



London Climate Action Week Event hosted by the Ban Ki-moon Centre and RELX Group

Delivering Climate Adaptation Action for Agriculture in Africa ***Unlocking the UK's Leadership Potential***

27 June 2023, 12:00 - 14:00 pm BST
RELX Group Offices, 1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5JR, UK

Objective: This roundtable event shall gather UK stakeholders and decision makers to discuss efforts being made with regards to international climate adaptation activities. Reflecting on examples and success stories from Sub-Saharan Africa within the field of agricultural adaptation to climate change, the conversation should highlight how the UK should expand its leadership position for climate action.


Audience: The 1.5 hr roundtable shall take place in-person during the London Climate Action Week to leverage a broad reach and prominent positioning of the topic to UK decision makers, international organizations and civil society.

Registration Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/delivering-climate-adaptation-action-for-agriculture-in-africa-tickets-640613210357?aff=oddtcreator>

Suggested Social Media Post: [Access more suggestions and speaker visuals here.](#)

I am looking forward to discussing how the #UK can expand its leadership role for #climateadaptation in agriculture and hearing success stories by African farmers in in this field. 🌱

Join me in person on June 27 for London Climate Action Week 
<https://bankimooncentre.org/LCAW23>

Questions:**Peter Bentley (8 mins):**

You and I last saw each other at the Bonn Intersessional meetings in early June, the mid-way point to COP28. We are all hoping for a global goal for adaptation to be agreed by December this year. How are we doing on that front? Are we on the right track as a global community? Where do you see particular challenges and are there any positive predictions you could make?

Sasha Abraham (8 mins):

The Climate Change Committee is an organization that critically assesses the UK's climate change strategy, and you were one of the authors of the latest report on COP27: Key outcomes and next steps for the UK. What did your report find when it comes to the UK's role as a global leader in climate change, especially when we look at adaptation. Can the UK still be called a leader? Why is that so?

Vidhisha Samarasekara (8 mins):

Turning to the aspect of research, development and innovation. Where is there an opportunity in the kind of research you do in London that could be of benefit for farmers in the UK as well as smallholder farmers in the Global South? Can you please give us some best practice examples? Where do you see more need for research in particular?

All (4 mins each):

At the moment it isn't likely that the global community will achieve the 50:50 split between financing of mitigation measures and adaptation. The London Climate Action Week very much represents the continuous focus on mitigation as well. On top of that, we just heard the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon mention that of the overall funds for adaptation, only 1.7 % really end up with smallholder farmers in the global south.

Where do you personally see an opportunity for the UK to take on a more prominent role in supporting the most vulnerable to adapt to climate change?

Back Up All (4 mins each):

Why do you think that climate adaptation still doesn't get the same amount of attention from the global community as mitigation does? What can we all – civil society, academia, think tanks, governments, and the private sector – do to help give elevate the topic, especially when it comes to supporting smallholder farmers?

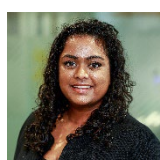
(After audience Q&A) Conclusion (1 mins each):

What's the one thing you still wanted to say, but didn't get a chance to say yet?

Agenda:

Time [BST]	Segment	Speakers	Format
Noon (30 min)	Networking	Sandwich Lunch	In-person
12:30 pm (2 min)	High-level introductory remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SG Ban Ki-moon, Former Secretary General of the UN 	(video)
12:32 pm (5 min)	Official Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Márcia Balisciano, RELX Group 	In-person
12:37 pm (3 min)	Success Story from Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AICCRA demonstration field of Ghana 	(video)
12:40 (10 min)	Keynote on Adaptation for Smallholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vidhisha Samarasekara, International Water Management Institute 	In-person
12:50 (40 min)	Panel Discussion incl. Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: BKMC COO Katrin Harvey Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Bentley, FCDO Sasha Abraham, The CCC Vidhisha Samarasekara, International Water Management Institute 	In-person
1:30 pm (15 min)	Audience Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Max 3-5 questions from Audience 	In Person
1:45 pm (3 min)	Success Story from Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tabitha Gichiru, Kenya, BKMC Youth AgriChampion 	(video)
1:48 (2 min)	Wrap-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BKMC COO Katrin Harvey 	In-person
1:50 (5 min)	Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Márcia Balisciano, RELX 	In-person
2:00 (5 min)	End of Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 minutes buffer time 	

Speaker Bios:



Sasha Abraham is the Senior Analyst for International Climate Action at the UK's Climate Change Committee (the CCC). Within the CCC's wider work of assessing and advising on the UK Government's progress on climate change, Sasha focuses on exploring what international climate leadership looks like for the UK, assessing the impact of global shifts on the UK's domestic decarbonisation and adaptation efforts and sharing lessons from the CCC's journey with countries across the world. From 2020 – 2022, she covered climate diplomacy and negotiations in the office of the COP26 President, the Rt Hon Sir Alok Sharma KCMG MP and has previously worked on climate and research across several Government departments.



Peter Bentley is the Head of the Adaptation and Resilience team at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). In this role he manages a team covering adaptation policy and programs, as well as the adaptation and loss and damage UNFCCC negotiations for the FCDO. He previously led on disaster risk financing and insurance for the FCDO and helped set up the Centre for Disaster Protection, which aims to find better ways to stop disasters devastating lives and economies, by supporting countries to better manage disaster risk. Prior to this he worked in humanitarian response for Save the Children, working across East Africa in South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia on first phase and chronic emergencies.



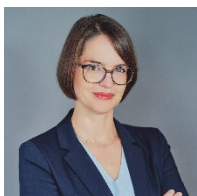
Dr. Vidhisha Samarasekara is the Strategic Program Director – Water Climate Change and Resilience. At IWMI, Vidhisha provides scientific leadership and overall direction for the program, champions its vision, inspires, and guides multi-disciplinary teams addressing climate change adaptation, climate-smart agriculture, water risk management, disaster risk reduction and resilience to water-related drivers of fragility and societal disruption. Before IWMI Vidhisha held senior staff positions with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) where she contributed towards the development of key climate change adaptation policy and legislation development across South Asia. She has designed and led major environmental and climate finance initiatives with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Climate Investment Fund (CIF), and UKAid. Vidhisha also served as Director for KPMG’s International Development Advisory Services in East Africa where she oversaw the delivery of UKAid to the BRACED program (Building resilience and adaptation to climate extremes and disasters program) which provided funding for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to build the resilience of people to extreme climate events in selected countries in the Sahel, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.



Tabitha is founder of a women-owned agri-enterprise, Tabikon Solutions, in Gatundu North Subcounty, Kenya. Macadamia, pineapples and avocados are amongst the crops cultivated there. The enterprise seeks to be at the forefront of practical actions to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes of farmers locally. It strives to achieve this by aggregating produce from local farmers, offering an extra market and income to these local farmers. Additionally, indigenous trees are now being grown on their land to act as carbon sinks.



Dr. Márcia Balisciano leads corporate responsibility at RELX Group, a global provider of information and analytics focused on science and health, risk and business, legal and exhibitions, with more than 30,000 employees and offices in 40 countries. Chair of the United Nations Global Compact UK and the UK National Crime Agency’s Child Rescue Alert Development Board, she is founding director of London Museum and educational facility Benjamin Franklin House and previously was special advisor to the American Chamber of Commerce (UK). A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, she holds an International Relations MA from the University of Chicago, and an Economics PhD from the London School of Economics. She was named Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen’s 2007 Birthday Honours.



Katrin Harvey has over a decade’s experience in sustainability, climate change, clean energy, and organizational management. Having lead business development, strategic growth, and communications at REEEP, she combines her academic background in language studies and international development to enhance the impact of non-profit organizations. With her track record of project management in Africa and Asia, focusing on capacity building, market development, and public-private dialogue she has been successful in creating lasting results in empowering local communities. Her focus has been on sustainability in agri-food value chains and in managing international knowledge exchange amongst experts in energy efficiency, energy regulation, and international law.