



**BDS Donor Coordination  
Group (BDCG)**

# **Markets Systems Development Symposium 2025**

**26th-28th November 2025**

**CIALA Resort, Kisumu, Kenya.**

**Symposium Programme**



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## Markets Systems Development Symposium

2025

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### Symposium Programme

Day 1- Wednesday 26th November 2025			
Time	Activity	Notes	Moderator/ Facilitator details
8.00am -8.30am	Registration	Participant registration	BDCG Secretariat
8.30am-9.00 am	<b>Plenary session</b> Welcome Remarks & Opening Ceremony	Rebecca Amukhoye -BDCG Secretariat chair	Mark Masai
9.00am – 10.00am	Reimagining Market Systems Amid a Shifting Donor Landscape	<b>Speaker:</b> Mathews Wanjala- Trade Mark Africa <b>Panelists:</b> 1. Daniel Owino Wamunga- County Agri-nutrition Officer 2. Prof Thomas Rewe -Academia 3. George Okeyo - Private Sector <b>Moderator:</b> Mark Maasai	
10.00am – 10.30am		<b>Keynote Speaker/ Chief Guest</b> 1. Victor Nyagaya -CEO LREB	
10.30am-11.00am	<b>Tea Break</b>		
11.00 – 12.30pm	<b>Introduction</b> - Climate Change Adaptation, Green Transition and the Bioeconomy	<b>Speaker-Rebecca Amukhoye - MESPT</b> <b>Panelists:</b> 1. Isaac Ongut -Ripple Effect 2. Noel Barasa -Onja Uone 3. Doreen Kinoti -MESPT 4. Bonventure Mwanzi Foto – Pwani University <b>Moderator:</b> Prof. Thomas Rewe	
12.30pm-1.30pm	Exhibition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oscar Ominde -Soldier Diverse</li><li>Andrew Ndungu -ZIADA Solutions</li><li>Bernard Wanjala -Ushindi Youth</li><li>Getrude Kombora- Garithe</li><li>Lonah Kisombe-Rongai Acacia</li><li>Judy Okumu-KTL Farming limited</li><li>David Situma -Onja Uone</li></ol>	
1.30pm- 2.30pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
2.30pm- 3.30pm	Innovative Agri-Finance & Investment for Resilient Food Systems	<b>Speaker - Victor Diege- KCV</b> <b>Panelists:</b> 1. Patrick Lumumba-Africa Guarantee Fund 2. Esther Moyi- ECLOF 3. Janet Mumassabb-MEDA 4. Monicah Asuna- Treasury <b>Moderator-</b> Mark Masai	



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3.30pm – 5.00pm	Inclusive Leadership, Empowering Youth, Promoting Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion, and Social Equity	<b>Speaker:</b> Wairimu International  Subtheme 1: Youth discussion- Subira Zingizi-Entrepreneur Subtheme 2: Inclusive leadership discussion-Facilitator-Wairimu Wahome Subtheme 3: Gender equality discussion-Facilitator- Irene Gathinji Moderator: Thomas Obiero	
5.00pm-6.00pm	<b>Evening cocktail</b>		
<b>Day 2- Thursday 27th November 2025</b>			
8.00am –8.30am	Opening plenary session + Recap on day 1)	Facilitator – Dr. Edith Wairimu	
8.30am 10.00am	<b>Plenary</b>  Trade & Regional Integration for Scaled Partnerships	<b>Speaker:</b> Geoffrey Nyamota - IDE  Panelists: 1.George Okeyo- Migo Fish 2.Jane Maina-VERT Limited 3.Dr. Teresiah Ndungu-Director Livestock Nyandarua County  <b>Moderator:</b> Mathews Wanjala	
10.00am-11.00am	<b>Exhibition &amp; Tea Break</b>		
11.00am-12.30pm	<b>Plenary</b>  Innovation, Scale & New Delivery Models	<b>Speaker:</b> Francis Nasomba-Rising Capital  Panelists: Jemimah Wanjiku – Heifer International- DigiCow John Waweru- IDE Benson Abira- Mtaka Kisumu County  <b>Moderator-</b> Eric Njoroge - MESPT	
12.30pm-1.00pm	<b>Briefing for Field Visit Participants</b>		
1.00pm-2.00pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
2.00pm- 5.00pm	<b>Field visit (Exposure to innovative market systems and inclusive agribusiness models in Kisumu County)</b>	Organizations to be visited: 1. Victoria Eco Farm 2. M-taka 3. Peaknest Beekeeping Farm	
<b>Day 3 – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>			
8.30am – 9.00am	Opening plenary session + Recap on day 2)	Facilitator – Dr. Edith Wairimu	
9.00am-9.30am	Field visit feedback (3 Groups)	1. Dr. Robai Liambila 2. Dr. Edith Wairimu 3. Lily Chepkorir	
9.30am-11.00am	<b>Plenary session</b>  Systemic Change Measurement evidence as a guide to policy	<b>Speaker:</b> - Alfred Gathogo. Strathmore Research and Consultancy Centre  Panelists: 1. Francis Miringuh-CEC, Nyandarua- 2. Jane Ngigi-ASNET 3. Dr. John Ndung'u-KALRO  <b>Moderator -</b> Godfrey Nyangóri - MESPT	
11.00am – 11.30 am	<b>Tea Break</b>		
11.30am-12.30am	<b>Synthesis Session: Actionable Policy &amp; Investment Recommendations from the symposium</b>		
12.30 – 1.30pm	<b>Closing Ceremony &amp; Remarks - Noah Meely</b>		
1.30pm-200pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
2.00pm-5.00pm	<b>Networking</b>		
2.30PM-3.30PM	Network member organizations AGM Meeting		

## Chief Guest - Victor Nyagaya -CEO LREB

Victor is an accomplished public sector leader with over 35 years of experience advancing government programs, strengthening institutions, and driving development across Kenya.

His career began in the national government, where he served in key ministries—including Home Affairs, Planning and National Development, and Medical Services—contributing to public administration, national planning, and essential service delivery.



He later played a significant role in county-level transformation as Senior Advisor on Investment and Resource Mobilization to the Governor of Kisumu County. Victor is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB), where he leads regional collaboration, economic competitiveness, and strategic resource mobilization anchored in integrity and servant leadership.



### **Moderator: Mark Masai , Strategic Communications Consultant**

Mark is an all-round communicator currently practicing Public Relations having a wealth of experience as a professional moderator and a master of ceremonies handling diverse stakeholder engagements over the years. His exemplary career in journalism spanning over 16 years in the mainstream media industry locally and internationally has earned him an enviable brand as an authoritative, credible and trusted public figure.



### **Rebecca Amukhoye – CEO, MESPT & BDS Donor Coordination Group Secretariat chair**

Rebecca, the head of MESPT, oversees business strategy formulation and execution, ensuring operational efficiency, learning, and corporate sustainability. With over 20 years of experience working with smallholder farmers and agri-enterprises, she drives productivity and profitability. Rebecca supports local Agri SMEs through Business Development Services and facilitates access to finance, fostering agricultural investment, green transformation, and job creation. Previously, she held leadership roles as Country and Regional Director in international NGOs, managing programs across Eastern and Southern Africa. Rebecca holds a BSc in Agriculture and Home Economics from Egerton University, an MBA in Strategic Management, and a Senior Management Leadership Certificate.



### **Noah Meely – MESPT BOT Chairman**

Mr. Meely is a career investment banker and financial consultant with proven experience and capability. His career spans over 20 years in treasury, risk management and financial markets. Additionally, he has expertise in balance sheet management as well as hedging financial risks. He has been a team leader in global markets analysis and customer relations and orientation.

Previously, Mr. Meely served as a Director and Country Treasure at Citibank Uganda from 2010 to 2016. Before that he was the head of fixed income currencies and commodities as well as head of customer sales and derivatives marketing in Citibank Kenya from 2004 to 2010. He also served in other various senior roles in Citibank and ABN Amro Bank over the span of his banking career. He holds a Bachelors of Arts, Economics and Philosophy from the University of Nairobi.

**Mathews Wanjala- Senior Programme Manager – Market Systems at TradeMark Africa (TMA)**

Mathews Chirasha Wanjala is the Senior Programme Manager – Market Systems at TradeMark Africa (TMA), where he leads initiatives that expand inclusive trade opportunities and strengthen private sector competitiveness across the region. He has extensive expertise in market systems development, value chain transformation, and public–private partnerships, designing programmes that enhance the participation of women, youth, and SMEs in regional and global markets. Mathews collaborates with governments, industry associations, and development partners to advance trade facilitation reforms, improve logistics, and promote climate-smart and digital trade solutions. With over 20 years of experience across the public, private, and international development sectors, he is committed to fostering resilient, competitive, and inclusive economies in Africa.

**Prof Thomas Rewe -Pwani University**

Rewe is an Associate Professor of Integrated Agro-Systems at Pwani University, Co-Chair of the Green Bio-Economy Coalition of Africa Working Group, and Secretariat Lead for the Africa Bioeconomy University (ABU) Alliance. He coordinates the National Bioeconomy Education and Policy Framework Project, partnering with national and international institutions to advance bioeconomy capacity and policy development. Rewe has served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, overseeing Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Research, and consults for FAO, SNV, DANIDA, and the EU in Agri-Food Systems and the Bioeconomy. His research centres on agriculture, climate change, and the circular bioeconomy, with a strong interest in regenerative agriculture. Having worked across six countries, he remains committed to developing the next generation of experts through collaboration and capacity building.

**Doreen Kinoti - Programme Manager GEAP, MESPT**

Doreen Kinoti boasts over 15 years of experience in rural development, agriculture, and social impact programs across sub-Saharan Africa, including work in conflict and post-conflict regions. Her expertise spans smallholder commercialization, innovative finance, enterprise development, food safety, and the circular economy. Doreen has led impactful public and private sector initiatives, improving livelihoods and fostering resilience in vulnerable communities. She has managed donor-funded programs supported by DANIDA, USAID, the EU, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Gates Foundation. Doreen holds a BSc in Agricultural Education and Extension from Egerton University and an MSc in Circular Economy and Sustainability from the James Lind Institute.

**Isaac Ongutu - Farm Systems and Sustainability Officer, Ripple Effect Kenya**

Isaac Ongutu is the Farm Systems and Sustainability Officer at Ripple Effect Kenya, where he also coordinates the Sustainable Food and Environment Improvement Project in Western Kenya. He specializes in Sustainable organic farming and has extensive experience in vegetable crop production, forage production, soil management and plant propagation. Isaac has strengthened the capacity of over 240 Peer Farmer Trainers in sustainable organic agriculture, enabling them to support their communities in improving food security and adopting climate-resilient farming practices.

**Victor Ndiege - CEO of Kenya Climate Ventures (KCV)**

Victor Ndiege is the CEO of Kenya Climate Ventures (KCV) and an investment leader with over 20 years of experience in fund management, strategic partnerships, and supporting climate-smart enterprises across Africa. He has positioned KCV as a pioneer in climate-focused investing, earning global recognition such as the 2024 EUTECH SDG 8 Award and Best Climate Solutions Venture Firm 2024. Victor previously held senior roles at AECF and KPMG, contributing to renewable energy, gender-inclusive, and enterprise development initiatives across Africa and Asia. A strong advocate for gender-lens investing, he serves on expert panels and investment committees and sits on several boards. He holds a BSc in Agricultural Economics and an MBA in Strategic Management.

**Noel Barasa – Onja Uone**

Noel Barasa is a Field and Extension Officer at Onja Uone Ltd, a macadamia processing company based in Bungoma County, Tongaren Sub-county. With two years of hands-on experience, he supports farmers through training, field supervision, and the adoption of best practices to improve macadamia production and quality. Noel works closely with grower communities to strengthen supply chains, enhance productivity, and ensure a consistent supply of high-standard nuts for processing. His role contributes to empowering local farmers, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and advancing the growth of the macadamia value chain in the region.

**Patrick Lumumba- Group Director of Capacity Development - Africa Guarantee Fund (AGF)**

Patrick is a development finance specialist with experience spanning over 20 years working directly with different financial institutions in Africa as well as international development organizations. Prior to joining African Guarantee Fund (AGF), he was the Head, Social Performance Management for Grameen Foundation covering the Africa Region. A Kenyan national, Patrick holds a Master's Degree in Marketing from Kenyatta University and is a Certified Expert in Climate Finance and a Certified Expert in SME Finance from Frankfurt School of Finance and Management. He is passionate about impact and capacity enhancement along the different development finance value chains in Africa.

**Esther Moyi- ECLOF CEO**

Esther brings over 20 years of leadership experience in microfinance and financial services, with a strong commitment to financial inclusion, sustainable development, and community empowerment. She previously served as Chief Operations Officer at Vision Fund Kenya, where she led significant portfolio growth, advanced digital transformation, and strengthened a high-performance, mission-driven culture. Her expertise spans strategic planning, risk management, operational excellence, and the development of customer-centric financial solutions. Esther has a proven record of driving growth and implementing successful turnaround strategies in dynamic environments. She holds an MBA from the University of South Wales. As CEO of ECLOF Kenya, she is dedicated to expanding access to impactful, inclusive financial services that improve livelihoods.

**Monicah Asuna- National Treasury**

Ms. Asuna is a seasoned economist with 22 years of experience at the National Treasury, where she serves as Director of Planning and Head of the UN Agencies Division and Development Effectiveness Secretariat within the Resource Mobilization Department. Her work spans resource mobilization, policy formulation, strategic planning, budgeting, donor relations, and development effectiveness. She has led the Development Effectiveness Secretariat since 2010, coordinated the development of the Kenya External Resources Policy approved in 2014, and oversaw Kenya's hosting of the 2nd High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation in 2016. Ms. Asuna also leads the Investor Relations Unit and represents the Treasury on various boards. She holds an MA in Economics and a BA from Moi University.

**Wairimu Munyinyi -Wahome-Country Director, Heifer International Kenya**

Wairimu Munyinyi-Wahome is the Country Director of Heifer International Kenya, bringing over 20 years of leadership experience in international development across Africa and the Middle East. She has held senior roles with VSO, Concern Worldwide, Oxfam, Progressio UK, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and the Coalition on Violence Against Women, leading programmes that advance inclusive, accountable, and sustainable development. Wairimu is deeply committed to community-driven change, women's empowerment, and strong governance. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Political Science, an Honours Degree in Development Studies, and has completed advanced training in Public Policy and Management. She is currently pursuing a Master's in Human Resources Management and recently completed the Global Executive Leadership Initiative's Inspired Women Leaders programme.

**Subira Zingizi-Entrepreneur**

Subira Zingizi is a Business Coach, Community Development Practitioner, and Founder of Nala Foods, an agro-processing enterprise that empowers women and youth in Kwale County through coconut value addition. She leads several entrepreneurship and social selling programs, including Digital Cubs under In Motion Delivery and the Empower Her project under the Taji Langu Foundation, equipping micro-entrepreneurs with skills to grow visibility, income, and confidence. Through MESPT's Low Hanging Fruits Programme, she trained over 500 youths in entrepreneurship, digital skills, financial literacy, and market readiness, strengthening youth-led enterprises across the Coast region. Subira's work centers on youth inclusion, gender equality, and economic empowerment, creating supportive ecosystems where young people can thrive.



### Geoffrey Nyamota – iDE Global

Geoffrey is a market systems leader with over 20 years of experience designing and implementing inclusive, market-led initiatives across Africa and Asia. He has extensive training in market systems development and in integrating gender and youth into agricultural value chains, and is an accomplished trainer of trainers. Before joining iDE as Kenya Country Team Leader in 2024, Geoffrey held leadership roles in both the private sector and international NGOs, guiding teams on private-sector engagement and agricultural market strengthening. He has served as Senior Regional Technical Advisor for Agricultural Markets at CRS, Head of Market Engagement at Farm Africa, and Regional Business Development Manager at SCOPEinsight. Geoffrey holds a PhD in Organizational Leadership (Entrepreneurship), an MBA, and a BSc in Horticulture.



### George Okeyo – Mizingo Fish

George Okeyo is an experienced Quality Assurance professional and Business Development expert with a proven track record in designing and evaluating market system projects. He offers a dual perspective as both a successful business owner and a development program manager. In 2017, George founded Mizingo Fish Supplies Limited. Through his leadership in marketing strategy, financial systems, and grant solicitation, he grew the company's value from \$46,000 to over \$2.6 million, currently employing 25 people across Kisumu, Mombasa, Lodwar, and Kakuma. In his corporate career, George has managed programs worth over €35.6 million for organizations such as MESPT and Self Help Africa. He has been instrumental in strengthening the competitiveness of the dairy, horticulture, and fisheries sectors in Kenya. George previously served as Chairman of the BDS Donor Coordination Group and spent seven years working in export fish processing.



### Jane Maina – Vert LTD

Vert Limited is a leading Kenyan agro-processing company founded in 2006, specializing in the production and export of high-quality dried fruits, fruit purees, fresh fruits, and vegetables. Working with over 5,000 smallholder farmers across 14 counties, Vert promotes sustainable agriculture, traceability, and value addition—especially through mango processing for local and international markets. Under the leadership of Managing Director Jane Maina, the company champions inclusive growth, climate-smart production, and community empowerment. Vert's model transforms mainly women smallholders into organized, professional producers with access to stable markets and better incomes. Jane drives sustainability through farmer training, women's empowerment, and circular practices, positioning Vert as a catalyst for rural transformation and shared prosperity.



### Jemimah Wanjiku: Heifer/DigiCow

Jemimah Wanjiku is an Operations and Business Development Manager at DigiCow Africa Ltd, with four years of experience advancing organizational efficiency, strategic partnerships, and business growth within the agritech sector. She holds an educational background in Human Resources and Business Analysis, enabling her to integrate strong operational systems with data-driven decision-making. At DigiCow, Jemimah has contributed to strengthening internal processes, supporting market expansion, and enhancing service delivery to farmers and partners across Kenya. Her professional focus includes business development strategy, stakeholder engagement, and team coordination.



### John Waweru-IDE

John Waweru is a seasoned market systems expert with extensive experience working with producer organizations, private agricultural enterprises, government agencies, and development partners across Sub-Saharan Africa. I possess broad development programs implementation experience, having managed several value chain development and learning assignments for multinational NGOs and partners. I currently serve as the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) Manager at iDE-Kenya. In this role, I lead in the design and the execution of the country-level MERL strategy, provide strategic advice to the program team and provide technical oversight to our MERL Officers.



### Eric Njoroge – Head of Fundraising & Partnerships, MESPT

Eric is an international development leader with over 17 years of experience building transformative partnerships across East Africa and beyond. He is the Head of Fundraising and Partnerships at the Micro Enterprises Support Programme Trust (MESPT), where he mobilizes resources for financial inclusion, green growth, and youth empowerment in agriculture. He has previously led resource mobilisation for community conservancies at the Northern Rangelands Trust, democratic governance at Uraia Trust, emergency response in South Sudan, and global health innovation during an Atlas Corps Fellowship at the United Nations Foundation in Washington, DC. A Chevening Scholar with an MSc in International Development from the University of Birmingham, Eric is a strong advocate for decolonised, trust-based funding models, bringing strategic insight, cross-cultural fluency, and collaborative energy to his work.

**Francis Miringuh-CEC, Nyandarua**

Francis Miringu is the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Agribusiness, Livestock and Fisheries in Nyandarua County. An Agricultural Economist with over 30 years of senior management experience in Kenya and abroad, he holds an MA in Project Planning and Management from the University of Nairobi and a BSc in Agricultural Economics from Egerton University. He currently leads the county's agricultural transformation agenda, including the shift from seasonal to perennial crop production and the revival of key institutions such as the Ol Joro Orok and Njambini ATCs, the Agricultural Mechanization Services, and the Seed Multiplication Unit. Francis also works with development partners to draft bills, policies, strategies, and action plans that support Nyandarua's vision of modernizing and strengthening its agricultural sector.

**Jane Ngige – Food Science Technologist & Food and Agriculture Biotechnologist, ASNET**

Jane Ngige is a seasoned Food Science Technologist and Food and Agriculture Biotechnologist with extensive experience in strengthening agricultural value chains, food quality, and post-harvest management across East Africa. She combines strong technical expertise with practical engagement with farmers, producer organizations, private sector actors, and development partners to enhance productivity, safety, and market compliance. Her work spans agri-food research, value chain development, biotechnology applications, and program design, with contributions to flowers, horticulture, cereals, and pulses. Jane is skilled in stakeholder engagement, field assessments, and translating scientific evidence into actionable solutions that expand economic opportunities. She is committed to leveraging science, innovation, and strategic partnerships to build resilient and inclusive food systems in the region.

**Dr. John Ndung'u- Chief Research Scientist, KALRO**

Dr. John M. Ndungu is a Chief Research Scientist at the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) with over 25 years of experience in agricultural research, project design, and implementation. He holds a Master's in Rural Sociology and Community Development from the University of Nairobi and a PhD in Agriculture (Agricultural Economics) from the University of Bonn's Centre for Development Research (ZEF). He previously served as Assistant Coordinator for the Productivity, Profitability, and Sustainability of Conventional and Organic Farming Project (2014–2021) across Murang'a, Kirinyaga, and Machakos counties. Dr. Ndungu has supported national programs such as NAVCDP and the Food Systems Resilience Project and worked on initiatives funded by GIZ Move-ComCashew, MESPT's DMDP Banana Project, KAFACI, and the Mercator Foundation.

**Godfrey Nyang'ori - Acting Head of Programmes, MESPT**

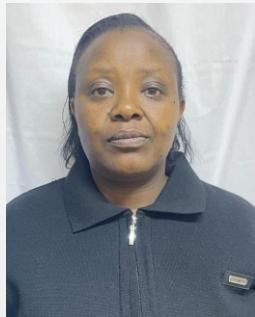
Mr. Nyang'ori is a development practitioner with 13 years of experience, having a strong focus on agricultural value chains development for rural communities' livelihoods and economic empowerment. His experience is largely on capacity building for increased productivity, food safety and sustainable development. Nyang'ori has worked for different institutions, holding different positions. He is also a passionate researcher actively engaged in fieldwork, especially in rural areas. He is currently finalizing his PhD in Project Management at Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology. He holds MSc degree from Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology and Bachelor of Business Management.

**Janet Mumassabba - Senior Regional Operations Manager, MEDA**

Dr. Janet Mumassabba is a development specialist with over 10 years of experience in SME growth and market systems strengthening. She serves as the Senior Regional Operations Manager for MEDA's LEGEND Project in Kenya, where she leads innovative agri-finance and investment strategies that advance resilient food systems. She holds a PhD and MBA in Strategic Management, a bachelor's in enterprise development and management, and is a Certified Public Accountant, complemented by advanced training in inclusive market systems development, project management, M&E, data analytics, and gender studies. Alongside her development work, Mumassabba lectures part-time and is committed to academic research, mentorship, and philanthropic initiatives supporting churches, widows, and vulnerable children. She is also a proud mother to her beautiful daughter, Janelle.

**Thomas Obiero - Enterprise Development Specialist & Co-Founder and Director of Agile Consulting**

Thomas Obiero Were is an experienced Enterprise Development Specialist with over 30 years of expertise in agribusiness, market systems development, strategic management, and food systems across Eastern and Southern Africa. He holds a BSc in Agricultural Economics, an MBA in Strategic Management, and is a PhD finalist in Entrepreneurship at JKUAT. Thomas has supported public and private sector actors in strengthening agricultural value chains—from livestock and dairy to horticulture, aquaculture, and organic agriculture—through market-based interventions, PPP design, business development services, and capacity building. As Co-Founder and Director of Agile Consulting, he provides strategic leadership in research, programme development, and market systems strengthening to drive sustainable agricultural transformation.

**Dr. Teresia Ndungu - Director Livestock, Nyandarua County**

Teresia is a seasoned Dairy Technologist with over 21 years of experience in Kenya's dairy industry. She has made significant contributions across the value chain through training, milk quality enhancement, and support producing safe, high-quality dairy products. Her expertise includes ISO 22000 implementation, HACCP systems, and Quality-Based Milk Payment Systems (QBMPS), which she advanced while consulting for Policy and Market Options and during her impactful 4.7-year tenure at Happy Cow Ltd. Currently serving as the County Director of Livestock Production and overseeing Fisheries Development in Nyandarua County, Teresia continues to champion food safety, capacity building, policy development, and improved dairy systems.

**Irene Gathinji - Program Management Specialist and Change Management leader**

Irene Nduita Gathinji is a Program Management Specialist and Change Management leader with over 28 years of experience advancing inclusive systems, equitable leadership, and community-driven development across East and Southern Africa. She holds a postgraduate Diploma in Women's Studies from Murdoch University, Australia, and has completed multiple donor-funded capacity-building programs. Irene has led major USAID and foundation-supported initiatives, including Kenya's flagship localisation program, Ubora Mashinani, and the Yetu Initiative, strengthening more than 400 civil society organisations and supporting the mobilisation of over KES 275 million for grassroots initiatives. As Vice Chair of MESPT, she champions financial inclusion, resilient agri-food value chains, and green, inclusive economic growth.

**Francis Nasyomba, CFA**

Francis is the founder and CEO of Raisin Capital, an African capital-raising house dedicated to helping businesses access growth capital. He is also the founder of Capital Connect Africa, a digital platform connecting SMEs and startups with investors, financing options, and advisory support at scale. A CFA Charter holder and CPA, Francis brings over 18 years of experience in corporate finance, advisory, and private equity, having led complex mandates across sectors including agribusiness, financial services, healthcare, education, and technology. An Electrical Engineer by training, Francis serves as President of the CFA Society East Africa, where he champions initiatives to develop capital markets and mentor the next generation of finance leaders across Africa.

**Margaret Miano – BDCG Secretariat Coordinator**

Margaret is a seasoned development practitioner with extensive experience in inclusive market systems, green growth, and enterprise development. She has contributed significantly to the design and implementation of agri-based value chains, MSME development initiatives, and climate-smart agriculture programmes. She currently serves as the Partnership & Fundraising Coordinator at MESPT. As the BDCG Secretariat Coordinator, Margaret plays a pivotal role in strengthening the regional network, bringing together government, private sector, and development partners to enhance coordination, foster collaboration, and drive systemic, impactful market systems development across the region.



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**Symposium Facilitator: Dr. Edith W. Wairimu - Senior Consultant and Trainer, Agribusiness Development, Research and Data Analytics, FineResults Research Services (FRRS) Ltd**

Dr. Edith Wairimu, an FRRS consultant, has 11 years' experience as a Market System Development Specialist. Her work focuses on systemic interventions to improve access to skills, markets, finance, and information, driving inclusive economic growth. Her research interests include value chain analysis, market assessments, climate resilience, technology adoption, and impact evaluation. She has worked for CIMMYT, E4IMPACT, CIAT, and WFP, delivering insights on dairy and crop value chains. Edith holds a PhD in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Nairobi, a Master's degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics, and a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from Egerton University.



**Daniel Owino Wamunga**

He serves as the county Agri-nutrition officer in the department of agriculture, irrigation, livestock, fisheries and blue economy in Kisumu County. He also acts as the departmental focal person for the youth in the agribusiness project, where he supports youth engagement and empowerment in the agricultural sector.

Daniel is a member of the Technical Working Group developing the Kisumu county Agriculture Extension Policy, contributing his expertise to strengthen extension services and promote sustainable agricultural development.

## Exhibitors

### 1. Oscar Ominde -Soldier Diverse

Soldier Fly Diverse Limited (SFD) is a pioneering Kenyan agritech enterprise transforming livelihoods through circular economy innovations, sustainable protein technologies, and decentralized waste-to-value systems. Established in 2023 and based along the Kakamega–Webuye Road, SFD is committed to tackling rising feed costs, organic waste pollution, and youth unemployment by leveraging Black Soldier Fly (BSF) farming as a scalable climate-smart solution.

With a mission to become Africa's largest protein technology marketing agency, the company empowers smallholder farmers through standardized BSF rearing systems, modular starter kits, contract farming, and real-time AI-powered farmer support. SFD has trained over 600 farmers, distributed 1,200 BSF kits, and now operates across 16 counties.

Its value-added products include Kimbiza All-Purpose Feed, made from pure BSF protein, and FLYD Balm, an organic skincare product demonstrating strong market traction. Soldier Fly Diverse also designs solar-powered hybrid dryers, retrofits turnkey BSF farms, and strengthens market linkages for farmers. Through innovation, renewable energy, and partnerships with youth groups and farmer networks, SFD is building a protein-secure future while creating jobs, reducing waste, and transforming agribusiness in East Africa.

### 2. Andrew Ndungu -ZIADA Solutions

Ziada Solutions is a climate-smart, circular agri-processing enterprise transforming the banana value chain in Kenya. They convert banana stems and other farm waste into natural fibres, biochar, eco-paper, and sustainable lifestyle products such as rugs, baskets, and furniture. Their work promotes environmental conservation while creating income opportunities for rural communities.

In partnership with the Taita-Taveta Banana Cooperative Society, representing over 1,500 smallholder farmers, they purchase banana materials at above-market rates and upcycle them into high-value products. This waste-to-value model strengthens farmer livelihoods and supports regenerative agriculture.

Ziada Solutions is exhibiting to showcase their circular approach and connect with partners who share their commitment to sustainable development. With a capacity to process 120 tonnes of banana waste monthly and a team of 45 staff, they are seeking investors, innovators, and farmers to help scale their portable fibre extraction technology to more communities.

### 3. Bernard Wanjala -Ushindi Youth

Ushindi Youth Marketing Cooperative, based in Nabiswa Ward in Kiminini Sub-County, is committed to promoting climate-smart agriculture and supporting farmers with practical, affordable solutions. Led by Chairperson Benard Wanjala, the cooperative focuses on innovations that reduce production costs while creating income opportunities for youth and women.



Their flagship product is the Fireless Brooder, an eco-friendly device used to raise day-old chicks up to one month old. Made from recycled plastics and local materials, the brooder requires no charcoal or electricity, helping farmers save on energy costs while protecting the environment. It is easy to use, occupies minimal space, and comes with integrated drinkers and feeders. Its enclosed design enhances hygiene, improves biosecurity, and ensures efficient use of feed and water.

Through this innovation, they aim to reach more farmers, promote sustainable poultry farming, and expand employment opportunities within the community. Many farmers have already benefited from their brooders, and adoption continues to grow.

#### **4. Getrude Kombora –Garithe Mangrove Conservation and Nuts Value Addition (GMCNVA)**

Garithe Mangrove Conservation and Nuts Value Addition (GMCNVA) is a community-based organization located in Garithe Village, Kilifi County. Established in 2009, the organization has grown from a small self-help group of coconut farmers into a leading model of sustainable community enterprise. GMCNVA empowers coastal communities through mangrove conservation, coconut value addition, and apiculture, creating green jobs while enhancing environmental resilience.

Guided by a vision of communities thriving in harmony with nature, GMCNVA promotes inclusive economic growth, gender equality, innovation, and responsible stewardship of natural resources. The group has restored mangrove forests, strengthened shoreline protection, and introduced high-value products such as Lainisha Coconut Oil, Ubora Animal Feeds, and Eco Gold Honey. With support from partners including MESPT and the Kilifi County Government, GMCNVA has expanded production capacity, enhanced market access, and empowered over 120 members—60% of whom are women. The organization continues to scale sustainable livelihoods and climate-smart solutions for coastal communities.

#### **5. Lonah Kisombe-Rongai Acacia**

Rongai Acacia Dairies is a cooperative society established in 2019 to advance the shared aspirations of dairy farmers across Rongai Sub-county, Nakuru County. Guided by its vision of building a robust farmers' organization that supports sustainable income generation, the cooperative has grown from 58 members at inception to 852 registered farmers across Visoi, Soin, Mosop, and Menengai West wards. Its operational office and milk bulking centre are located at Rafiki Trading Centre, Kabarak.

The cooperative promotes dairy farming as a reliable livelihood by offering milk aggregation, marketing, and value addition, including pasteurized milk, yoghurt, and mursik. Through strong governance, responsive leadership, and robust extension services, Rongai Acacia supports members with training, advisory services, input linkages, and advocacy.

In partnership with the County Government of Nakuru and other stakeholders, the society achieved an annual turnover of KES 66.7 million in 2024, driven by improved fodder production, drought-resilient feeding systems, and sustainable, circular dairy farming practices.

#### **6. Judy Okumu-KTL Farming limited**

KTL Farming PLC, established in 2014 and incorporated in 2019, is a leading Kenyan agribusiness focused on the production, development, and export of high-quality avocados and value-added avocado products. The company exports to the European market and works closely with more than 6,000 contracted farmers across eight counties, including Bungoma, Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia, Nakuru, Kakamega, West Pokot, Kajiado, and Busia. Beyond export operations, KTL provides farmers with certified seedlings, farm advisory services, mentorship, and training on green transformation practices, while also processing avocado oil and supporting improved productivity at farm level.

Through its partnership with MESPT, KTL has expanded its market presence within the NOREB region, strengthened farmer groups, and enhanced access to finance, enabling the establishment of a solar-powered avocado oil extraction plant that supports value addition and job creation. The collaboration has also boosted farmer mobilization, increased nursery capacity, and contributed to the planting of over 650,000 avocado trees. In addition, KTL has improved food safety, traceability, and overall productivity through technical assistance, training, and progress toward Global GAP certification. The company continues to champion climate-smart agriculture by promoting integrated pest management, vermiculture, and other green transformation initiatives while creating meaningful employment opportunities for youth and women.

#### **7. David Situma -Onja Uone**

Onja Uone Ltd is an agricultural enterprise based on the scenic slopes of Mt. Elgon in Western Kenya, dedicated to adding value to communities through sustainable agribusiness. The company provides a reliable market for raw macadamia nuts while empowering small-scale farmers with training and field extension services to maximize productivity and adopt environmentally responsible practices.

Guided by a mission to apply proven knowledge, innovation, and accountability, Onja Uone strives to create economic and social benefits for both its corporate community and its stakeholders. The company places strong emphasis on supporting women by creating greater employment opportunities that enhance their income and economic independence.

Onja Uone also champions environmental conservation. By propagating and planting macadamia trees, the company contributes to Kenya's goal of attaining 10% forest cover while promoting climate resilience. Its grafted macadamia seedlings—grown from scions in its own orchard—enable farmers to adopt sustainable, high-value crops that improve land use and increase household income. Through these integrated efforts in production, training, environmental stewardship, and gender inclusion, Onja Uone Ltd continues to deliver long-term value to rural communities.



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## Field Visit

### 1 Victoria Eco Farm- Nicholas Omondi

Victoria Eco-Farm Limited is a Kisumu-based agribusiness enterprise advancing sustainable agriculture, community empowerment, and agroecological innovation across Western Kenya. They champion a contract farming model that provides chicks, poultry feeds, training, extension services, and reliable markets to over 4,332 farmers organized into 272 groups, predominantly women and youth across eight counties.

Their work integrates circular practices and the 13 principles of agroecology to strengthen food systems, eliminate waste, and promote environmentally responsible production. They operate a modern hatchery with a 36,000-chick capacity, support apiculture enterprises, and mentor young agripreneurs through partnerships with organizations such as SHONA Capital, Neycha Fund, GIZ, MEDA, USADF, and Practical Action.

Victoria Eco-Farm Limited has trained and onboarded more than 1,500 farmers, facilitated inclusive aggregator agreements, and participated in the AfriFOODlinks Circularity & Inclusivity Coaching Program—demonstrating their commitment to climate resilience and community-driven food systems.

They continue to expand their impact by creating income opportunities, strengthening food security, and promoting regenerative agriculture. Their vision is to become a fully circular, inclusive agribusiness model that empowers communities and inspires future generations of sustainable producers.

### 2 M-taka – tech-integrated waste management and recycling social enterprise

M-taka is a tec-integrated waste management and recycling social enterprise transforming Africa's circular economy.

Founded by Benson Abila—an award-winning social entrepreneur, civil engineer and sustainability advocate—M-taka leverages technology to digitize and dignify the waste value chain. The platform connects households, informal waste collectors and large-scale recyclers through an app and an advanced ERP system that enables real-time tracking, data analytics, predictive insights and digital marketplace.

Benson, a Mandela Washington Fellow and accomplished leader in circular economy innovation, has guided M-taka into globally recognized programs and awards while forging strong partnerships with organizations such as USAID, the EU, GIZ, Global Affairs Canada and Michigan State University.

Under his leadership, M-taka unlocks value in the 80% of unrecycled waste in urban Kenya, advancing environmental sustainability, zero-waste communities and driving inclusive, dignified green growth across the continent.

### 3 Peaknest Beekeeping Farm

Peaknest Beekeeping Farm was established in 2018 with the goal of cultivating healthy, productive bee colonies through natural and sustainable farming methods. They are committed to creating employment opportunities for youth and women while producing high quality raw honey and championing ecological stewardship within the Kisumu region.

The enterprise consists of 10 members, each managing at least 20 colonies per apiary. Their vision is to become a leading model of environmentally responsible apiculture – where honeybee health supports thriving agricultural biodiversity. Their core products and services include pollination services, humane honey-bee removal from both urban and rural homes, production of high quality and affordable beehives for local farmers and aggregation of harvested honey and propolis. They also provide beekeeper training, mentorship and awareness programs on pollinator -friendly agriculture.

Peaknest Beekeeping Farm upholds sustainability, integrity and environmental stewardship and is located in Kisumu County, Kisumu West Constituency, Kisumu North.

Our vision is to become a leading example of environmentally responsible apiculture—integrating honeybee health with thriving agricultural biodiversity. Our core products and services include pollination services, humane honey-bee removal from urban and rural residences, production of high-quality and affordable beehives for local farmers, and aggregation of harvested honey and propolis. We also offer training for new beekeepers, mentorship, and awareness programs on pollinator-friendly agriculture. Our key values are sustainability, integrity, and environmental stewardship. We are located in Kisumu County, Kisumu West Constituency, Kisumu North.



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