As part of the regional events from Africa-UK run by the Centre of African Studies, SOAS, this seminar aims to foster effective dialogue between the Diaspora and decision makers; challenge policy perspectives that neglect realities on the ground; and recognise the crucial role that the Diaspora plays in Africa’s development. Focussing on agricultural development in East Africa, this seminar will engage both the academic and Diaspora practitioner perspectives.

We welcome Perez Ochieng, the CEO/Director of Commercialization at SACOMA, an organisation which provides information, advice and guidance linking the diaspora and small-holder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. From the University of Birmingham, Dr Andrew Coulson will bring an academic perspective on the current state of research on agriculture and development in East Africa. And from the Natural Resources Institute at the University of Greenwich, Professor Ben Bennet will present from a European Union funded research project ‘African Food Tradition Revisited by Research’ (AFTER) about ‘re-engineering’ traditional African foods for international markets.

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