

NEN Close Up Event

**IFAD-ILO partnership:
Mainstreaming youth and women's employment in rural investments in NENA**

5 February 2018

10:00-12:00

Oval Conference Room

BIOS:



Sukti Dasgupta is Chief of the Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch at the ILO in Geneva. She was previously Senior Economist and Head of the ILO's Regional Economic and Social Analysis Unit and also worked in field offices in South Asia and East Asia. Dr Dasgupta holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Cambridge, UK, has published widely in the area of employment, poverty and gender, and has extensive experience in working with policy-makers on labour market policies.



Valter NEBULONI, a national of Italy, is the Head of the Youth Employment Programme Unit at the International Labour Office in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr Nebuloni began his career with the ILO in 1993 when he joined the Employment and Rural Development Section of the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand. From 1995 to 1998, he was assigned to the Development Policies Department of ILO Geneva. He then moved to Dakar, Senegal, where he worked as Employment Specialist with the ILO Multidisciplinary Team for Sahel. From 2002 to 2015 he served at the ILO's International Training Centre where he occupied different senior positions prior to his last assignment as Manager of the Employment Policy and Analysis Programme of the Centre. Mr Nebuloni holds a Master's degree in Development Cooperation from the University of Perugia, Italy. The early stages of his professional experience include assignments with the European Commission and private consultancy firms in the development field.



Drew Gardiner is a member of the Global Technical Team of the ILO's Employment Policy Department. He is the Chief Technical Adviser of the IFAD-ILO partnership "Strengthening gender monitoring and evaluation in rural employment in the Near East and North Africa", which undertakes impact evaluation of policies and programmes on women and youth employment. He is an accomplished researcher, speaker and adviser on evidence-based active labour market policies. Drew has mobilized and managed a portfolio of labour market programmes on skills, entrepreneurship and employment services across Africa and the Middle East, working with stakeholders from the UN, private sector and government. Drew has a bachelor's degree in international relations and French from the University of Calgary and an MBA from the University of Geneva.



Michael Grimm is a Professor of Economics at the University of Passau. He is also a research fellow at IZA and RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research. He holds a master's degree from the University of Frankfurt and Sciences Po, Paris, and a Ph.D. from Sciences Po. His research covers problems related to poverty and growth such as education, health, labour and entrepreneurship, including the evaluation of policies in these domains. He has recently led a World Bank-funded project on informality. Currently, he is directing an IFAD-ILO Taqueem Initiative study on Young Women's Empowerment in Agriculture in Tunisia. He has published in the Journal of Development Economics, the World Bank Economic Review, Economic Development and Cultural Change and Labour Economics, among others.



P erin L. Saint-Ange is the Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department, at IFAD. He is responsible managing the delivery of the Programme of Loans and Grants (POLG) in compliance with operational policies and procedures, and in accordance with strategic priorities and corporate commitments. Saint Ange joined IFAD in 1998 as a Country Portfolio Manager and held other senior positions including Director of the East and Southern Africa Division and Director and Chief of Staff, Office of the President and the Vice-President. Prior to joining IFAD, Saint Ange worked as a Team Leader in the FAO Investment Centre, World Bank Cooperative Programme as an economist and financial analyst. Previously he served in the Government of the Seychelles as Animal Husbandry Officer and later as Director General Agriculture. Saint Ange studied at Kesteven Agricultural College in Lincolnshire, England, and the School of Agriculture, Aberdeen in Scotland. He holds a post-graduate diploma and a Master in Economics from the University of New England, Australia.



Khalida Bouzar brings more than 30 years of national and international corporate leadership experience, of which 20 years in the UN system, where she has worked on sustainable and rural development, environment and natural resource management, economics and industry in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Near East and North Africa regions. Since 2012, she is Director of the NEN Division at IFAD. Under her leadership, IFAD established a Facility for Refugees, Migrants, Forced Displacement and Rural Stability (FARMS). Earlier, Dr Bouzar was Deputy Director of the UNEP's Paris-based Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, where she led the Division's strategy, policy and portfolio development, and established key partnerships, including with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. Her earlier positions include Head of the Regional Office for West and Central Africa for UNDP Bureau for Development Policy, Regional Sustainable Development Advisor, and International Technical Expert in Drylands Development at UNDP. She holds a Ph.D. in Sciences from the Pierre-and-Marie-Curie University in Paris.



Dina Saleh is a development practitioner with over 20 years international experience in development projects and programs in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia. She is currently the IFAD Country Programme Manager for Turkey and Georgia. She also served as the Regional Portfolio Adviser for the Near East, North Africa and Europe Division and previously, as the Supervision Support Officer. Prior to joining IFAD in 2007, Ms. Saleh worked at the United Nations Office for Project Services in Nairobi, Tunisia and Rome. She holds an MSc from the University of London in Development Finance.



Lenyara Fundukova is a development professional with over 20 years of experience in various UN organizations. She is an Economist who studied Doctorate of Business Administration at the University of Liverpool, UK. Her studies focus on management of organizational reforms and changes. In her current capacity, Ms Fundukova is working with the IFAD country portfolios in several Middle Eastern, Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries. Her extensive communication and negotiation skills resulted in successful accession of 5 new IFAD member states: Estonia (2012), Hungary (2011), Montenegro (2015), Russia (2014) and Uzbekistan (2011), and increased contributions to the Fund. She has been instrumental in formulating effective country strategies for positioning the IFAD programmes in country contexts and implementing investment projects that contributed to the development of agricultural sector in those countries. Previously, she worked with UNOPS on Parliamentary reforms in Bangladesh and UNDP Conflict prevention programme in Ukraine.



Vrej Jijyan works as Programme Officer at IFAD's Near East, North Africa and Europe Division. He has extensive experience in programme design and implementation in Near Eastern and North African countries, with a special focus on countries in fragile situations and programmes tackling refugee issues. Previously, he worked at the United Nations Development Programme, where he was involved in different projects on rural and urban development, small and medium enterprises support, vocational educational training and public-private partnerships. He lectured at Yerevan State University and is the author of 10 articles and 3 research papers on the economics and political systems of Near Eastern countries. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Yerevan State University.