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ARDN WEBINAR 1.0 – INAUGURAL EDITION PROGRAM AGENDA

THEME:

Adapting Global Models for Rural Development: African Realities, Solutions, and Cross-Border Learning

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM West Africa Time

Platform: Zoom

Host: Damilola Olajubutu - Principal Coordinator, ARDN; Founder & Executive Director, Rural Nurture Initiative (RNI)

INAUGURAL ADDRESS (10 minutes)

Professor Janice Olawoye - Rural Development Consultant; Retired Professor of Rural Sociology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- confirmed

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER (25 minutes):

Dr. Marina Denny – Associate Vice Provost for Engagement, Division of Extension and Engagement, Oregon State University; Board Member, Rural Development Initiatives (RDI), USA - *(confirmed)*

TOPIC: Extension Systems and Knowledge Transfer: United States' Approach to Bridging Research, Education, and Rural Community Development

ARDN SPEAKER (25 minutes):

Damilola Olajubutu – Principal Coordinator, ARDN; Founder & Executive Director, Rural Nurture Initiative (RNI) - *confirmed*

TOPIC: Rural Transformation: Global Lessons in Policy Innovation for African Rural Development

PANEL SESSION (60 minutes including 3-minute opening remarks and 10 minutes Audience Reaction):

From Global Insights to African Action: Implementation Strategies and Local Collaboration

Nigerian panelist – Professor Olushola Fadairo, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension & Rural Development, University of Ibadan, Nigeria - *confirmed*

Beninese panelist – Bendjedid Rachad Sanoussi; Founder and CTO, Green Leaf AI, Benin - *confirmed*

Ghanaian panelist – Dr. Theophilus Nkansah, Regional Coordinator, Socodevi - Société de coopération pour le développement international, Ghana - *confirmed*

Ivorian panelist - Jérémie BOUAFFO; President, Public Policy Analysis Group of Côte d'Ivoire (GAPP-CI); Local/Village Development Policy Specialist, Côte d'Ivoire - *confirmed*