EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ROUNDTABLE ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NUTRITION AND FOOD INSECURITY IN WESTERN AFRICA

Mo Ibrahim Foundation Governance Weekend

Marrakech, Morocco on 3 June 2025 at local time 4.00 pm (GMT+)

90 minutes

Format:
The roundtable will be held in the context of the forthcoming Mo Ibrahim Foundation Governance Week-end scheduled to take place in Marrakech, Morocco on 1 – 3 June 2025. The round table itself is scheduled for 3 June 2025 at 4.00-5.30 pm (GMT+1). It will be organized and moderated by the Stockholm Initiative for Food Security.

The round table will be conducted in English with no simultaneous translation facilities. It is structured as a panel of 7 participants and moderated by Andrea Lundh, President of Stockholm Initiative for Food Security.

After a brief 3 to 4-minute presentation by the moderator, each panelist will be invited to contribute remarks for 8 minutes as invited and coordinated by the moderator. An inter-panelist session of 15 minutes then takes place followed by a public Q/A session for another 15 to 20 minutes. The round table will not extend beyond 90 minutes but will be followed by a coffee break allowing for additional informal exchanges as the case may be.

Minutes of the roundtable and the recorded session shall be made available on the Stockholm Initiative for Food Security Web site after the end of the session.

The panelists selected include:

- Professor Walter E. Baetghen, Director for International Research Institute, Columbia University
- Mr Chakib Jenane, Director for Sustainable Development, World Bank Group

- Professor Coumba Touré Kane, Member of Senegal's National Academy of Sciences and Technology (ANTS)
- Professor Terry Ansah, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Sciences (FoAFCS), The University of Development Studies, Ghana
- Almine Belemlih, Professor at African Business School
- Nawfel Roudies, Head of Business Unit Al Mouthmir-UM6P
- Robert J Morais, Professor at Columbia Business School,
- Kamel Jedidi, Professor at Columbia Business School
- Abdel-Maoula Chaar, Professor at African Business School, UM6P

Background:

Food and nutrition insecurity remain major challenges in West African countries today, with significant social, economic as well as national security ramifications. This is due to a series of combined factors including environment related, economic, political and social factors. Indeed, among such factors, we may list climate change, economic instability, consequences from global economic shocks, insecurity and armed conflicts, demographic growth, low agricultural productivity, over-dependency on rain-fed farming models and lack of coherent agricultural training and education.

Western Africa and the Sahel region in particular require more than ever before a collaborative, consistent and regional approach in facing these challenges. Certainly, governments, international organizations, have deployed efforts in addressing the nutrition and food insecurity and its devastating human impact on populations. Yet, the same questions persist: Why does hunger remain so widely pervasive and so persistent? Why does food security remain in the emergency/Humanitarian dockets of the UN agencies and other actors as opposed to the economic and structural reform and development programs? When will, at long last, Africa embark on its "Green Revolution"?

Much remains to be achieved. For instance, fighting food insecurity may not be carried out without involving local communities, without designing coherent regional solutions and without embracing, with local stakeholders, a holistic approach in tackling the problems.

As recent geopolitical events demonstrate, food insecurity is evolving towards a national security issue unfolding into other layers such as emigration, armed conflicts and global instability.

Today, Africa faces an existential dilemma where its populations and leaderships are called to articulate a set of structural sustainable solutions in combating food and nutrition insecurity.

No solution to the current food system challenges may be achieved without a solid comprehensive capacity development component. Education and training are at the core of any Green Revolution in Africa.

Objectives:

The roundtable is set to invite key stakeholders, including policymakers, non-governmental organizations, development partners, academia, and private sector representatives, to identify and discuss strategies for capacity building in combating food and nutrition insecurity in West Africa. The event will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, policy recommendations, and also fostering partnerships and cooperation.

More and more voices in Western Africa identify vocational training, as central to any meaningful policy towards fighting food insecurity. Often times, the emphasis on capacity building is increasingly coupled with a strong desire to engage in an effective South/South cooperation.

Key Discussion Points:

The Current Landscape of Capacity Training

- Overview of existing education and vocational training systems supporting agriculture and food security in times of climate change.
- Evaluation of how well current programs align with the practical needs of farmers, food workers, and communities.

Gaps and Ground-Level Needs

- Identification of urgent capacity gaps, from farming practices to data literacy.
- Strategies to ensure training reaches smallholders, youth, and women in vulnerable and remote areas.
- Strengthening the link between research institutions and field realities.

Education-to-Employment Pathways

- Analysis of vocational and higher education linkages within agricultural sectors.
- Building practical, job-ready skills for youth through education-to-employment pipelines.
- The role of rural entrepreneurship and agribusiness in transforming agricultural learning models.

New Learning Models: Technology, AI, and Connectivity

- Leveraging digital technologies and connectivity to expand access and flexibility of agricultural education.
- Exploring mobile, AI-driven, and community-based learning tools to bridge knowledge gaps.

South–South Collaboration and Regional Knowledge Platforms

- Opportunities for South–South cooperation in agricultural training and capacity building.
- Case studies and lessons from successful regional knowledge-sharing platforms.
- Strengthening regional networks for curriculum development, educator exchanges, and institutional partnerships.

Expected Outcomes:

- Reflection on emerging needs and opportunities
- Strengthened collaboration among regional and international stakeholders.
- A roadmap for policy and program implementation tailored to the specific needs in agricultural capacity building of West African countries.
- Aiming at designing a concrete roadmap towards actionable recommendations pertaining to capacity development in addressing food and nutrition insecurity.

Meet the Panelists

Panelist & Moderator: Andrea Lundh



Ms. Andrea Lundh is the President and Co-founder of the Stockholm Initiative for Food Security; a Swedish NGO focused on fighting food insecurity through concrete undertakings in Africa. An agronomist, food scientist, and researcher by training, she leads the Masters360 program, which promotes transdisciplinary expertise in African agriculture.

Her work spans policy, education, and youth empowerment. She collaborates with institutions such as Columbia University, the University of Development Studies in Ghana, the Senegalese Academy of Sciences and Technology, and the Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences to advance systemic change within the food systems through education and training.

Panelist 1: Walter E Baetghen



Professor Walter E. Baethgen is a Senior Research Scientist at Columbia University in New York, USA, where he served as Director of IRI (International Research Institute for Climate and Society). He was also the Director of the Center for Agriculture and Food Security at Columbia University. From 2020 to 2025, he was Vice President of the Board of Directors of Uruguay's INIA (National Institute of Agricultural Research). Baethgen has served as a consultant for the IDB, the World Bank, CGIAR, and the United Nations as well as for governments and private companies in several countries in the Americas.

He authored the Second, Third, and Fourth Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is a member of the IPCC group that received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

Baethgen earned his PhD and MSc degrees in Environmental Sciences from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, USA. He holds a degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Uruguay. He has published more than 150 scientific and technical articles.

Panelist 2: Chakib Jenane



Dr. Chakib Jenane is the Regional Practice Director for the Planet team in the Western and Central Africa Region at the World Bank and is responsible for driving sustainable development initiatives and transformative projects in the region. Chakib previously served as the Practice Manager for the Agriculture and Food Practice.

Prior to joining the World Bank, he held key positions at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization among which as Chief of the Agro-industry Technology Unit and deputy-Director of the Agribusiness Development Branch.

Chakib has also served as a university Professor at the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine in Rabat, Morocco. A Moroccan national He holds a Doctorate-es-Sciences degree from the Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine in Rabat and an MS in agricultural engineering from the University of Minnesota. He also completed a post-Doctorate within the Bio-systems Engineering Department of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Panelist 3: Coumba Touré



Professor Coumba Touré Kane is a professor of microbiology, bacteriology, and virology at the Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Dentistry at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal.

Since June 2019, she has been the Senior Advisor in charge of partnerships, research, and innovation at the Ministry of Research and Innovation in Higher Education in Senegal. She is also the coordinator of the Inter-Country Quality Hub for Higher Education and Scientific Research (PQIP-ESRS) of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

Between 2020 and 2025 she served as the rector for the University of Sine Saloum El-Hâdj Ibrahima Niass (USSEIN), the most prominent Agriculture University in Senegal.

Coumba is a member of the Senegalese Academy of Sciences and Technology.

Panelist 4: Terry Ansah



Professor Terry Ansah is Dean and of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Sciences, University for Development Studies, Ghana. He is a leading agricultural scientist specializing in livestock nutrition, sustainable farming, and climate-resilient food systems.

With extensive experience in teaching, research, and community development, he has led impactful projects across Ghana and West Africa. His work bridges academia, policy, and practice empowering youth, supporting farmers, and promoting food security. Professor Ansah is passionate about building capacities in food and nutrition security, particularly within the Sahel region.

Panelist 5: Amine Belemlih



Dr. Amine Belemlih is Professor of Management Practice at Africa Business School (UM6P), where he also serves as Director of the Leading Transformations in Africa (LTA) Center and the Future of Work Institute (FoWI) at UM6P.

An engaged scholar and transformation strategist, he leads pioneering work at the intersection of organizational change, leadership, and societal transformation, with a strong focus on Africa and the Global South.

His practice blends systems thinking, collective intelligence, and human-centered transformative practices, supporting public and private sector leaders in addressing complex adaptive challenges. He is also Executive coach and advisor to several board teams in Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

Panelist 6: Nawfel Roudies



Nawfel Roudies has nearly 25 years of experience in agriculture, food security, extension services, and rural development, both in Morocco and internationally, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

He is an agricultural engineer specialized in animal sciences, graduated from the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine in Rabat and holds a management certificate from ISCAE Rabat.

He began his career in 1999 with Les Domaines Agricoles, where he served as Farm Manager in several regions across Morocco. In 2012, he then joined the OCP Foundation as Head of International Portfolio- Agricultural Development Program.

Currently, he is leading the Al Moutmir Business Unit at UM6P, an innovative agricultural development model in Morocco. His commitment focuses on bridging research and field realities to strengthen both Moroccan and international agriculture.

Panelist 7: Robert J. Morais



Professor Robert J. Morais is a business anthropologist and Lecturer at Columbia Business School, where he teaches in MBA, EMBA, and global entrepreneurship programs focused on Latin America, Africa, and the U.S.

With a career spanning advertising, market research, and academia, he brings deep expertise in consumer insights, marketing strategy, and business ethics. He has advised global brands across the food, health, and hospitality sectors.

Dr. Morais holds a PhD in anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh and has been a Fulbright Scholar and National Science Foundation Grantee. His work supports innovation and market-oriented approaches to entrepreneurship and capacity development in diverse contexts, including agriculture.

Additional contributors:

Kamel Jedidi



Professor Kamel Jedidi is the Jerome A. Chazen Professor of Global Business at Columbia Business School. He holds a PhD in Marketing and Statistics from the Wharton School and a BA in Economics from the University of Tunis.

His research focuses on pricing, market segmentation, and product positioning. He has published extensively and received multiple awards for his work. Dr. Jedidi also advises multinational companies and serves on several academic and professional boards.

Abdel-Maoula Chaar



Abdel-Maoula Chaar is a full professor at the African Business School (UM6P), where he teaches doctoral and master's level courses in methodology, entrepreneurship, and sustainability. He is a member of the Academic Programs Council at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) and serves on the university's strategic panel for student well-being.

Additionally, he is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the ESA Business School in Beirut and sits on the supervision committee of its research center.

His research focuses on management and resilience in the context of extreme crises, as well as strategies for promoting a just transition, particularly in Africa.