

**MENTEE****Yvette Sivaketya**

Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Variété Sud



Democratic Republic of the Congo

She is an entrepreneur passionate about transforming the African food system through the valorization of sesame as a sustainable solution to local nutritional and economic challenges. Coming from an agricultural family, Yvette grew up at the heart of Congolese rural realities. She holds a bachelor's degree in human medicine from the Catholic University of Graben (Butembo, North Kivu) and completed several clinical internships in high health-risk areas, where she was confronted with severe nutritional deficiencies affecting children, pregnant women, and vulnerable populations. This observation deeply motivated her commitment to promoting sesame as a rich and accessible food, in service of public health and local nutrition. First Runner-Up "Resilient and Inspirational Leader" of the Value4Her Women Agripreneur Awards (MAYA 2025), One Young World – Global Health Academy scholar, and 2024 alumna of the Business & Entrepreneurship program of the YALI Dakar Regional Leadership Center, Yvette is committed to building local solutions with high nutritional, social, and economic impact.

Variété Sud

Is an agri-food company based in the Democratic Republic of Congo, operating in the provinces of North Kivu and Haut-Uélé. The company specializes in the cultivation, packaging, and marketing of sesame, a strategic oilseed crop with high nutritional and economic potential. Thanks to a strong presence on the ground and direct collaboration with more than 200 smallholder farmers, it ensures the cultivation, collection, sorting, cleaning, and packaging of raw sesame in suitable formats (from 500 g to 50 kg), with labelling compliant with traceability standards. Currently in a strong growth phase, Variété Sud aims to become a key player in the sesame value chain in Africa. Rich in proteins, essential fatty acids, calcium, iron, and antioxidants, sesame is an essential food for health and development. Under the leadership of Yvette Sivaketya, Variété Sud follows an approach that combines public health, nutrition, and inclusive entrepreneurship, while contributing to the empowerment of women and the resilience of rural communities.

**MENTOR****Regine Ezzo Didi Meliou**

Regional Tax Manager
Olam Food Ingredients (ofi)