE at Oxford University.