

FREE WEBINAR

[Green, Young Entrepreneurs in the Rural Economy](#)

Wednesday 31 March, 12:00 UK / 13.00 Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia

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SPEAKERS

JOINING FROM RWANDA:

Chanelle Mwizawase, Associate, Challenges Group Rwanda



Chanelle is an associate with Challenges Rwanda and for the past three years has worked on their coffee project, to address various challenges in coffee cooperative communities. Part of the programs she is involved with aims to facilitate the development of stronger rural economies around capacity building and financial inclusion through the youth in the cooperative communities.

JOINING FROM MALAWI:

John Chambamakasa, Malawi CROPS Finance and Business Development Manager, Challenges Group Malawi



John is currently the finance and business development manager in the project called *Creating Robust Opportunities for Production and Sale (CROPS)*. His primary responsibilities in this project are: ensuring crops are aggregated for processing by the cooperative farmers; conducting marketing linkages of the farmer produce; linking the farmers to financial institutions to solve the issues of access to finance; provision of business advisory services to the cooperatives as well as ensuring that the cooperatives' governance systems are in place through proper financial and administration procedures.

Peter Khuleya, Farmer and Machine Operator, Malawi



Peter is a farmer and machine operator at the Thabwa Value Addition Centre (VAC), part of the Malawi CROPS project. Peter is one of the young entrepreneurs and he is involved in rice production at Mwaphazi scheme under the CROPS Project. He is also involved in livestock production to supplement his income.

Samson Louis, Farmer, Malawi

Samson is a member of the Value Addition Centre in Nsanama. He comes from Zumulu A primary Cooperative. He is a rice farmer who has seen a steady growth in the volume of production since the inception of Challenges Worldwide CROPS Project. This is attributed to the introduction of Systematic Rice Intensification (SRI) promulgated under the CROPS project as well as usage on non-organic manure championed by Challenges.

JOINING FROM ZAMBIA:

Ali Kaunda, Associate Business Consultant, Challenges Group Zambia



Ali Kaunda is a Climate Change, Natural Resources Management consultant currently working with Challenges Group Zambia as an Associate Business Consultant. He has a background in Environmental Services, Natural resources management, Renewable energy, Climate Smart Agriculture and Climate Change, with over four years of experience in his field. Ali has been working with a number of SMEs, building business models and ensuring Agripreneurs thrive in their business sector. Ali is currently involved in a potential project housing in South Luangwa - Mfuwe, Eastern Province of Zambia where Challenges Group Zambia is investigating how to repurpose a property.

Adrian Zulu, Agri-preneur and Farmer, Zambia



Adrian is currently the Agri-business Analyst for Agropay and a poultry farmer based in Lusaka, Zambia. Agropay is an agro-business that supports the business between industry actors from smallholder farmers, agro-dealers, input suppliers and processors in milk production and purchasing. He has vast experience working with the private sector as well as Non-Governmental Organisations in the agricultural sector. It is this experience that led him and his friends to start rearing poultry which he has been doing for two years.

JOINING FROM SCOTLAND:

Mario Ray, Global Project Manager, [Sea Water Solutions](#), Scotland



Mario is a livelihoods and community-based natural resource management specialist with 6 years' experience working with isolated and economically marginalised communities in Madagascar, Ethiopia and the Maldives. With a strong background in marine systems and social science research methods Mario has expertise in development assistance evaluations and community-based aquaculture initiatives.

Colleen Tait, Engagement and Communications Officer, Scottish Fair Trade Forum, Scotland



Colleen works with Fair Trade campaigners and on the Scottish Fair Trade Forum's communications to develop support for Fair Trade in Scotland. Prior to the Forum, she volunteered and worked for not-for-profits in Scotland and abroad, using her language skills and pursuing her interests in community development, sustainability and sport. In her spare time, she enjoys running.

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