



## Accelerating Sustainable Cold Chain in Africa

### Summit on ACES and Living Laboratories



British High Commission



In collaboration with:



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



EST. 1892

LSBU



**Date:** Tuesday 19th October

**Time:** 13:00 – 15:50 CAT/CET  
12:00 – 14:50 BST/7:00-9:50 EDT

**Registration link:** Click [here](#)  
**Read more:** [ACES Website](#)

#### Context

Underpinned with GBP £ multi-million investments by the Governments of UK and Rwanda, the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain (ACES) is scheduled to be operationalised in 2022 with its own Rubirizi campus in Kigali, Rwanda, hosted by the University of Rwanda (UR).

The mission of ACES is to provide the applied cross-sector research and dissemination, learning and teaching, and industrial collaboration to advance the widespread adoption of energy-efficient and climate-friendly cold-chain solutions in agriculture and health sectors. ACES will economically empower farmers, increase export revenues, enhance job creation in rural areas, mitigate climate and environment impacts, and foster low-carbon development. ACES-developed cold chain solutions will be showcased at Living Laboratories in rural communities. These sites will feature tailored technologies and business models tested for scalability in other communities throughout Africa.

The ACES Summit is organised by the British High Commission and Rwanda's Ministry of Environment with support from UNEP's United for Efficiency (U4E), the Centre of Sustainable Cooling, the University of Rwanda (UR), and a consortium of UK universities. The virtual event aims to provide stakeholders, including policy makers, private sector as well as other national and international counterparts of the ACES concept and latest development developments at the Headquarters and affiliated Living Laboratories, with a focus on opportunities to scale-up sustainable cold chains solutions through this platform.

Food saved is as important as food produced. Food availability must increase 70% by 2050 to feed the growing global population. Up to 40% of food is lost between farms and markets in sub-Saharan Africa, with two-thirds of this in the first mile. 80% of African farms are smaller than two hectares and they produce 70% of the continent's total food. Lack of effective cold-chain is estimated to directly result in losses of 475 million tonnes or 13% of total food production globally, which is worth \$350 billion and enough to feed approximately 950 million people. Beyond the agricultural sector, COVID-19 and other vaccines requiring similar conditions place immense pressure on the cold -chain.

## AGENDA

<b>INTRODUCTION AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE</b>		<b>13:00 – 13:25</b>
Moderator: Professor Toby Peters, <i>Co-Director, Centre for Sustainable Cooling, University of Birmingham (UoB)</i>		
Welcome and strategic perspectives	<b>Omar Daair</b> , <i>British High Commissioner to the Republic of Rwanda</i>	
	<b>Dr Jeanne d' Arc Mujawamariya</b> , <i>Minister, Government of Rwanda</i>	
	<b>Mark Radka</b> , <i>Acting Deputy Director, Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</i>	
	<b>James Quinault</b> , <i>Director of Environment Strategy, Department for Environment, Food &amp; Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom</i>	
<b>ACES OVERVIEW</b>		<b>13:25 – 13:55</b>
Importance of cold chain, key issues, and the objectives and design of ACES	<b>Professor Judith Evans</b> , <i>Researcher - Air Conditioning &amp; Refrigeration and Lead of food cold chain group, London South Bank University (LSBU)</i> <b>Dr Natalia Falagan</b> , <i>Lecturer in Food Science and Technology, Cranfield University (CU)</i>	
ACES strategic approach, governance, and engagement	<b>Brian Holuj</b> , <i>Programme Management Officer, UNEP U4E</i>	
Hosting ACES Headquarters	<b>Professor Alexandre Lyambabaje</b> , <i>Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda (UR)</i>	
Establish ACES first Living Laboratory in Kenya	<b>Professor Tom Ogada</b> , <i>Director, African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)</i>	
<b>REFLECTIONS &amp; AUDIENCE QUESTIONS</b>		
Industry perspectives	<b>Jimmy Washington</b> , <i>Director, Sustainability and Cold Chain Development Carrier</i>	
Support for agricultural exports	<b>Claude Bizimana</b> , <i>Chief Executive Officer, National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB)</i>	
View from a donor working in Africa on agricultural	<b>Eric Trachtenberg</b> , <i>Practice Lead &amp; Senior Director, Land &amp; Agricultural Economy, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)</i>	
Finance and servitisation	<b>Thomas Motmans</b> , <i>Sustainable Energy Finance Specialist, Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy (BASE)</i>	
Views from farmers	<b>Ildephonse Nestor Kirenga</b> , <i>Executive Secretary, National Cooperatives Confederation of Rwanda (NCCR)</i>	
Views from another market	<b>Nnaemeka Ikegwuonu</b> , <i>CEO, ColdHubs</i>	
<i>to support questions</i>	<b>Dr Natalia Falagan</b> , <i>Lecturer in Food Science and Technology, CU</i>	
<b>DEEPER-DIVE DISCUSSION &amp; AUDIENCE QUESTIONS</b>		
Topic 1: Headquarters build-out and engagement opportunities	<b>Juliet Kabera</b> , <i>Director General, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)</i> <b>Professor Nosa O. Egiebor</b> , <i>DVC, UR</i> <b>Brian Holuj</b> , <i>UNEP U4E</i> <b>Torben Funder-Kristensen</b> , <i>Head of Public and Industry Affairs, Danfoss</i>	
Topic 2: Community cooling hubs and Living Lab inception in Kenya and scale-up opportunities	<b>Professor Judith Evans</b> , <i>LSBU</i> <b>Harsen Nyambe</b> , <i>Head of Division of Sustainable Environment, African Union</i> <b>Vincent Gasasira</b> , <i>Cold Chain Specialist, Post-Harvest Plus Ltd</i> <b>Dr Catherine Kilelu</b> , <i>Program Lead, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security Program, ACTS</i>	
<b>CLOSE AND CALL TO ACTION</b>		<b>15:45 – 15:50</b>