



# 1<sup>st</sup> Roundtable of African Farmers

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 | 13h00-16h30  
Pontifical Academy of Sciences  
Vatican City

8h00-13h00  
Papal Audience,  
a tour of the Vatican Gardens  
and a light lunch



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**Pontifical Academy for Life**



# Roundtable of African Farmer

## Farmers at the core

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Vatican City



› *Farmers own the stage and bring their unique perspectives to the forefront of global discussions on agricultural development in their region.*

- Present **concrete cases** of how agricultural innovation and technologies are empowering them to drive socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable agriculture, highlighting **opportunities** and **challenges**.
- Advance **key recommendations** for policies that foster the approval, development, uptake, implementation, and scale up of agricultural technologies across the region;
- **Connect with African policy makers** to advocate for policies that promote technologies and innovative solutions in Africa.





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## Farmers at the core

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// 5 farmers // 5 countries



Jorge  
Lopez  
Menendez  
Sierra Leone



Collina  
Msongole  
Malawi



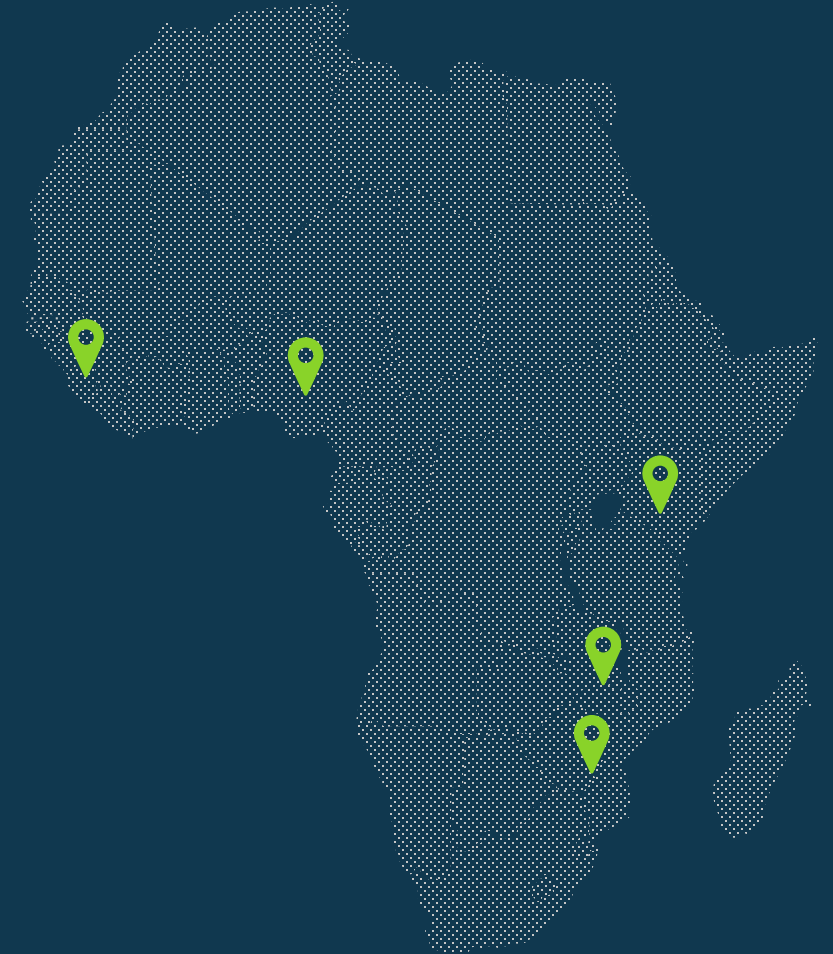
Ruramiso  
Mashumba  
Zimbabwe



Patience  
Koku  
Nigeria



Michael  
Waciira  
Kenya





# Roundtable of African Farmer

## Expected impact

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**Increased knowledge, awareness, and support among African policymakers about agricultural innovation and technologies** that can empower African farmers to drive socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable agriculture, contributing to enhancing food security and socio-economic development in the region.



# Roundtable of African Farmer

## Welcome Remarks

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
**Vatican City**



**Mons. Renzo Pegoraro**

Chancellor - Pontifical Academy for Life



**Mildred Nadah Pita**

Head of Public Affairs, Science and  
Sustainability for Africa - Bayer



# Roundtable of African Farmer

## Opening Remarks

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
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### **Dr. Qu Dongyu**

#### **Director General – UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

Dr. Qu Dongyu took office on 1 August 2019 as the ninth Director-General of the FAO.

Born in 1963 in Hunan Province to a rice-growing family, Dr. Qu studied horticultural science and plant breeding, eventually earning a PhD in environmental science from Wageningen University.

With over 30 years of collaboration with international entities, he has contributed to numerous projects aimed at eradicating hunger, combating malnutrition, and conserving natural resources.

Recognized as a renowned scientist, Dr. Qu combines an “Asian soul” with a “global mind,” living by the motto “Simple life, but not simple work.”

Before becoming FAO Director-General, Dr. Qu promoted inclusive development and ICT in rural China, benefiting millions of farmers, and improved agricultural price reporting. As Vice Governor of Ningxia Hui, he developed programs for poverty reduction, women empowerment, and agritourism. Previously, he held positions as Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Human Resources Director at the China Three Gorges Project Development Corporation.





# Roundtable of African Farmer Keynote Speaker

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
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## Prof. Eric Yirenkyi Danquah

**Plant Geneticist - University of Ghana, WACCI, APBA**

A renowned Professor of Plant Genetics at the University of Ghana, former Director of the Biotechnology Centre at the University of Ghana (2014-2019), he is the founding Director of the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement, and President of the African Plant Breeders Association.

Holding a PhD from the University of Cambridge, he has received multiple awards, including the World Agriculture Prize (2018) and the Africa Food Prize (2022). Reputation Poll International included him among the 100 Most Reputable Africans (2023).

As a member of several international advisory boards, he has also consulted for organizations like FAO, IAEA, USAID.

Professor Danquah has a long history of academic contributions, including 111 refereed journal articles and four books. His research focus is on crop plant genetic diversity. His projects have secured over \$30 million in research funding and have contributed to the release of high-yielding maize hybrids in Ghana. He has been instrumental in multiple international collaborations.

Passionate about science for development, he has mentored many young academics and engaged with farmers on best practices.



# Roundtable of African Farmer Moderator

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
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## Philip Keitany

### Journalist - Standard Group, Kenya

Philip Keitany is a Kenyan science journalist with 13 years of experience, focusing on agriculture and the environment. Known for factual and ethical reporting, he's a respected voice in environmental journalism, advocating for sustainable practices and urgent environmental action. He has received numerous awards for his journalistic contributions.

From childhood, Philip was drawn to the natural world. This early interest led him to science journalism, with the goal of making complex scientific ideas easily understandable to the public.

He utilizes multiple media platforms to reach a wide audience, hosting TV talk shows on key agricultural and environmental issues and producing podcasts.

In addition to journalism, Philip actively engages with communities. He moderates various events, fostering discussions between experts, stakeholders, and the public to generate innovative environmental solutions.

In an era demanding clear science and environmental reporting, Philip Keitany serves as a trusted source. His work empowers communities to build a more sustainable world.





# Roundtable of African Farmer

## The Audience

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
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### *80 high-profile guests confirmed their participation*

- *UN representatives: FAO, IFAD*
- *Ambassadors / Permanent Representatives to UN Rome-Based Agencies (mainly Africa + EU, LATAM, APAC)*
- *Civil Society organizations*
- *International Chamber of Commerce*
- *Research / Academic institutions (including CGIAR)*



# Roundtable of African Farmer Agenda

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
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<b>13:00-13:10</b>	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mons. Renzo Pegoraro, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy for Life</li><li>• Mildred Nadah Pita, Head of Public Affairs, Science and Sustainability for Africa at Bayer</li></ul>
<b>13:10-13:25</b>	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Qu Dongyu, Director General, FAO</li></ul>
<b>13:25-13:50</b>	Keynote Speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eric Y. Danquah, Professor of Plant Genetics, University of Ghana</li></ul>
<b>13:50-14:20</b>	Farmers' Presentations (Moderator: Philip Keitany, Journalist, Standard Group, Kenya) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michael Waciira Gatiba, Kenya</li><li>• Ruramiso Mashumba, Zimbabwe</li></ul>
<b>14:20-14:35</b>	Coffee break
<b>14:35-15:20</b>	Farmers' Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jorge Rafael Lopez Menendez, Sierra Leone / Argentina</li><li>• Collina Geneveive Msongole, Malawi</li><li>• Onyaole Patience Koku, Nigeria</li></ul>
<b>15:20-15:35</b>	Farmers' Policy Recommendations on Farming Practices and Technology
<b>15:35-16:10</b>	Q&A
<b>16:10-16:15</b>	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mons. Renzo Pegoraro, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy for Life</li></ul>