



## **Brussels Rural Development Briefings**

**A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues**

### **Briefing session n° 18 Humanitarian assistance and rural development: responding to new challenges**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – 8h30 – 13h00**

**<http://brusselsbriefings.net>**

### **Biodata of speakers**

#### **Luca Alinovi - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Luca Alinovi is a senior Economist, at the Agricultural and Development Economics Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He has been leading and managing programmes and leading research on food security and agriculture policy analysis in protracted crisis for the last 15 years, both in headquarters and in Eastern and Western African countries. Alinovi has worked as a food security analyst and agricultural economist for FAO, the Italian Development Cooperation, private sector companies and the University of Florence. He has published papers on food security and complex emergencies with the Accademia dei Lincei, ODI Disasters, and recently has been a guest editor for both the special issue of Disasters on food security and complex emergencies and the book "Beyond Relief: Food security in Protracted Crises". An Italian national, he has an MSc from the Università di Firenze, Faculty of Tropical Agriculture (Agricultural Economics) and a PhD in Agricultural and Natural Resources Economics.

#### **Kiflemariam Amdemariam - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Kiflemariam Amdemariam holds MSc in Agricultural Economics and PhD in Organization and Management of Agricultural Production. He has worked for the Ethiopian Ministry of State Farms in 1983-84. He has worked, in different positions, for the Ethiopian government Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) for 11 years. He joined the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in 2000 and worked as head of Disaster Preparedness and Response Unit mainly focussing on food security issues for 5 years and acting head of programmes for one year. He joined the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Eastern Africa Zone Office and worked as Food Security Delegate, from beginning of 2006 until end of March 2009. Since April 2009, he has been working as Senior Officer Food Security, for the IFRC Secretariat Geneva.

#### **Marc Debois – European Commission/DG Development**

Marc Debois is an agronomist and chemist by training from the University of Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL-Belgium). During its career of some 20 years in the Commission, he has acquired expertise in various policy areas such as chemicals, environment, agriculture and development policies. He is currently Deputy Head of Unit at the Directorate General Development of the European Commission (Unit "Sustainable management of natural resources"). In the last years, he has been particularly in charge of rural development, food security and agricultural research files, among which the negotiations of the EU Food Facility, the multiannual programming of the EC food security thematic

programme, the 2010 Commission Communication for a renewed EU Food security policy, and related international issues (Global Donor Platform on Rural Development, G8, CGIAR reform, FAO reform etc).

### **Jan Kellett - Global Humanitarian Assistance**

Jan Kellett is the leader of the Global Humanitarian Assistance programme at Development Initiatives. Prior to joining the GHA programme he spent more than 10 years working in some of the most complex humanitarian and recovery contexts, mostly for the United Nations. He has worked in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Indian Kashmir, Nepal, Bangladesh, Namibia, Jordan, and the Balkans and brings a range of experience in post-conflict and post-disaster settings, from the management of post-conflict recovery programmes at field level through to senior level UN coordination and leadership duties. In the four years leading up to joining Development Initiatives, Jan was senior advisor to various UN resident and humanitarian coordinators.

### **Laura Melo – World Food Programme**

Laura Melo is in charge of Communications for Purchase for Progress (P4P) and the focal point for Central America in the P4P Coordination Unit. A Portuguese national, Laura Melo, has been with WFP for the past nine years where she has worked in fundraising, communications and project coordination in Eastern Africa and in HQ, with shorter assignments in Laos and in Central America. Her career at WFP followed 10 years as a BBC journalist in London covering world affairs with particular emphasis on Africa. She has also worked at UNHCR and at the UN mission in Angola. Laura Melo has a master from the London School of Economics and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Portugal.

### **Jacques Prade – DG AIDCO, European Commission**

Jacques Prade is the Head of sector Food Security/Nutrition and LRRD at DG Aidco (Natural Resources Unit) being in charge of the overall follow-up for Food Security Thematic Budget Line, Food Facility & Geographic Programmes, the coordination of LRRD/Transition Inter Service Group and the supervision for the preparation of guide lines pertaining to Nutrition, LRRD-transition and social transfers. He had a one year experience within DG RELEX in the unit dealing with Protection - Prevention and crisis management. From 2003 to 2007 he worked as Head of the Food Security/Rural Development Section at the EC Delegation in Sudan being involved in policy definition and negotiation with the Governments of Sudan, managing and implementing programmes in the area of Rural Development/ Food Security and managing the staff. He had previous experiences with DG Agriculture and DG Development of the European Commission and started his career in France, working on the implementation of regional policies supporting rural and agricultural communities.

### **Kathrin Schick - Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE)**

Kathrin Schick has more than 20 years of experience in the development sector. Since 2001, she is the Director of the VOICE\* network, bringing together 86 Humanitarian NGOs in Europe. She worked in organizations such as the Norwegian Red Cross and Norwegian People's Aid, as well as for the Directorate for Immigration of Norway, focusing on refugee issues and programs in South America. She subsequently gained field experience in Guatemala as Protection Officer for the UNHCR and consultant for CARE International. As Deputy Secretary General of the SOLIDAR network, she worked for seven years mainly on EU development policies and education campaigns. Her educational background is in Social Anthropology and Business Administration from Oslo University, Norway.

## **Laurent Thomas – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Laurent Thomas is Director of the Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division at the FAO. He is responsible for all activities of the Organization in the field of preparedness and response to food and agriculture disasters and crises. Mr. Thomas is a French national, graduated from the Higher Institute for Overseas Techniques (ISTOM), Le Havre, in France. He holds a Diploma of Specialized Higher Studies in Agricultural Development from the University of Paris I, Panthéon Sorbonne and a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Development Geography at the University of Paris X. He began his career with an integrated development project, funded by the European Union in Sierra Leone. He was successively a researcher and project manager in Guinea Bissau, Special Adviser to the Institute of Research and Training for Development in Paris, France, Consultant for the French Development Agency in Angola, then a researcher at the International Agronomic Research Centre for Development (CIRAD) in Montpellier, France. Mr. Thomas joined the FAO in 1990 as an expert in research and popular science in Angola. Since then he held positions of increasing responsibility within the Organization on the field and to the headquarters. These various roles have led him to missions of support and supervision in a large number of countries on all continents.

## **Nicholas Weatherill – DG ECHO, European Commission**

Nicholas Weatherill is Policy Coordinator in the area of Humanitarian Food Assistance at DG ECHO, European Commission. He is principally tasked to lead the development of a sectoral policy in the form of an EU Communication on Humanitarian Food Assistance (adopted in March 2010), in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of EU efforts to tackle hunger in emergencies. He worked previously as Regional Humanitarian Advisor and Senior Programme Officer and Deputy Manager of Advisory Team for the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID) providing advice on its humanitarian policies, strategies and projects across 22 countries in Africa. He has several field experiences, being DG ECHO's field coordinator for several African countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia and Namibia). Mr. Weatherill received two DFID "outstanding achievement" awards for managing DFID's response to the 2005 Sahel crisis, and developing the 2004 institutional partnership with WHO for Health Action in Crisis.

## **Doekle Wielinga - World Bank**

Doekle Wielinga is the team leader of sustainable recovery (Track III) and deputy manager of the Secretariat of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) at the World Bank in Washington, DC. As team leader, Mr. Wielinga manages the Standby Recovery Financing Facility (SRFF) and leads in particular GFDRR work on Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs) including the recent one in Haiti. As deputy manager, he assists in the day-to-day management and strategic oversight of GFDRR operations. As senior disaster risk management specialist, he has more than 15 years of experience with the World Bank, the UN and international NGOs in international recovery, reconstruction, and risk reduction programs—as well as agency representation in different regions of the world. Mr. Wielinga is a Dutch national and holds a Master's Degree in Geography from the University of Amsterdam.