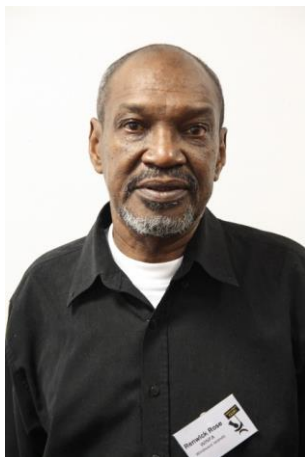




Media Briefing, Vienna – Oct 24, 2016



Renwick Rose

Renwick Rose coordinated the Windward Islands Farmers Association (WINFA) for decades, and remains a leading civil society activist campaigning and advocating for the rights of farmers and their communities in the islands. Renwick was instrumental in securing the first exports of Windward Fairtrade bananas to the UK in 2000. He received the Guardian's International Development Achievement Award in 2011. Read an interview celebrating the recognition of his contribution <https://www.theguardian.com/achievementsaward/renwick-rose-achievement-award-winner>.

Amongst many other roles, Renwick is currently a Director of Winfresh, a leading importer of Fairtrade bananas, and represents WINFA on the Steering Committee of the World Banana Forum.

Renwick is a prolific journalist. Read an article: <https://www.theguardian.com/profile/renwick-rose>.



Kozel Fraser

Kozel is the Coordinator of the Windward Islands Farmers Association (WINFA), representing small scale farmers in St Vincent and Dominica. Banana production on the islands is predominantly Fairtrade certified, supplying the UK market. Kozel, on behalf of WINFA, plays a key role in civil society work to address some of the greatest threats facing the islands, including climate change, and initiatives towards sustainability, such as the production of bio-fertiliser.

Read more about banana production in the Caribbean.

Watch Kozel at <http://www.bananalink.org.uk/view-caribbean>

Follow WINFA's activities on Facebook



Iris Munguia

Iris is the Coordinator of the Regional Coordination of Latin American Banana & other Agroindustrial Workers Unions (COLSIBA) which brings together unions from Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

COLSIBA negotiated the first and only Framework Agreement in the sector with Chiquita and the International Union of Foodworkers.

Iris worked in the packing depot of one of Chiquita's banana plantations in Honduras for 23 years, before becoming a trade union leader and a defender of women's rights. In 2011 Iris received the prestigious SOLIDAR Silver Rose Award for her contribution to International Solidarity.

Iris has led efforts throughout the region to strengthen women's participation in their unions through training and awareness raising, working to ensure that all COLSIBA union members have a Women's Secretary or at least a Women's Committee.

Watch an interview with Iris.



Adela Torres

Adela Torres is the General Secretary of the Colombian union, SINTRAINAGRO. It is the biggest banana worker's union in Latin America, with more than 18,000 members. Colombian banana workers earn the highest wages in the global industry thanks to the Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiated by SINTRAINAGRO. Much of the production is also Fairtrade certified. Adela has championed the rights of women workers, leading efforts to ensure effective gender clauses are negotiated in CBAs and that women are educated about and empowered to secure their rights. Visit <http://www.bananalink.org.uk/sintrainagro-colombia> to read interviews with Adela and learn more about her work with women in the industry.

Wanji John

Wanji is an elected staff representative and worker at the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC) in Cameroon. CDC is the largest private employer in Cameroon and more than 6000 workers are employed at its banana operations. Wanji is the President of the Fako Agricultural Workers Union (FAWU), a union organising agricultural workers in the Fako district of Cameroon. As a grassroots representative for the union, Wanji is involved daily in social dialogue between workers and management to ensure rights are respected and negotiate any disputes. Wanji has been trained through a Health and Safety programme coordinated by the International Union of Foodworkers to facilitate education for workers and members of Health and Safety Committees to improve practices at plantation level. Wanji also coordinates the activities of a Co-operative Farm established by union representatives following skills training provided by a Comic Relief funded empowerment and education programme to 'Secure Decent Work in tropical fruit export production' in Cameroon. More than 500 workers now belong to the Cooperative Farm which provides affordable chicken and other foods to workers whose wages often fail to cover their most basic household needs.

Wanji is a pastor who is highly regarded by his fellow workers for both his religious guidance and union activity.

Watch a video about recent project work led by FAWU.



Diese Veranstaltung wird mit finanzieller Unterstützung der Europäischen Union durchgeführt. Die dabei vertretenen Standpunkte geben die Ansicht von Südwind wieder und stellen somit in keiner Weise die offizielle Meinung der Europäischen Union dar.