



DR EMMANUEL O. AKOGUN

Director of Agriculture,
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
& Food Security, Nigeria



SPENCER T. KORANKYE

Founder and Lead Consultant
Mpact Lane Consult, Ghana



IBRAHIM A. IBISOMI

Retired Executive Director &
Chief Financial Officer
African Reinsurance
Corporation, South Africa



DAMILOLA OLAJUBUTU

Founder, Rural Nurture Initiative
Principal Coordinator, ARDN



ARDN WEBINAR 2.0

THEME:

**Financing Rural
Transformation:
Innovative Models for
African Communities**

Attendance is free but registration is compulsory.
Certificate of participation available to
ARDN members.

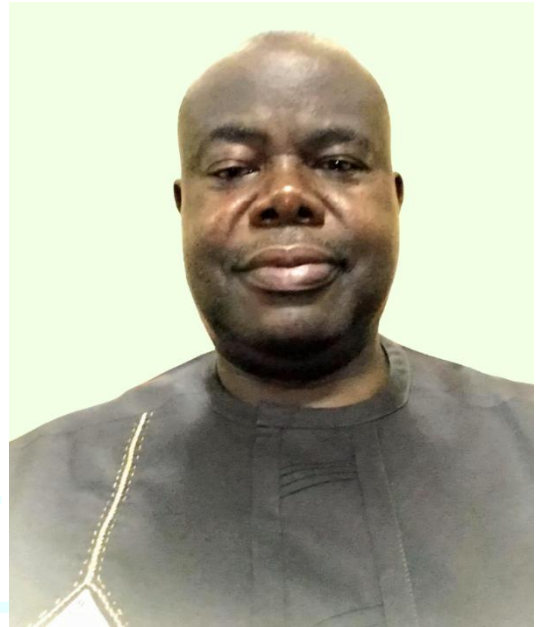
 **Thursday,
April 30, 2026**

 **5:00PM
West Africa Time**

Venue: Zoom 

DR. EMMANUEL OLADIPO AKOGUN

Dr. Akogun currently serves as Director of Agriculture at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Nigeria, where he provides strategic and technical leadership in support of national agrifood production systems, agricultural policy, and rural livelihoods. In this capacity, he works directly with farmer organisations, agricultural irrigation schemes, and production groups to deliver agroeconomic services, technical implementation support, and evidence-based policy recommendations across Nigeria's agricultural sector.



Prior to this appointment, Dr. Akogun served as Team Lead and Practice Area Lead for Agribusiness and Value Chains at INNOVISION International, directing multi-country advisory mandates for leading development finance institutions and bilateral donors. Across more than 25 years, he has delivered critical results on flagship programmes funded by USAID, the World Bank, the EU, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and IFAD across Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, and Thailand. His commodity expertise spans cocoa, rice, maize, cassava, ginger, tomato, dairy, poultry, and aquaculture. He is a specialist in business model design and redesign for agricultural enterprises, investment readiness training, financial linkage facilitation between agri-SMEs and commercial banks or development finance institutions, and public-private partnership structuring.

With a proven track record managing teams of 85+ personnel and overseeing MEL systems for large-scale donor-funded interventions, Dr. Akogun brings rare depth as both a technical specialist and a strategic programme leader. He has directly facilitated investment mobilisation for over 150 agribusinesses across Nigeria, supported the establishment of national agri-input dealer networks, and led agricultural trade and export market assessments for Nigeria's engagement with the EU and global markets.

IBRAHIM ABIODUN IBISOMI

Ibrahim is a distinguished executive with more than four decades of multi-sector leadership experience across finance, governance, law, risk management, compliance, and strategy. He holds academic and professional qualifications in Economics, Law, Banking & Finance, Insurance, Risk Management, Stockbroking, and Taxation.

Ibrahim's executive career includes service as Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer, Company Secretary, and Public Officer of African Reinsurance Corporation (South Africa). In these roles, he managed finance, investment, ICT, compliance, HR, and administration, consistently delivering unqualified audit opinions for more than 30 years. He has also served as Head of Compliance Control and Secretary to the Board and its Committees, ensuring alignment with governance best practice and regulatory standards.

Ibrahim has a proven track record in entrepreneurship, strategic planning, turnaround management, regulatory reform, and stakeholder engagement, and has represented organisations in high-level industry and regulatory forums. He is widely respected for his ethical leadership, technical expertise, and solution-oriented mindset. He has many articles and presentations to his credit.

His deep governance experience, financial acumen, and commitment to accountability add exceptional value to his engagements and activities.



SPENCER T. KORANKYE

Spencer is a strategy consultant, program development specialist, and Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) practitioner with over 16 years of experience driving innovation, business transformation, and community-based economic development across Africa. He has extensive expertise in grant proposal development, fundraising, and project management, successfully supporting and facilitating funding for over 100 startups, MSMEs, non-profits, cooperatives, and corporate initiatives from donors including the European Union (EU), UKAID, USAID, GIZ Ghana, and the Mastercard Foundation.



As Founder and Lead Consultant of Mpace Lane Consult, and Managing Partner at Whizzy Innovation Hub, Spencer specializes in grant readiness, proposal writing, funding mobilization, and program design, working with NGOs, SMEs, public sector agencies, and development partners to translate donor priorities into bankable, high-impact projects.

Spencer has contributed to major industrial development projects, including the Entrepreneurship Village at Kumasi Technical University and the Osei Tutu II Industrial Park in Suame, and has trained and mentored over 15,000 entrepreneurs, youth, and community leaders in Ghana and beyond.

He is passionate about designing practical, systems-based solutions that create measurable social and economic impact, with a strong focus on unlocking financing for rural and underserved communities.

Spencer brings deep practical insight into financing models, blended funding strategies, and sustainable project execution for rural and emerging economies.

DAMILOLA OLAJUBUTU

Damilola Olajubutu is a distinguished rural development and public policy expert whose innovative approach has transformed outcomes for underserved communities. She earned both her first and second degrees in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, graduating as the best student at each level. She is currently advancing her expertise through doctoral studies in Public Policy at Oregon State University.



Driven by a commitment to sustainable solutions for rural development challenges, Damilola founded the Rural Nurture Initiative (RNI), where she serves as Executive Director, and is the Principal Coordinator of the African Rural Development Network (ARDN). Her expertise and thought leadership have garnered international attention, including speaking engagements at the United Nations, academic institutions, and international conferences, with extensive coverage by major Nigerian media outlets including TVC News, Punch, Vanguard, Guardian, The Nation, Premium Times, Leadership News and Nigerian Tribune.

Damilola's expertise was recognized through her appointment to the Benton County Environment and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ENRAC) in Oregon, USA, and the second African Ambassador for Blue Community, Switzerland. Her previous role as a policy researcher with the USAID-funded Innovation Lab for Policy Leadership in Agriculture and Food Security demonstrates her collaborative approach to policy research in agriculture and food security.

Through her unique blend of academic rigor, practical experience, and visionary leadership, Damilola continues to bridge the gap between policy and practice, driving meaningful change for rural communities while inspiring the next generation of development professionals globally.