Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

emerging ag inc.

Accelerator Programme for Women-led SMEs in Sub-Saharan Africa by FAO and Emerging Ag

Business Development and Marketing Workshop

12 November 2026 via Zoom Meetings

15:00 – 17:00 CET

Speakers' Biographies



Robynne Anderson

President

Emerging ag inc.

As a global thought leader on food and agriculture, with expertise in issues management and strategic development across the entire value chain, Robynne advises a broad range of clients from government leaders to business captains, farmers, food processors and researchers through her company Emerging ag. She often represents organizations at the United Nations, bringing the voice of agriculture, food and health in intergovernmental processes. Her savviness at international diplomacy brought topical issues to global prominence, such as the role of women in agriculture, governance of land tenure, responsible agricultural investments, importance of tackling food waste, and the urgency for global sustainability.

Prior to founding Emerging ag Inc, she established and ran for almost 20 years Issues Ink, a leading publishing company specializing in agriculture. She is also involved in her family farm in Dugald, Manitoba, Canada and is a founder of the Manyinga school project that supports orphans to learn agricultural skills through schools which in 2021 became Farmers Abroad Canada, a not-for-profit charitable organization focused on supporting agricultural education in African countries.

In 2017, Robynne became the youngest person inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame, one of the only 11 women in the Hall. She serves on a number of international boards and received the 2018 Demeter Award for Women in Agriculture.



Lauren Michelle Phillips

Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division (PSU)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

Nations (FAO)

Lauren M. Phillips is a political economist and currently Deputy Director for the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Prior to joining FAO in 2021, she worked in a variety of policy, strategy and advisory roles at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) from 2015–2021. Lauren has also worked in academia, think tanks and the private sector. She holds a PhD in international political economy from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and master's and bachelor's degrees from Stanford University.



Louise O'Shea

Senior Director, Global Brand Marketing
Cargill

Louise O'Shea is Senior Director, Global Brand Marketing at Cargill, where she has worked on the global Cargill brand since April 2022. Cargill is a family company committed to providing food and agricultural solutions to nourish the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way. Before joining Cargill, Louise was Global Marketing Director at Inspired Education Group. Previously, at Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., she served as Interim Head of Marketing for the Nordic region and then as AVP E-Commerce EMEA, building an EMEA e-commerce hub spanning analytics, CRM, web and digital marketing. She also founded Gosh Service Design in 2018 and is co-founder of ZenMedix, which is dedicated to supporting clinicians. With 25 years of global marketing and branding expertise, Louise specialises in brand management and strategy, digital marketing and e-commerce, digital transformation, service design and employer branding. Based in London, she brings extensive insight into building trusted, enduring brands.



Denyse Uwera

Visual Design Strategist
Emerging ag inc.

Denyse, a Rwanda-based multifaceted content creator, joined Emerging in the role of Visual Design Strategist. She blends visual communication with a decade of expertise, collaborating with farmers, cooperatives, agribusinesses, and development organizations in East-Central Africa. Her specialization lies in visual brand development and digital marketing campaigns. Prior to joining Emerging, Denyse collaborated with notable organizations such as GIZ, the Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture (RICA), Fairtrade Deutschland, Agriterra Congo, and various international coffee partners from Rwanda, Australia, Europe, and the USA. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Creative Design from the National University of Rwanda, she is driven by a passion for excellence and embraces continuous learning in this dynamic industry. Denyse's dedication to photography and women's empowerment is portrayed in her coffee-table book, "Strong Women Behind a Strong Coffee".



Vera Osei-Bonsu
Founder & CEO
Eat Smart Foods & Start Right Nutrition Limited

Vera Osei-Bonsu is an enthusiastic "babyfoodpreneur" from Ghana with over nine years' experience in food manufacturing and food advocacy. She is the founder and CEO of Eat Smart Foods and Start Right Nutrition Limited in the Greater Accra Region, where she creates nutritious baby food products from local, mostly plant-based and naturally fortified ingredients for children aged six months to five years. Vera has formulated more than nine products from grains, fruits and vegetables now sold in Ghana. In 2018, she wrote "Start Right", the first infant and toddler recipe book for Ghanaian children. Her awards include Emerging Star in Agribusiness from Women in Agriculture Africa (2022) and international awards from Global Women in Innovation and Inventions in 2023 and 2024. Vera is an Obama Leaders Africa Fellow and a Leading African Woman in Food fellow with African Food Changemakers. Her dream is for every mother in Ghana, Africa and beyond to feed her children healthily and sustainably.



Katia Facchetti
Co-founder
Mosaic Food Advisors

Katia Facchetti is a C-suite executive who drives profitable growth in complex food and beverage, professional services, and construction and mining equipment businesses in the US, Europe, Africa, and South America. Most recently, she was President of Mutti USA, a subsidiary of Europe's #1 tomato company. Previously, she was Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) at The Nature's Bounty Co., a $3B vitamin and supplement company owned by The Carlyle Group, and CMO of Terex, a $10B construction and mining equipment company. She was also President of Fusion 5, a WPP Group marketing, strategy and innovation consultancy, managing clients such as Campbell's, Green Mountain Coffee, Gillette, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola/Walmart, and Diageo. Her marketing career began at Kraft and Mondelez. She works across multiple distribution channels, including B2B, B2C, D2C, e-commerce, and retail. Leveraging a pragmatic perspective with empathetic leadership, she builds strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders. Katia leads Mosaic Food Advisors, a consultancy she co-founded that advises plant-based food start-ups. Her expertise includes consulting with food start-ups on pitching investors, business strategy, marketing, sales, innovation and product development, consumer targeting and communication, and end-to-end supply chain needs. She also brings experience in Sub-Saharan Africa (South Africa, Namibia and Botswana), coaching and mentorship, and microfinance for women entrepreneurs in the food sector through Kiva.



Anne Ewurabena Sarfo

CEO
Anne's Perfections

Anne Sarfo is a Registered Dietitian, business consultant and entrepreneur with about two decades of experience. She is the founder and CEO of Anne's Perfections, a food processing company specialising in vegan nut-based and cereal-based products, which exports peanut butter and cereal products to several countries, most recently Kenya. Passionate about the potential of food to improve health and enhance lives, Anne oversees all aspects of the business, from production and supply chain management to market dynamics. She holds a BSc (Hons) in Biological Sciences and an MPhil in Human Nutrition and Dietetics. Anne has exhibited at trade fairs across Africa, Europe and North America, including SIAL Canada, and has spoken at events such as the Ghana Women Entrepreneurship Summit. As a mentor in the FAO-IAFN Accelerator Programme for Women-led businesses in Africa, she shared her insights at the FAO World Food Forum 2023. She believes that "anything worth doing is worth doing well."



Stefanie Hyde

Digital Communications Specialist
Emerging ag inc.

With a passion for creativity, marketing and communications, Stefanie leads the various digital and communication strategies for Emerging's valued clients. She heads up online communications and brand management, leads digital campaigns, and develops various media resources. Prior to joining Emerging, Stefanie gained career experience working with Parks Canada in a Promotions and New Media role, developing skills in videography, advertising, marketing, social media and graphic design. Stefanie is a Canadian national and speaks both French and English. She graduated with a Bachelor of Design from Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and also studied at the Copenhagen School of Design and Technology, where she specialized in Sustainable Communications. She is currently based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

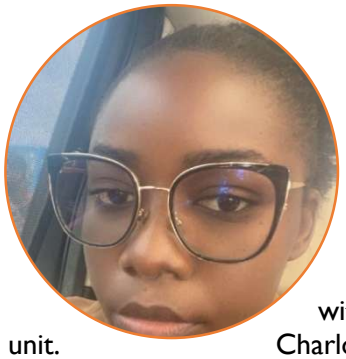


Milica Petruljeskov

Senior Private Sector Specialist
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

Nations (FAO)

Milica Petruljeskov is an economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Based at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, Milica supports agribusiness and private sector partnerships work in Africa. She has more than 12 years' experience in rural finance, agricultural investments, value chain analysis and private sector partnerships, gained through supporting various FAO projects and normative work in Africa and globally. Milica holds advanced degrees in Economics (MSc) and in Development Economics and International Cooperation (MSc).



Charlotte Binya

Director
BICHAF

Charlotte Binya has been an entrepreneur in the food industry for over seven years. She specialises in processing and preserving food products without the use of chemicals, as well as in quality control within a production unit. Charlotte supports women who want to start a business in this field, offering advice and helping them improve their working methods. She also helps them set up and manage their businesses.



Sophie Goudard

Vice President, Operations
Emerging ag inc.

Sophie joined the Emerging ag team as Vice President, Operations, and focuses primarily on team logistics, scheduling and event planning. Before joining Emerging, Sophie spent 15 years as a professional in the business of live arts, providing high-standard administration and logistics services to international productions touring stages around the world. In this environment she honed her skills in precise organization, interpersonal relations and leadership. Passionate about development, Sophie's strength is organizing and motivating people to accomplish goals, empowering them with clear direction to successfully execute their strategic initiatives. A French national from a mixed background, Sophie holds a Master of Arts in International Cultural Exchange Strategies from the Institute of Political Sciences of Lyon, a BA in Legal Studies and Political Science from the Institute of Political Sciences of Rennes, and a BA in History. She speaks English and Spanish, having lived in North America for twelve years and studied in Mexico, and became proficient in German over eight years working mostly in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. She currently lives in France.