



THOUGHT LEADER

Peter Onguka

“It is well past time for [smallholder farmers] to take their rightful place centre stage in the global climate finance conversation.”

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Peter Onguka (he/him/his) is Head of Lending, Africa at Root Capital and an expert in the field of finance, with a specific focus on empowering traditionally underserved and underbanked populations. He has been a featured speaker at several high-profile conferences, including the [African Fine Coffees Association Conference](#), where he spoke on a panel discussing sustainable financing for the coffee sector.

At Root Capital—a nonprofit that invests in small and growing agricultural enterprises to transform rural communities—Peter oversees lending and financial product innovation across sub-Saharan Africa. Over the course of his career, Peter has honed his expertise in financial services tailored to businesses that can't access loans from traditional commercial banks. His wealth of experience extends from his early days in microfinance to his tenure at a Kenyan bank catering to small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Peter joined Root Capital in 2010 as a Senior Monitoring Officer and worked his way up to the Head of Lending, Africa. He received both his Bachelor of Arts and his M.B.A from the University of Nairobi. He also holds a Certificate in Agriculture Finance from the Kenya School of Monetary Studies, and a diploma in Agribusiness and Post-Harvest Management from the Galilee International Management Institute in Israel.



SPEAKING EXAMPLES

- G25 Africa Coffee Summit
- Africa Fine Coffee Conference (AFCA)
Rwanda
- Sankalp Africa Summit: Virtual Panel,
“Innovation for climate change adaptation:
Sizing opportunities for business
development and financing”
- World Coffee Alliance Cross Talk Series
- Investing in the Agroecological Business
Case Advisory Board Member

TOPICS OF INTEREST

- Agricultural finance
- Impact investing
- Climate finance
- Financial inclusion
- Financial product innovation agricultural
markets, especially coffee

TO BOOK PETER ONGUKA FOR A SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT OR MEDIA INTERVIEW, CONTACT COMMUNICATIONS@ROOTCAPITAL.ORG

ABOUT ROOT CAPITAL

Root Capital invests in the growth of agricultural enterprises so they can transform rural communities. These enterprises purchase crops such as coffee, cocoa, or grains from smallholder farmers. With growth, they become engines of impact that can raise incomes, create jobs, empower women and young people, sustain peace, and preserve vulnerable ecosystems. Root Capital supplies these enterprises with vital resources: access to capital, trade and technical partners, training on financial management, and conservation practices. To date, Root Capital has distributed \$2 billion to more than 840 enterprises and provided training to more than 2,000 enterprises—collectively improving the lives of 11 million people in farming communities.