

**THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE
2021 International Borlaug Dialogue**

GAINING MOMENTUM:
**FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN THE DECADE OF ACTION
October 20–22, 2021 | Virtual**

WORKSHOP B

**ACCELERATING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES
TO PRODUCE MORE AND BETTER**

Hilary Barry - Facilitator

October 20, 2021 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Introduction

Barbara Stinson

President, World Food Prize Foundation

Greetings! And now we turn to another featured interactive partner workshop. This new element of the Borlaug Dialogue focuses on tools and programs transforming food systems through uncommon and diverse partnerships. Our second workshop presented by the LadyAgri Impact Investment Hub demonstrates what can be accomplished by taking a gender-smart investment approach to commodity and food production in Africa. This program is increasing equitable assets to resources for women in over a dozen countries across Africa. LadyAgri offers an exciting next hour with speakers from the international finance sector, agribusinesses, development institutions, and most importantly, women agripreneurs and women-led cooperatives. This workshop celebrates the successes already occurring in medium-sized, women-led agriculture value chains in Africa. The work of LadyAgri equips women-owned businesses to meet national food and market requirements through training, finance, networking and so much more. We are excited to shine the spotlight on an important role for women in agriculture through the substantial work already progressing in Africa.

Workshop Leaders

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| Taryn Barclay | Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement, Cargill |
| Hilary Barry | Founder and Secretary General, LadyAgri Impact Investment Hub |
| Jessica Espinoza | Vice President, Private Equity & Venture Capital, DEG/KfW |
| Josephine George Francis | President, Farmers Union Network of Liberia |
| Ayéle Gabiam | Co-Founder & Director of Partnerships, LadyAgri Impact Investment Hub |
| Gilbert Hougbo | President, International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| Leonard Mizzi | Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development |

Hilary Barry

Founder and Secretary General, LadyAgri Impact Investment Hub

Okay, good morning, good evening, wherever you're joining us from. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the LadyAgri workshop on *Accelerating Women's Access to Productive Resources to Produce More and Better*. But before we enter into discussions and formal introductions to our wonderful panelists, we would like you to come with us on the LadyAgri journey through a short video inviting you all to look through our lens. Thank you.

– VIDEO –

Look through our lens and see what we see – energy, determination, and pure tenacity. She rises every morning, frail, vulnerable? No way. She bears the strength of 10,000 armies, a locomotive driving forth, pulling so many wagons, trailblazing forward on and on. We stand in her corner. We stand by her side. We carry her when necessary – not aid but pride. She must reach her full potential, for behind her are thousands counting on her. With her comes a rising tide – daughters, sisters, sons. She carries them all. If she can make it, they too will rise. The movement, pure energy, positive, regenerating, renewing cyclical power. Just imagine, we can build together the highest tower. So we whisper together, and that whisper will become a roll. It's time to let her in and open the door. For she does not come alone, but with her an army 10,000 strong. Look through our lens and see what we see – energy, determination, and pure tenacity.

So give her the tools to grow, build and strive. If only the doors would open, then she and all behind her could thrive. Markets, banks – it's time to change. Let her in. Listen. It's a new age. Look through our lens and see what we see – energy, determination, and pure tenacity.

Thank you. So, welcome. We're honored to be hosting this workshop, and we want to take the opportunity, myself and my co-founder, Ayélé Gabiam, to extend our gratitude to the World Food Prize Foundation, especially to President Barbara Stinson, such an amazing gender champion, and her amazing team who brought all of us together today. We're joined by women agripreneurs from across the African Union and our partners and supporters here in Europe and the USA. So allow us to introduce our distinguished panel. We will be joined today by a video recording from President Gilbert Houngbo, from IFAD, also from Miss Josephine George Francis who is President of the Farmers Union Network of Liberia. We will be joined by Taryn Barclay, who is Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Relationships at Cargill. We will also be joined by Jessica Espinoza, who is the 2X Challenge chair and also the Gender Finance Lead for KfW/DEG, which is the German Development Finance Institute. Then we'll be followed by our good friend, Dr. Leonard Mizzi, who is the head of the DG for Planet and Prosperity at the DG of International Cooperation and Development of the European Union here in Brussels. So welcome to all of you.

Gilbert Houngbo, as I said, was not able to join us live, as I said, given his agenda. However, we are very, very thankful that, during a mission he had in Finland last week, he actually took the time to make a special message and register that for us. President Houngbo, his thoughts are

aligned fully with that of LadyAgri. And we share a common goal to accelerate women's access to productive resources. During President Houngbo's speech, there are a couple of photos from our recent field missions from LadyAgri to both Cameroon and Liberia, which was even as recent as last week. So we now know that those photos will remind us of today's conversation topic, which means it's the women who are driving our food systems. And our job today as LadyAgri is to keep these amazing ladies front and center to our discussions. So let's listen to the words now of President Houngbo. Thank you.

Message from President Gilbert Houngbo

Thank you for inviting me to talk today about a topic that is very dear to my heart. Women are playing an ever-more important role in producing the food we eat. In sub-Saharan Africa they are about 60% of those who work in agriculture. The wide-ranging benefits of investing in empowering women are well documented. If women in agricultural production worldwide had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30% and raise grower agricultural output by between 2.5 and 4%. When a woman earns more money, she tends to invest it in her family. That is good business that a woman's education, health, nutrition and decision-making power have a direct impact on the nutrition and health of her children and entire family.

But women around the world tend to be excluded or overshadowed by men when it comes to economic opportunities. We see this too in the rural communities where men all too often dominate the most profitable activities of marketing and selling farm produce, leaving women to the less profitable area of production. In addition, in some part of the world, the additional practices and attitudes are often entrenched in the rural communities. As a result, women have less access to education, less access to finance, and less access to productive resources such as land and water. Women spent far more time than men in unpaid work, cooking, fetching wood and water, and looking after the young and the elderly, leaving them less time for work that will generate income.

Today 80% of the world's poor and two-thirds of the hungry live in the rural areas and depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. Indigenous people, women and youth, are particularly vulnerable to poverty. Too often they are the ones most affected by climate change. At IFAD we know we will not fulfill our mandate to eliminate poverty and hunger in the rural areas unless we reach and empower women. That's why gender equality is an integral part of our programs and why women make up half of those reached by the projects we support.

At IFAD we talk about the most formative change in gender roles and relations. Working with local people, using our household methodologies has led to more men actively participating in domestic chores. Women have been more autonomy to make independent choices, including loans, and women buying and selling livestock and product produced. As a result, households enjoy greater food security and more children are attending school. We have also observed the marked reductions in gender-based violence. Increasing gender equality can deliver strong economic growth. It can help cut extreme poverty and reduce chronic hunger. It can promote peace, and it can benefit entire families and empower all those who face discrimination.

As we strive for more sustainable food systems and communities that are more resilient to climate change, women should be fully integrated into the business models of agriculture supply chains. Investing in rural women leaders and involving them more closely in creating our post-COVID future, is critical. As we learned the lessons of the pandemic and accelerate our battle against rural poverty, we must ensure

that women's perspectives and needs are considered. We must build back better with women at the forefront, food systems that provide equal access to nutritious food, and decent livelihoods for all. Thank you.

Hilary I think those words certainly ring home, and again some of the photos that we had inserted there really to keep us all focused on the fantastic ladies we're talking about. And President Houngbo mentioned that it's very important that we also support those leaders. And so I had the opportunity to spend last week with our next panelist, Mrs. Josephine George Francis, who's President of the Farmers Union Network, Liberia. She leads a network of 50,000 farmers. She's been a member of parliament in Liberia during President Ellen Sirleaf's tenure and has actively lobbied for women's access to land and resources. Last week with Josephine and her team, we visited three different counties to visit women's farmers associations and women cooperatives, their leaders in Bomi, Bong, and Montserrado counties. Our mission was part of our support to Alliances for Action, which is a regional support program being implemented by ITC, which is the International Trade Center and country partners producing Robusta coffee, and all of those countries are members of an organization called ACRAM. This is an EU co-finance program, and it's promoting inclusive agri value chains. So our focus is coffee, and needless to say, naturally enough, if LadyAgri's involved, it's to accelerate women and youth capacity within those coffee-producing countries. Josephine is joining us live tonight from Kigali, Rwanda, where she's attending the Pan-African Farmers Organization board meeting, which brings together all of the regional farmers organizations. Welcome, Josephine. We had an amazing week together. We were even invited to debrief with President Sirleaf herself on our mission. So tonight can you share with us what your priorities are right now to ensure women farmers have access to those productive resources we need so much to do more and better in the Liberian food system and especially in the post-COVID context, given Liberia is a post-conflict country and has also faced other challenges like we saw last week, like Ebola. Over to you, Josephine.

Josephine Thank you, Hilary, for the introduction. Good evening, everyone. Let me tell you a little bit about my small country. We are about 4.5 million people, and Liberia has 100... [connection issue] ... network of membership of 55,000 members, 18,000 women, 23,000 men, and 14,000 youth. The Farmers Union is strengthening women participation of all levels of the supply chain to improve processing through the coffee value chain in our country. With support from our partner, ITC, Alliance for Action we are training farmers on climate-smart agriculture that will increase the production and also create resilience because of the climate change and sustainable with building sustainable capacity and also making sure that they are trained on quality production. ITC, I work with Liberia for the last ten years, a different sector ... to have had the five days workshop with Hilary, who traveled to three counties, meeting rural farmers, female rural farmers, and telling her their stories, especially after the crisis, the ebola, and now in the COVID-19. Liberia has two varieties of coffee, the Robusta coffee and the Liberica coffee, which is native to our country – is strength and resilient of climate change and very valuable to climate change. The conversation is ongoing with the government of Liberia on sustainable Liberia indigenous food system to ensure food security. There are constraints and

challenges in all aspects of our food system. The COVID-19 pandemic was a very serious threat to our production ... a threat to smallholder farmers that depend on our neighboring countries for food. IFAD is also implementing a cocoa project with 10,000 farmers in Nemma County, their project costs 46.6 million dollars. We want our partners to also invest in microfinancing to the smallholder farmers.

Agriculture is a business, and we want to increase in trade and not aid. We are appealing to our partners to help us get there. We cannot do this alone. We need to stand on the shoulders of strong partners to invest in the women in agriculture production. When we support to link our farmers to digital banking, move our money, village and civil loans, which have very small percentage with women in our country. Women coffee producers and roasters. We need financial opportunities to invest into machinery, seeds, land and other agricultural inputs.

Our three three pillars are economic profitability, innovation and technology, and having access to market. Thank you.

Ayéle Thank you, thank you very much Josephine to have shared with us your journey and also all the challenges facing the women led businesses in Liberia. So now our next video will be showing LadyAgri research work that's here in partnership with the World Food Program Egypt. The civil society CSO and FAO. This showcase was the practical solution which can be put in place and make a difference in the women farmers' lives so they can make the link to the market and also ensure food security for their families. Thank you.

Video___ *In Egypt there are about 60,000 of them in every village in rural, you will have a Community Development Association. These are registered with the minister of social solidarity... All the loans and the kinds that we are doing is actually managed through the Community Development Associations.*

I got the idea to create a project, in order to increase my income, support my kids, and have my own self-made revenue. When a friend of mine noticed that I created my own project, and that it is very successful... And as I told her that I am now making my own income for me and my kids, and that I was doing well, she created a project as well by imitating my project idea. Her project was getting bigger, and it is now very successful and stronger, exactly like mine.

My daughter studies in college and I don't ask my husband for money, so getting money is easier for me now unlike in the past, back when life was very tough. So thank God for my niece Abir who received her education, and is working in the international World Food Program.

If any woman is going through the same situation I was going through, I advise her to start asking around and to look for ways to create her own project, in order to increase her income, and support her household, her husband and her kids.

—
Hilary So I think there we're looking at very practical solutions. And when we look at the response of these women, it shows how they really make the best when we actually give them the necessary support. And so I have the opportunity now to

first of all welcome our guest, Miss Taryn Barclay, who is Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Relations in Cargill.

We'd also take this opportunity to announce some news, literally fresh off the press, so to say. LadyAgri is launching a new program in Cameroon with the support of Cargill to our Ken Birdwell Foundation Fund in the U.S., and it's to specifically support women in cocoa-growing communities. And our program will focus on building agribusiness scales of women's organizations and women in cooperatives to produce more and better food and to access more profitable markets. We can see there the clear impact in Egypt.

So, Taryn, we all know the international weight of Cargill in our food systems and agri-value chains such as cocoa. What would be the priorities for Cargill right now? We're in uncertain times, as we all agree, coming out of COVID. So how are you tackling these social climate issues that we're all facing, but perhaps more so women, given our discussions this evening? And we know women are on the frontline when it comes to food insecurity, climate change, and obviously are the drivers of our sustainable food systems, but perhaps we need to be focusing more support. So it will be great to get your thoughts on that, Taryn. Thank you.

Taryn

Thank you so much, Hilary, and thanks for the opportunity to be part of this fantastic event and such a distinguished panel. So at Cargill our purpose is to be the leader in nourishing the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way. Global agriculture and global development are intrinsically connected, which is why we believe that agriculture is how we can also address the social and environmental challenges facing the sector. This includes the ability to close the gender gap by helping female farmers and women in agricultural communities to gain the equal access to the resources that they need, whether it's financing, education or economic opportunity.

Cargill is committed to advancing gender parity by empowering all women and girls, not just in our company but also across our supply chains. We see partnerships as a key way of helping to deliver on this. And in 2019 we launched a new phase of our engagement with CARE, a longstanding partner for Cargill, which more closely aligns to the She Feeds the World program, aimed at providing female farmers and their families around the world with education, resources and economic support to increase food and nutrition security and build climate resilience.

And a particular of example of the work that we do around the world in Cargill is through our cocoa business, which has made women's economic empowerment a cornerstone of the Cargill cocoa promise, which is our commitment to enabling cocoa farmers in their communities to achieve better incomes and living standards.

Our cocoa programs across our origin countries are shaped by activities focused on improving farmer and community livelihoods, encompassing training and coaching, environmental protection, technology and innovation, as well as that critical value of partnerships. And that's why engaging with organizations like LadyAgri is so important. And we're really pleased as well to also be starting this new collaboration with you in Cameroon, really collaborating to build a holistic

approach to how we can build technical and entrepreneurial capacity in cocoa-growing communities to really focus on upscaling women across the range of different dimensions.

And I think that's really the critical opportunity, because for me the best way that I think partnerships can really deliver impact and success is when we're leveraging unique expertise and technical knowledge of different partners. So Cargill bringing the contribution that we can make, our unique expertise, our technical contributions with the critical community development expertise and knowledge that our partners have.

And that when crisis hits, like something like we've experienced over the last year and a half, we really want to help communities to be better able to recover through the combination of the interventions and support that they receive, as well as the ability of all partners to quickly adapt. I think if anything this time has told us is the ability to be agile, to adapt and to embrace the learning of this time. We want agricultural communities to be inclusive and successful. We want women to be able to build their own resilience and ability to respond at all times and in particular in times of crisis.

So we really see the impacts that the power of partnerships offers us. In collaboration with others, we can achieve so much more than we can on our own. And by particularly focusing on female farmers and women in those agricultural communities, we can really help to increase their productivity and profitability with sustainable agricultural practices, helping them to be connected to more markets and building more resilient households and communities.

We're excited by the potential that partnerships offer us to deliver on this, and we really look for continued innovation and learning to help us grow and ensure that we deliver the impact that we're all aiming to achieve. So thank you for this opportunity to talk a little bit about the work that Cargill is doing and how we're really seeing the potential of partnerships such as we're embarking on with LadyAgri.

Ayélé

Thank you, thank you so much, Miss Barclay. We are really looking forward to working with Cargill. Your work really highlights the need for help of both the public/private society partnerships. Our next review now is from an international group of LadyAgri women like SMAs in Kenya who are working on the extremely important topic, which is the access to renewable energy, sustainable forestry, and clean cooking solutions in Kenya. There is an interesting link on how we produce foods, how we manage our environment, and we do need to take us from farmers to fork. Climate and food are interlinked, and our management of both are intrinsic to the sustainable food system. Take a look now.

– VIDEO –

I was introduced to bricks by my son, and he told me this was an alternative source of clean cooking fuel instead of charcoal. And he got me excited, because when I looked around in the rural area where I'm staying, everybody either cooked with charcoal or firewood.

Despite our voices over the last five, ten years, I just feel as though the issue of lack of clean cooking solutions, lack of sustainable cooking solutions is still yet to be heard.

Hilary So our next guest needs very little introduction. Jessica Espinoza is a true gender champion within and outside the impact investment arena. Jessica is chair of the 2X Challenge initiative, which brings together commercial development finance institutions who really want to move the dial and accelerate women's access to finance. Jessica is also the Gender Finance Lead for the German Development Bank here at KfW/DEG, a key investor in agri-value chains. Only a fortnight ago, Jessica led the organization of the Future of Impact Summit to mainstream the gender lens investment and support to girls and women. We're all working together to bridge those gaps, such as the finance divide and the digital divide.

Jessica, we've had many a heart-to-heart over the last year on how we need to provide relaxes to appropriate agri-finance to women-led SNEs and women in agri-value chains, and especially now, given the nexus between agriculture and climate change. So what, for you, were the priorities to ensure women are fully included in this post-COVID phase of building back better and within the context of the very fast-approaching COP26? Thanks, Jessica.

Jessica That was a nice introduction. Hi everybody. It's a great pleasure to be here and to see so many partners. As Hilary mentioned, the COVID's approaching end, I think kind of from my perspective looking at the last few years and also have we've navigated the crisis so far, the business case and the impacts case for investing with the gender and the climate lens, and especially putting women in agri-value chains at the forefront of the just recovery, I think that case is clear and is made.

What I see as the priority for the next six months is really to move from talking and recognizing the case to actual action. And that's why I'm particularly excited about the movement that LadyAgri is leading across the continent but also connecting with other women entrepreneurs and other networks really across the globe to give women who are in these rural areas, as we've seen on the videos, the voice, and really puts their perspectives at the center of our solutions. If we look back at why some of the solutions haven't worked in the past, I think it is often because we have made, we have designed these solutions without actually listening to the people we want to serve with our solutions.

So I was really inspired by the remarks that Taryn just made from Cargill about how they are partnering and the power of partnership, and that is something that I really see as our key priority under our new 2X collaborative industry body where we're bringing together the entire spectrum of investors. We're partnering with Cargill, with LadyAgri, with all of these players, to really develop holistic solutions that are tailored to the needs of real women on the ground who are so vital to the just recovery and to make sure that we break out of the silos and bring these different worlds together.

And Hilary just mentioned the Future of Impact Summit and all of these events have taken place, it's very interesting. I hear from one group of people worldwide that there's a financing gap, and then I go to the financing people, and they tell me that the capacity-building gap... And I think all the solutions are there, but they are

currently fragmented, and there's such a strong case for bringing it all together and just making the solutions more holistic and powerful.

I'm very much looking forward to engaging with all of you at the COP26 and beyond. We will be launching our new toolkit for gender and climate-smart investing, how you can integrate those lenses. And one of the key focus areas are women in agri-value chains and the agricultural sector. So I'm very much looking forward to our continued collaboration. Thank you so much.

Ayéle

Thank you very much Jessica, thank you very much. And we see that we need to break all those silos, and this is where also you can find LadyAgri. So now I'm very happy to welcome Mr. Leonard Mizzi. So for the short story of LadyAgri in 2016. We have paid particular attention to women's access to the different EU financial and support mechanisms put in place to strengthen the agri-value chain to boost trade and also the investment with the African small developing island states and also in the African Union.

So one of the reasons why we funded LadyAgri is to ensure that the women are in front and the center of the finance system and not the one at the end of the proposal. So now with the EU green deal and the farm to fork strategy, we are also measuring the potential positive and negative impacts for women within our food systems and agri-value chain. We had the opportunity to collaborate a few years ago, and in many occasions with the European Union to accelerate the gender equity and to ensure the mainstreaming of women particularly within the EU food system approach and also partner countries across the African Continent.

Now my question to you Dr. Leonard Mizzi, who is the head of the Unit for DG international partnerships is to know – What is the EU, the European Union doing at present to ensure that women stay front and center to our agriculture and food system approach with partner countries and regions? What are the key priorities?

Leonard

Thank you very much and good afternoon and good evening from Brussels, and good morning to other parts of the world. First of all, thanks to LadyAgri, and thanks to the participants of this event, because this comes one month after the U.N. Food Systems Summit, which amongst other issues, discussed very much gender equity and women empowerment when this was taken in action track 4, which was on the inclusive value chains.

First of all, I think what the European Union is doing is we are trying to be a trade-raiser in terms of the Gender Action Plan. You know that a year ago the European Union unveiled the Gender Action Plan, which will hold the EU accountable, not only in terms of process – because there is a sense of process – 85% of new initiatives in the extended action have to be gender-sensitive (that's one), measurability is another one, and this has to be pretty much mainstreamed. We speak about sustainable agri food systems, but also in your video clips – and this is a priority of our commissioner, Jutta Urpilainen – in her mandate. It is the dimension of putting human capital, human development at the core. Because this is much more beyond agri food systems. It is that link... It is that link when COVID is primarily a health issue which has ramifications beyond health. So health is at the core of the vision of the European Union in terms of extended

action. Education—COVID has also clearly had cracks in the education system. Kids could not go to school. This has an impact also on the productive capacity. And the European Union is giving a clear signal as we are now finalizing our programming, which is the financial package that was decided by our political masters and the institutions for the period 2021–2027. This would start being rolled out in the countries that you mentioned—Liberia, Senegal, Rwanda—across the globe with a clear priority on gender, on education, which has 20% component in terms of spending targets, 30% which has to be climate-sensitive, 10% which is digital. One of these challenges, that women empowerment and COVID and e-commerce and connectivity has showed this, that if you are not connected in a digital sense, that is also a digital divide, which is also impacting women empowerment.

So it is through a systems holistic approach that the EU is settling this at country level. And whenever you go to delegations, the first port of call that I tell you to not ease our delegation, because the activity will be dead. We are in the phase of designing the programs, and this is not only the Commission, this is also with our member states. Because if we don't really want to speak beyond process, I guess we can mention finance. I always say in big fora, we speak about lack of finance. But there is finance—it's the typology of finance that we need to speak about. We have plenty of instruments, and we have guarantees, but we also see that the guarantees schemes—and you are from KfW, and we speak of the European development finance institutions, there is still a big problem of derisking agriculture, and even more a bigger problem of derisking women leaders in agriculture value chain.

So the first thing we need to discuss and decide is how this derisking should take place. What are the typology of funds between microcredits, between planting, between guarantees where financial institutions can really derisk the operations that LadyAgri and its networks are doing? And primarily because financial institutions are some are very small ticket sizes. Everyone wants to go into big-ticket sizes, one million or more, but very few want to go into the small-ticket sizes. So this is what the European Union has been trying to do with its limits, because we also engage with the financial institutions. But we also saw that in the extended investment plan that in all the portfolio we had, we just had one proposal under agriculture. We are now preparing the next batch, and I hope that the likes of KfW, SMO, ASB and the financial institutions, EIB, put more emphasis sustainable agrifood systems with a woman-led.

Capacity—One of the big priorities that we have done in the past five years that I have been in this unit is giving capacity to farmers' organizations, in West Africa, in Asia, in Latin America. If we don't give the capacity to farmers' organizations—and that is why we are giving support to a lot of continental but also regional farmers' organizations—is farmers' organizations will not have the power to be protagonists in value chains. We spoke about cocoa. Hilary knows the work we have been doing in the past 12 months on sustainable cocoa in the market stakeholder approach, with also often a gender lens. This is hard work, if you really want to have a market stakeholder approach, market stakeholder being that you try to balance all the players within the value chain, including voices which are traditionally not heard, indigenous populations, women-led organizations, youth. We will not have agriculture food systems in 10, 15 years' time if we don't

attract youth to food systems as a business, not just as a default because you don't find a job.

So again this is the work that we want to do – market stakeholder, rights-based approach. But sometimes the voluntary approach or the business-as-usual approach is not working. That's why we will also come up with some regulatory approaches. Those in the cocoa value chain know that the Commission is in the stage of making a proposal – this is still a proposal – by the end of the year; it will be most probably November, on deforestation free the value chains. Cocoa is there because there is a problem of deforestation and also of child labor and human rights in the social dimension. You can't have prosperity of women empowerment is there no issue or tackling child labor, issues around education, education schemes for children, which create those safety nets. So it requires very much a policy approach at the robust, high-level, prime ministerial, presidential level, dismantling silos across ministries. This is not just for agriculture ministry, Ministry of the education, or the health ministry. This has to have strong inter-ministry buy-in but also with strong leadership at the highest level. Then the European Union will engage. The issue of financing per se is not the problem – it's a question of smart polysemics, which is targeted, which is gender-sensitive, and I think with players like LadyAgri, with the financial institutions, with the private sector, with women-led organizations, producer groups, youth organizations, civil societal organizations. They need to work smarter, better at country level.

So Hilary let's continue to work at country level, but hold us accountable if things are not working well, especially in terms of measurable targets. Because we will be heartfelt accountable on measurable targets in terms of the 85%, in terms of empowering real women in value chains, in terms of derisking, in terms of finance. And I think also there is an approaching moment to discuss with KfW and financial institutions how really we tackle the root causes of access to finance, especially on small-ticket sizes. This is going to be crucial, because beyond capacity, liquidity, especially in the post-COVID context or COVID context, is the main key concern a number of countries, especially in Africa. Over to you.

Hilary Okay, thank you so much, Leonard. I think we can feel the interest, the passion and the history again in looking at how we develop agriculture as well. And, yes, we will promise you we will be holding the European Union accountable. And I'm really watching out time, and I would really like to do the most important job of LadyAgri, which is really giving that voice back to the women agripreneurs and women leaders in the agri-value chain, and I hope the panelists understand that we're limited in time.

So I would like to get the reaction from Madame Josephine Francis, who is actually with all of the different farmers' organizations across Africa at the moment in Kigali. And I hope you can hear us, Josephine?

Josephine Yes, I'm here. I'm glad to hear the message from the European Union. I'm very excited. We here in Kigali for five days, and we here with 28 farmers' organizations, and most of the presentations were made, European Union was mentioned. So it's nothing new from European Union supporting farmers all of West Africa, East South Africa. So I'm looking forward to this and especially the

women who need support. So we will be counting and see that next year this time we would be able to implement the European Union project and the women in the cocoa sector and the coffee sector, when they hear this news, they will really embrace it and be ready to work hard. Because without food we'll not survive. So the theme for this workshop is: Feed Africa, feed the world, and empower women and youth in the agriculture sector. Thank you.

Hilary Thank you, thank you so much Josephine, I think, very well sums up the issue. And just to mention a couple of key points that were also made in the chat and I think were also key messages from our panelists – so first of all ensuring that women have actually to technical capacity building and access to appropriate agrifinance. We know that microfinance comes up short when we need to actually develop a business, when we need to finance according to seasonality, and we need longer tenures there; so that is a key, key issue for LadyAgri and our pillar 2 of our methodology. Our pillar 3 is always about access to equipment, technology, energy, farm inputs, processing, right through to packaging and appropriate packaging; and I think that's also a key issue when it comes to the green deal and circular economy and where we need to be asked if we're thinking about limiting future production of the ag receptor. And what has also come across from the panelists is that there is a real will to have innovation, public/private finance, civil society partnerships. None of the organizations can do it alone, and we need to be answering all of those needs I mentioned earlier and that Madame Josephine also highlighted. And obviously we need to be producing for markets, and we need sustainable food, but we also need to have agriculture which is generating income, and viable income, so it's there to pay the health fees, pay the education fees, and make sure that our next generation can go forward. And so in terms of timing, I'm looking to our organizers. I think we respected the time with all and for myself. Ayélé, would you like to say some parting words?

Ayéle Yeah, I just want to say thank you again to the World Food Prize Foundation team, to all the panelists. Thank you for joining us. Thank you for joining the LadyAgri journey. And, yes, over to you, Hilary. Thank you very much.

Hilary So, yes, we celebrated our third birthday last week, and we hope we'll be going forward in partnership with all of you in the next few years. I'm very keen to get back to our ladies in Cameroon and Liberia and other countries and Guinea shortly, and because that's what we're all about. So thank you to everybody. Taryn, fantastic to have you with us. Jessica, thanks so much, and Leonard, Josephine, and to Gilbert, who really made a special time to actually make that recording for us. And thank you to all of those who participated. Thank you.