**Africare to outline essential role of civil society, small-scale farming and best practices at this year’s AgriBusiness Forum.**

*Leading American NGO spotlights small-scale farming for a result-driven future for Africa’s Agri-Food sector.*

15th November 2012, Brussels, Belgium

“Across Africa it is the small entrepreneurs and businesses that drive community livelihoods and national economic development. Yet without adequate financing or access to buyers, producers associations are not able to sell their products to increase their incomes and bolster their livelihoods. Furthermore without knowledge of the markets, they are unable to secure the inputs and technology needed to increase production,” explains **Gwen Young Senegal Country Director for Africare** who will be presenting Africare’s vision at this year’s **AgriBusiness Forum** taking place in Dakar, Senegal from 25-28 November 2012.

Focused on establishing strategies that improve livelihoods with cohesive policies and long-lasting results, **Africare’s** message will underline the role of investments, technologies and services and the importance for these to be designed considering the needs of small-scale farmers, particularly women, and delivered to small-scale farmers, not simply to large agribusinesses. Africare, in addition to other civil society representatives, will offer a detailed approach as to what the future holds for Africa’s agricultural sector.

The pan-African forum entitled ‘*Boosting African Agriculture through Partnership, Investment and Technology*’, will provide a platform for civil society to present its views alongside Prime Ministers, politicians and local and international business leaders as well as chambers of commerce from across Africa, Europe, Asia and America.

Specific issues linked to all parts of the value chain as well as the barriers constraining farming communities will also be highlighted. **Young** adds that, “Producers need a clear market and demand before they can make firm investments in increasing income. They also need new technologies such as drip irrigation and water pumps, which allow them to spend more time on downstream value-chain activities such as marketing and processing their goods.”

The international organization will also use the pan-African AgriBusiness Forum as a mean to showcase partners, supporting the participations of six small enterprises to demonstrate both the innovative work being done at the community level as well as the financial, technological and service needs of small enterprises in Senegal.

Opened by the **H.E. President, Macky Sall,** the forum is co-organised by **EMRC**, **UNDP,** co-organiserof the AgriBusiness Forum 2011 in Johannesburg and **PanAAC** and will take place in collaboration with **FAO,** the **Rabobank Foundation**, the **Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa** **(FARA), UniBRAIN, Nigeria’s Kwara State, Africare, Syngenta Foundation, USAID** and **Amiran Kenya.**

To guarantee an environment conducive to launching new business projects, the forum will be accompanied by an **Exhibition** and **B2B sessions**. This year’s forum will also highlight **youth & agriculture** with innovative and ground-breaking projects during the internationally recognised **Project Incubator Award**, sponsored by the **Rabobank Foundation**, which will spotlight four leading innovative businesses with the winner taking home a cash prize of **US$15,000**.

To read Gwen Young’s full interview – please click [here](http://www.emrc.be/en/events/agribus2012/partners/5-min-with-africare.aspx?Preview=1).

To register for the AgriBusiness Forum please visit [www.emrc.be](http://www.emrc.be)

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**About EMRC**

EMRC's mission is to lead the private sector in Africa to sustainable economic development and to drive regional change via partnerships. Established in 1992 in Brussels, EMRC is a non-profit International Association composed of a network of entrepreneurs, financiers, consultants and officials based throughout the world.

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**About Africare**

Africare is a leading non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to addressing African development and policy issues by working in partnership with African people to build sustainable, healthy and productive communities. Since 1970, Africare has provided well over $1 billion of assistance and support through more than 2,500 projects in Agriculture & Food Security; Water, Sanitation & Hygiene; Women’s Empowerment; and Health, HIV & AIDS that have impacted millions of beneficiaries in 36 countries in Africa. Visit [http://www.africare.org](http://www.africare.org/) for more information.