

# Session Brief

## Side Event: Challenges and opportunities for Extension and Advisory Services within the African Continental Free Trade Area

Date: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023@ 1100 – 1300 SAST

Format: Hybrid (physical and virtual)

Venue: CAPE TOWN A

Link: Skype: <https://meet.nwu.ac.za/simon.letsoalo/G5Z4KSNW>

Teams: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

### Synopsis

This parallel session will deliberate on challenges faced by smallholder farmers to partake in cross border trade and opportunities presented through agricultural extension and advisory services for effective capitalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. It will also facilitate robust discussion on the implications to market driven agricultural extension. The objective of the session is to unpack AEAS specific challenges and opportunities presented through the AfCFTA development process and explore agricultural extension models in relation to cross border market access for small-scale farmers toward realizing AfCFTA agreement. The anticipated outcome include:

- Formulation of solutions to the identified encountered key challenges and opportunities in the AFCFTA agreement with specific reference to agricultural extension and advisory services (AEAS)
- Development of a new vision in agricultural extension deployment and practice towards attaining the AfCFTA objectives

### Program

Sr	Time	Activity	Facilitator
A	TB	1. Opening remarks	Dr Silim Nahdy, Executive Director, AFAAS
		2. Purpose and objectives of the side event	Prof. SS Letsoalo, Chairperson, SAFAEAS
B	TB	3. Keynote address.	'Challenges and opportunities for Extension and Advisory Services within the African Continental Free Trade Area' By Prof. Oladele Idowu, UKZN
C	TB	4. Moderated panel discussions, facilitated Dr Sandile Ngcamphalala (GSA)	DALRRD Trade Directorate (Speaker TBC) Prof Victor Mmbengwa (UL) Dr. Phokele Maponya (ARC) Dr. Paul Fatch (AFAAS) Farmer nominated by Dr Sandile Ngcamphalala (GSA) Mr Tshililo Mathidi (AFASA) FANRPAN/CCARDESA nominée
D	TB	5. General discussion	Facilitates question & answer and comments
E	TB	6. Closing and way forward	Mr. Max Olupot Director: Programmes ,AFAAS Mr Winston Makabanyane (DALRRD)

### Speakers



**Prof Idowu Oladele**  
University of KZN



**Mr IW Makabanyane**  
Director: Africa Trade Promotion, DALRRD



**Dr Prof SS Letsoalo**  
Head of Department: Agricultural Economics & Extension, North West University



**Dr Phokele Maponya**  
Senior Researcher: Smallholder Farmer & Enterprise Development, Agricultural Research Council (ARC)



**Prof VM Mmbengwa**  
Executive Director, Dihwai Food Cultural & Agricultural Services Centre



**TW Mathidi,**  
Member & Chairperson, ASA



**Mr. Max Olupot**  
Director of Programmes: AFAAS



**Dr Silim Nahdy**  
Executive Director: (AFAAS)

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