



OUR PANELISTS

Professor A. Ajayi



Prof. Adesola Ajayi is a higher education manager and an acknowledged research leader, with vast research and industry experience on seed systems, agricultural innovations and enterprise development, research management, agricultural policy dialogue and mentorship of early career researchers (ECRs).

He was a Research Fellow at the Institute of Crop and Grassland Science, Federal Agricultural Research Centre, Braunschweig Germany, Intermittent Visiting Scientist at Pioneer HiBred, Parndorf, Austria, Postdoctoral Scientist at the Plant Cell Biology Research Unit, School of Biological and Conservation Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa, Visiting Scientist at the Maize Improvement Program at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and a founding Member of the Sustainable Futures in Africa Network.

Prof Ajayi has participated in several national and continental agricultural policy dialogues and regularly facilitates national stakeholders' meetings on seed sector development, improving crop productivity and increasing farmers' income. He has consulted and managed several agricultural development projects for national, regional and international organizations like the National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NACGRAB), West and Central African Council for Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Women, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Winrock International, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and several international consulting firms.

He was promoted to the post of Professor of Seed Science and Technology in 2010 and has supervised over 20 postgraduate thesis on seed technology-related topics notably determinants of seed quality, improvement of crop productivity and adaptation to climate change through seed technologies as well as genetic resources conservation and enhancement.

Prof Ajayi has held several management positions in the higher education sector including Head of Department, University Research Farm Director, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Chairman of Polytechnic Governing Council and currently Vice-Chancellor.



Augusta Nyamadi Clotey

Ms Clotey is the current Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat and the Secretary to the Executive Council of the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG). She holds a Commonwealth Executive MBA from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and a BSc in Agriculture from the University for Development Studies with Agricultural Economics and Extension. Mrs. Clotey's areas of specialization include Programme / Project Development and Management, Administration and Capacity building in Business Administration.



She has worked with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the UN World Food Programme (WFP), UN Development Programme (UNDP), AGRA Funded Ghana Agro Dealers Development Project, Africa Health Economics and Policy Association (AFHEA), the Ghana Grains Council. Over 23 years, she has built capacities of project beneficiaries of some UN Organizations, USAID and AGRA funded Programmes on Logistics and Supply Chain Management; Data Collection, Management and Analysis; Community Entry, Mobilization and Animation Skills resulting in the successful implementation of agricultural and, disaster management and recovery projects across Ghana. She has a broad knowledge of agribusiness which spans through the micro, meso and macro levels.

Dr. Okelola Sunday Folarin



Dr Folarin holds a Master's Degree in Seed Science and Technology and a Doctorate degree in seed science and technology. He is the Senior Technical Advisor to the Director General of the NASC, the government agency that regulates the seed industry in Nigeria. He is also the Acting Registrar of the PVP office in Nigeria and convener of the annual SeedConnect Africa conference in Nigeria.

He previously served as Regional Seeds Production Specialist for the West Africa Seed Programme (WASP) coordinated by the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD) in Dakar. Folarin was also Seed System Specialist for the World Bank funded West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) in Nigeria.



Dr Samuel Kugbei

Dr. Samuel Kugbei has worked in the international development arena for over thirty years, with a focus on seed systems and agricultural economics. He has collaborated or worked several years with international organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). He served these organizations as technical expert, manager and team leader working mainly on seed-sector development programs in a wide diversity of countries, particularly in Asia and Africa.



A major part of Dr. Kugbei's work has been devoted to capacity development of small-scale seed enterprises in developing countries, and recently collaborated with FAO in developing the Seeds Toolkit for training particularly small-scale farmers and small and medium-scale seed entrepreneurs. With the unique combination of thorough knowledge and experience in seed technology with agricultural economics, Dr. Kugbei conducts consultancy assignments for many public, private and multilateral development organizations.

He is currently associated with AfricaSeeds, which implements the African Seed and Biotechnology Program, and with Ag-Connectors, a global network of development and finance specialists with years of experience working with rural women, girls and the youth. He also owns and manages a private Garden Center and Plant Nursery in his home country, Sierra Leone.

Josiah Wobil



Josiah is a seed technology and seed policy expert with more than 40 years of experience in more than 20 countries worldwide. He provided technical assistance in seed projects, particularly in seed certification, regulatory and policy interventions, institutional development and capacity building at the national, regional and local levels.

He served for FAO and lately as consultant to USAID, the AU Commission, the AGRA, the World Bank and other international organizations. Mr. Wobil has led the formulation and adoption of national seed policies, provided technical guidance in seed cultivation and variety development, and the establishment of seed processing facilities across Africa. Earlier in his career, Mr. Wobil supervised seed farms and seed processing and storage facilities and assisted the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) to design the establishment of Community Foundation Seed Farms. Mr. Wobil is from Ghana.
