

# Session Brief

## Tackling enabling environment issues for scaling women agribusinesses in Southern and Central Africa

Date: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023@ 14h00 – 1600 SAST

Format: Hybrid

Venue: [ICC- Durban](#)

### Synopsis

Tackling enabling environment issues for scaling women agribusinesses in Southern and Central Africa  
Agribusinesses are seen as an engine for growth in most African countries and are recently receiving increased attention in policies and strategies that aim to promote and develop sustainable agribusiness value chains. However, women agribusinesses are still engulfed with numerous challenges which are different from men, ranging from climate change to under-developed investor ecosystems, lack of access to resources and lack of market access. Climate change has threatened livelihoods and impacted agribusinesses, hence the need for identifying the appropriate preventive interventions. This has prompted a need for the WE4F Southern and Central Africa and the AICCRA project to provide technical assistance support to innovators on issues relating to enabling an environment for a conducive business climate and for innovators to be able to safeguard their livelihoods in the face of climate change.

AICCRA aim to provide access to climate information services and scale climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies/practices to agribusinesses in Africa. With the support of AICCRA, farmers and livestock keepers will be able to better anticipate climate-related events and take preventative actions, with better access to climate advisories. The project hopes to improve water, food, and energy security through access to knowledge, technologies, and decision-making tools. On the other hand, the Water Energy for Food (WE4F) is designed to support the scaling-up of innovations in the water-energy-food nexus across 12 countries in the Southern and Central Africa1 region. Both projects are supporting innovators in Africa with the hope of increasing the sustainability of agricultural food value chains and improving climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity in emerging markets with a specific focus on closing the gender gap.

### Organisers

1. Winnie Kasoma Pele ([W.Pele@cgiar.org](mailto:W.Pele@cgiar.org))- IWMI Research associate (Zambia)
2. Ms Bhekiwe Fakudze ([Bhekiwe.Fakudze@cgiar.org](mailto:Bhekiwe.Fakudze@cgiar.org))- IWMI Research officer (South Africa)

### Moderators:

1. Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata ([I.Jacobs-Mata@cgiar.org](mailto:I.Jacobs-Mata@cgiar.org)) IWMI-South Africa Country Representative.
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2. Dr Idil Ires ([I.Ires@cgiar.org](mailto:I.Ires@cgiar.org)) IWMI-South Africa Postdoctoral Fellow

### Presenters

1. Judith Marera ([judith@lanforce.co.zw](mailto:judith@lanforce.co.zw)) Lanforce Energy Founder and CEO (Zimbabwe).  
Judith Marera is the founder and CEO of Lanforce Energy a women-led, for-profit social enterprise in the renewable energy sector. Born and raised in rural Zimbabwe she realised the challenges that women and children go through in search of firewood for cooking. Her background supplemented with her experience at the Meteorological Services Department and the World Meteorological Organisation, urged her to find solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change. She is a Woman in Africa 2021 laureate (WIA54), 2021 Tony Elumelu Foundation entrepreneurship program beneficiary, 2021 Small and Medium Enterprises Association Zimbabwe (SMEAZ)and



the Chartered Institute of Project Managers Zimbabwe (CIPMZ) award winner. 2021 Uplink World Economic Forum Climate Justice Challenge Top Innovator. In 2022 Judith was recognised as Zimbabwe's influential woman in project management (Renewable energy solutions) by CIPMZ.

2. Precious Greehy ([precious.greehy@solidaridadnetwork.org](mailto:precious.greehy@solidaridadnetwork.org)) Solidaridad Head of Gender and Youth (South Africa).



A qualified and experienced Development Practitioner and Social Scientist with a demonstrated history of working in the local, regional and international development industry. Skilled in Programme Development and Leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Social Inclusion, Data Analysis/Research, Strategic Planning, Youth Development and Capacity Building. Strong community and social services professional with a Master of Social Science - MA focused in Cultural studies and Media studies from the University of KwaZulu-

Natal. Honors and Bachelor degrees in Development studies from the University of South Africa.

3. Katherine Milling ([katherine@naturesnectarzambia.com](mailto:katherine@naturesnectarzambia.com)) Nature's Nectar Limited Co-Founder and CEO (Zambia).



Katherine first came to Zambia in 2014 as a Peace Corps volunteer. While working with her community in Northwestern Province, she was exposed to the history and impact of beekeeping on the people in the area. Katherine has been working with rural Zambian beekeepers in Field Operations since she finished Peace Corps, and is passionate about protecting the local environment. Katherine is a Co-Founder and CEO of Nature's Nectar.