

## **AKPALU BESA MICHAEL (SOUTHERN SECTOR**

### **REPRESENTATIVE)**



Mr. Akpalu Besa Michael is a seasoned agricultural professional with over three decades of experience in agricultural administration, extension services, farmer capacity building, and agribusiness development. He has served as District Director of Agriculture in multiple districts, leading initiatives that enhanced productivity, promoted innovation, and strengthened farmer organizations.

A recognized National Best Agricultural Extension Officer (1998), he is a specialist in rice cultivation, having advised and collaborated with national and international institutions including CRI/CSIR, AfricaRice, ACDI/VOCA, and the Korea Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA). His work spans agricultural policy implementation, project management, and media advocacy, with over 10 years of experience hosting farmer education programs on various radio platforms.

He has represented Ghana in high-level agricultural forums across Africa and Asia, and continues to serve on key development committees, including as Board Chairman of Paradise Co-operative Credit Union. His academic background includes a BSc. in General Agriculture (University of Cape Coast) and a National Diploma in Agriculture – Post-Harvest Technology (University of Ghana).

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## **Kenneth Barnes (Treasurer)**



### **PERSONAL PROFILE**

Kenneth Barnes is an expert and a consultant in Agribusiness with several years of experience in agribusiness value chain. Prior to entering into Agribusiness value chain, he worked and rose to the position of Financial Controller for West Africa, Business Operations Manager and Operational Analyst during his four years work with World Cover PBC a US based Index Insurance Company.

Throughout his career, Kenneth has worked with diverse range of industries, including Telecommunication, Consultancy, Insurance, academia and agribusiness. This versatility has equipped him with the ability to adapt and thrive in various market conditions.

Kenneth has wide skills and experience in Financial Analysis, business analytics, Strategic Planning and Customer Relationship Management (CRM), Process reengineering and Positioning, Sales Forecasting and Performance Metrics and Team Leadership and Cross-functional Collaboration.

He was the Business Development Manager for Quality Service Institute for a few months. He also worked with the Business Decision Unit, Sales Department and the Customer Operations Department as their Reporting and Performance analyst, Quality Assurance Analyst, and Outbound team lead of Millicom Ghana (Tigo) for five years.

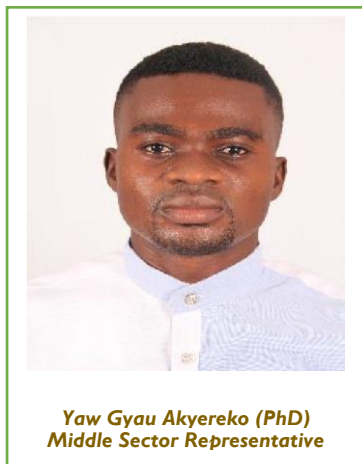
Kenneth also taught Social Studies and Religious and Moral Education at Queensland International School and Social Studies and Catering at Breman Asikuma Church of Christ International School. He is a strong advocate for special needs children inclusion in mainstream education.

He holds an MPhil in Industrial Finance and Investment with specialty in Treasury Management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology and a Bachelor of Education in Social Studies & Economics from University of Education, Winneba. He is a member of the Association of Chartered Economics.

Kenneth's passion in boosting agriculture, led him to set up Mybarnes Limited which is gradually becoming a household name in the agribusiness space in Ghana. He also serves as a consultant to several companies such as EcoLinks Korea, as their Feedstock Production & Origination expert and the Country Head.

Kenneth is a strong family person and believes in family principles. He is married with four wonderful kids - three boys and a girl.

## **DR. YAW GYUA AKYEREKO (VICE PRESIDENT)**



Dr. Yaw Gyau Akyereko is a distinguished member of the Executive Council of the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG). In his role, he represented the Middle Sector and he is currently the Vice President of the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG) and contributes to the organization's leadership with his extensive expertise and leadership skills.

Professionally, Dr. Akyereko holds the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer at PAG Farms, a registered company specializing in the production of certified seeds and various planting materials. His work ensures the availability of high-quality planting materials, including maize, cowpea, groundnut, and cassava, to meet the agricultural needs of Ghana.

Dr. Akyereko is a lecturer at the Koforidua Technical University, imparting knowledge and practical experience in the Department of Food and Postharvest Technology. With over seven years of experience in teaching, consultancy, and research, he is committed to nurturing the next generation of agricultural professionals.

Dr. Akyereko's educational journey is marked by excellence, holding a Bachelor of Science (BSc), Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.), and PhD. degrees in Food Science and Technology from the esteemed Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). His expertise spans various domains, including Crop Production, Postharvest Management, Food Safety, Food Processing Technology, Research Methods, Sensory Evaluation, Food Microbiology, and more. He actively contributes to academia with publications, including 2 book chapters, 8 peer-reviewed articles, and numerous conference proceedings. Beyond academia, Dr. Akyereko's consulting services have been instrumental in projects aimed at adding value to agricultural products, such as cashews, maize, tomatoes, cocoa, and chicken, in collaboration with ENI/KNUST and GIZ/Com Cashew. His research primarily focuses on social interventions in food safety, product development, nutritional studies, and agricultural value addition, with the goal of promoting job creation and enhancing food and nutrition security through underutilized crops.

Dr. Yaw Gyau Akyereko's dedication, collaboration, and profound knowledge, both in academia and industry, position him as a key influencer in Ghana's agricultural landscape. His multifaceted contributions, whether within NASTAG or in academic research and consultancy, exemplify his unwavering commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture and agricultural excellence in Ghana.

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WoS: <https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/GRY-6832-2022>

Researchgate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Yaw-Gyau-Akyereko-2>

## **BAKAWERI B. SAMUEL (NORTHERN SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE)**



Samuel Baatangacho Bakaweri is a seasoned agribusiness entrepreneur and the newly elected Northern Sector Representative of the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG). With over eleven years of experience in agricultural development, seed production, and value chain facilitation, Samuel is widely recognized for driving inclusive, climate-smart, and market-oriented agricultural growth across Northern Ghana.

He is the Founder and Managing Director of BATBAK Services, an agribusiness company based in Tamale, where he leads a team of professionals in delivering certified seed production, business advisory services, mechanization services, agro-input distribution, and market linkages to over 1,500 smallholder farmers. His work has directly contributed to yield improvements, market access, and financial inclusion for farming communities.

Samuel's expertise spans the design and implementation of development project interventions, including USAID-ATT, GIZ RiceMAPP, SSPING, and MADE Ghana. Under his leadership, BATBAK Services has transitioned from a modest startup to a key agribusiness player with over one million Ghana cedis in annual turnover.

He is passionate about sustainable agriculture, gender inclusion, and climate resilience, and has been instrumental in building farmer capacity in good agronomic practices, post-harvest management, and certified seed adoption. His educational background includes a Master of Science in Environmental Science Policy & Management and a BA in Integrated Development Studies, complemented by various certifications in agronomy, rice milling, and project management.

As Northern Sector Representative for NASTAG, Samuel brings a wealth of field experience, a strong farmer and agro-stakeholder network, and a commitment to advancing seed sector reforms, promoting public-private partnerships, and strengthening seed systems that benefit both producers and end-users in Ghana and beyond.

## **Lawrence Effah (Middle Sector Representative)**



Mr. Lawrence Effah is the CEO of Effah Farms and Trading Enterprise, Regional Secretary of SEEDPAG BA (covering the three Bono Regions), and a Municipal Development Officer (Livestock) with the Department of Agriculture. He also serves as a National Executive Committee Member of the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NaSTAG) for the 2025–2027 term.

A certified seed producer since 2007, Mr. Effah specializes in grains and legumes, and brings over 15 years of experience as an Agricultural Extension Agent and 4 years as a Development Officer. He has trained numerous farmers in practical agriculture, provided advisory services on farm planning, budgeting, and commercial farm establishment, and actively supports large-scale agricultural ventures.

In addition to seed production, he is engaged in commercial cassava production and processing, contributing to value addition and food security in Ghana.

## **SEIDU MUBARAK ABDULAI (PRESIDENT)**



Seidu Abdulai Mubarak is the Deputy Managing Director of Antika Company Limited, An agribusiness firm base in Wa in the Upper West Region of Ghana. The company is the largest local seed company in Ghana and serves all the 16 regions in the country with various seeds including maize, rice, soy bean, groundnut and cowpea.

Mubarak Seidu Abdulai was appointed by the President of the republic of Ghana to serves on the National Seed Council (NSC) as the private sector representative making him the youngest board member ever. He is also the Vice-President of the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG), the umbrella body of all seed value chain actors. Before then, he has served as the Northern Sector representative on the Executive Council of NASTAG for 2 terms (4 years).

He holds a B.A degree in Economics with Mathematics from the University of Ghana, Legon and a post-graduate diploma in Seed Science Technology from the Iowa State University, USA. Mubarak has attended several national and international training causes include business management, production as well as marketing from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He has over 16 years' experience in the Agribusiness industry in Ghana.

In April 2025, Seidu Mubarak Abdulai was voted the President of the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG) at their 9<sup>th</sup> AGM in Ho, in the Volta region for a 2 year term.

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