Obeng-Fosu Akua Afriyie
Miss Agriculture Ghana 2018
Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana

Obeng-Fosu Akua Afriyie is an Agriculturist and mushroom farmer. She is currently working with the Adenta Municipal Assembly Department of Agriculture and has been employed by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for 6 years. In October 2018, she was crowned the first Miss Agriculture Ghana. The initiative is organized by Uniting Women in Agriculture Development and Women in Agriculture Development to encourage younger women to take up agribusiness as a means of livelihood.

Ade Freeman
Regional Programme Leader, FAO

Ade Freeman provides leadership for formulation, implementation, monitoring and reporting of FAO’s overall programme of work in Africa. He also supports the FAO Assistant Director General/Regional Representative in collaboration with FAO Representatives in engaging Member Governments in formulating and implementing the Organization’s work in response to regional priorities within the context of FAO’s Strategic Programmes. He holds a PhD in Applied Economics from University of Minnesota and is an alumni of several corporate leadership and management programs.

Denis Childs
Head of Positive Impact Finance, Societe Generale

Denis Childs began his career at Societe Generale in 1978. He created the “Global Commodity Fund” (“Debt Fund”) and “Agrofinanzas,” a “Sofol” in Mexico (“Farmer Financing”). He is now in charge of all CIB ‘Positive Impact Finance including Environmental and Social Advisory. He is also a leader in the “Positive Impact Finance Initiative of UNEP-FI (United Nation Environmental Program Financial Initiative). He now focuses on developing impact based finance to the UN Sustainable Development Goals in such areas as Smart Cities, Energy Efficiency, Mobility, Food Security, Healthcare and Social inclusion.
Gebru Jember Endalew  
Former LDC Group Chair, LIFE-AR Champion, Ethiopia

As a delegate of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Gebru Endalew has been involved in negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change since 2008. Having been a core team member of the Ethiopian Negotiating team, he was elected Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group in the climate change negotiations process for a two-year term, beginning in January 2017. Gebru holds a BSc in Physics and Mathematics from Addis Ababa University, an MSc in Meteorology and Air Quality from Wageningen University.

Pauline Nantongo Kalunda  
Executive Director, Ecotrust, Uganda

Pauline Nantongo Kalunda has more than twelve years of experience in carbon finance transactions. As an expert in establishing and managing conservation financing mechanisms, Pauline has successfully negotiated and implemented carbon finance agreements with various institutional and retail buyers. She has been trained by the UN-REDD Academy in all aspects of REDD design and implementation and has a wealth of knowledge in translating international frameworks into contractual arrangements with local communities.

Pa Ousman Jarju  
Director, Division of Country Programming, Green Climate Fund Secretariat, South Korea

Pa Ousman Jarju is Director of GCF's Country Programming Division. Formerly, he was the Gambian Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources and Chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Pa Ousman was Special Climate Change Envoy of the Gambia and has extensive diplomatic experience across the 47 LDCs, China, the United States and the European Union. He has gained wide-ranging managerial experience in the Gambia's Department of Water Resources as its Director.
Marek Soanes
Researcher, Climate Change, IIED

Marek Soanes’ work focuses on climate finance, including research to help shape the new generation of finance for development, to delivering capacity building to improve developing countries ability to access, absorb and mobilise finance. He is particularly interested in delivering interconnected actions at the international and national level that help channel finance in a way that promotes pro-poor investment in low-carbon climate-resilient development. Presently, he is researching ways shape international funds that promote local level activities in both climate change mitigation and adaptation, and deliver local developmental benefits on the ground.

Akwasi Tagoe
Team lead for Locagro and co-founder of Nocofio

Akwasi Tagoe is an agriculture and sustainable development professional with experience in project management, budgeting and financial management, agribusiness development and food production. His work currently focuses on financial analysis, development of project work plans and budgets for projects and agribusiness consultancy. He also co-founded a convenient grocery delivery company known as Fresh233 (www.fresh233.com) dedicated to providing technical support to farmers.

Akwasi holds a Masters’ degree in Agricultural and Environmental Science from Newcastle University

Asma Zaouali Rouissi
Strategy and Development manager
Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (Tunisia)

Asma Rouissi supports the Tunisian energy and ecological transition program at the CDC. She also serves as the secondary focal point of CDC for accreditation to the Green Climate Fund. Currently, she is developing a strategy for the CDC to play a role in the carbon market and support the Tunisian energy transition, as well as to make more green the CDC’s portfolio and to better target mitigation and adaptation projects.