

EMPOWERING SUSTAINABLE IMPACT



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ABOUT VOICES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Voices of Sustainability is a thought leadership platform launched by the Zayed Sustainability Prize to explore the challenges and opportunities of the global transition to an inclusive and

prosperous future. Each month, the series hosts the world's thought leaders to discuss the latest trends and themes in the sustainability agenda.



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INTRODUCTION

The 44th episode of Voices of Sustainability, titled “Empowering Sustainable Impact”, brought together four of this year’s winning organisations from the Health, Food, Water and Climate Action categories to share their transformative contributions to sustainability. The discussion featured Veena Muktali, CEO and Co-founder of Periwinkle Technologies, AbulLateef Olaosebikan, Co-founder of NaFarm Foods, Rhett Butler, Chairman of SkyJuice Foundation, and Innocent Maholi, Executive Director of OpenMap Development Tanzania.

These inspiring winners provided unique insights into how their groundbreaking innovations are driving local and global change. The discussion explored the resilience, creativity, and vision required to tackle today’s pressing challenges and underscored the importance of collaboration and innovation in creating a more sustainable future.



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SUMMARY

The 44th episode of Voices of Sustainability, recorded in-person in Abu Dhabi, was titled “Empowering Sustainable Impact” and was moderated by Shuva Raha, Lead, International Cooperation at CEEW. The panellists shared their insights into the challenges they’ve faced with their projects, the breakthroughs they’ve achieved, and their visions for the future of sustainability.

Veena Muktali, CEO and Co-founder of Periwinkle Technologies, highlighted the critical need to improve women’s healthcare, particularly cervical cancer screening. She presented the Smart Scope[®] CX, an AI-enabled handheld device designed to address cervical cancer screening challenges. With 350,000 women dying annually from undetected cervical cancer, her innovation focuses on neighbourhood-level screening,



After working in advanced healthcare systems, I realised India was missing critical women’s health infrastructure. Cervical cancer was killing thousands, so we used technology to bridge the gap—transforming medical expertise with AI and innovation.

Veena Muktali
CEO and Co-founder
Periwinkle Technologies



drastically reducing turnaround time between screening and treatment. Her motivation stemmed from identifying healthcare gaps in India and collaborating with doctors and public health experts to develop a technology that can make cancer screening more accessible.



Our solution of solar food dryers wasn’t just a technology, but a mission to transform agricultural practices—elevating food safety, one solar dryer at a time.

AbdulLateef Olaosebikan
Co-founder
NaFarm Foods



AbulLateef Olaosebikan, Co-founder of NaFarm Foods, introduced his organisation’s hybrid solar food dryers, which are tackling Nigeria’s significant food waste problem, where 800,000 metric tonnes of food are lost annually, costing US \$7 billion. His technology uses renewable solar energy to generate heat and electricity, improving food drying and preservation. Starting with small-scale farmers, he evolved the technology through NGO partnerships and expanded to six states across Nigeria.

Rhett Butler, Chairman of SkyJuice Foundation, reflected on the transformative power of safe drinking water. Rhett’s innovation addresses the global challenge of safe drinking water, focusing on a low-cost membrane filtration water treatment solution. His unique approach requires no power and no chemicals while removing all pathogens and contaminants. He emphasises community ownership of water treatment units and transparent cost analysis, with a goal of providing safe water to the billions of people who currently lack access.

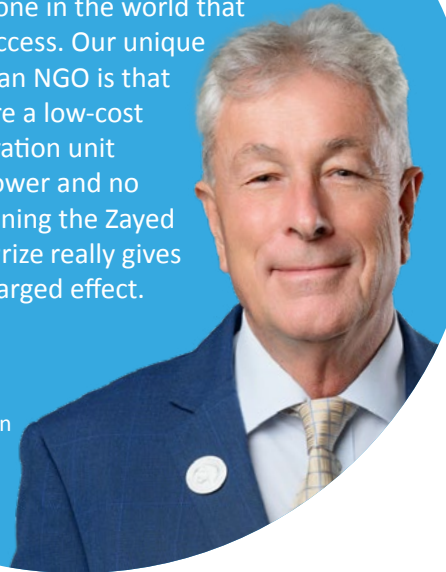
Innocent Maholi, Executive Director of OpenMap Development Tanzania, explained how community mapping is empowering Tanzanians to address climate challenges. Motivated by personal experience with flooding that affected his family, Innocent developed community flood mapping technology in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Our mission is to provide safe drinking water to everyone in the world that doesn’t have access. Our unique proposition as an NGO is that we manufacture a low-cost membrane filtration unit that uses no power and no chemicals. Winning the Zayed Sustainability Prize really gives us the supercharged effect.

Rhett Butler

Chairman
SkyJuice Foundation



The sky is not the limit. There are always possibilities. Engage in something you believe in, solve community problems, and remember: challenges are opportunities for innovation. Customise solutions to make them work for your community.

Innocent Maholi

Executive Director
OpenMap Development
Tanzania



His solution aims to map flood-prone areas, create evidence-based data, and support government and community decision-making. By organising workshops and engaging local officials and community members, he’s created a participatory approach to disaster management.

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BIOGRAPHIES



Veena Muktali

CEO and Co-founder
Periwinkle Technologies

With over 26 years in technology and product commercialisation across the UK, USA, and India, Veena co-founded Periwinkle Technologies in 2013 alongside Koustubh Naik. They developed Smart Scope® CX, an AI-enabled system bringing point-of-care cervical exams closer to women. Veena has driven patent acquisition, regulatory approvals, research collaborations, strategic partnerships, and the product's 2019 commercialisation. Recognised by the WHO as a 'catalytic innovation,' Periwinkle has expanded across India and beyond, reaching hundreds of thousands of women.



AbdulLateef Olaosebikan

Co-founder
NaFarm Foods

AbdulLateef Olaosebikan co-founded NaFarm Foods in Nigeria, an agro-processing company tackling food waste through innovative solutions like hybrid solar food dryers. With a degree in Geography and Environmental Science, he has over a decade of experience in agribusiness. Under his leadership, NaFarm Foods has supported 65,000 farmers and trained 18,000 women and youth in sustainable practices. Recognised by the African Development Bank and the Tony Elumelu Foundation, AbdulLateef aims to expand NaFarm's reach to two million farmers and scale its climate-smart tools across Africa.



Rhett Butler

Chairman
SkyJuice Foundation

Rhett Butler is the Founder and Chairman of SkyJuice Foundation, an Australian nonprofit providing sustainable water solutions to over 75 countries. Since 1996, SkyJuice has deployed 9,500 water filtration units, working with NGOs like Rotary, Oxfam, and World Vision. With over 40 years of experience in the water industry, Rhett holds postgraduate degrees in Engineering, Science, and Business Administration. A recipient of the Order of Australia in 2012, he continues to lead initiatives for clean water access globally, combining expertise in membrane technology with humanitarian impact.



Innocent Maholi

Executive Director
OpenMap Development Tanzania

Innocent Maholi is the Executive Director of OpenMap Development Tanzania (OMDTZ), which he co-founded in 2017. A graduate in Urban and Regional Planning from Ardhi University, Innocent specialises in open mapping and data-driven solutions for community resilience. Through OMDTZ, he has spearheaded projects like Ramani Huria, which trains students and communities to map flood-prone areas in Dar es Salaam, improving disaster management and urban resilience. Innocent's work focuses on SDG goals for climate action and sustainable cities, and he is an active member of initiatives like Resilient40 and OSM Africa.

The conversation was moderated by:



Shuva Raha

Lead
International Cooperation at CEEW

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OUTCOMES



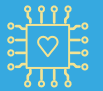
Tech for Good: From AI-powered cancer screening to solar food preservation, each winner applied cutting-edge technology to tackle critical human challenges.



Community-First: Local engagement and collaboration were key to designing impactful solutions tailored to real-world needs.



Resilient Entrepreneurs: The winners shared stories of overcoming funding hurdles, bureaucracy, and scepticism through persistence and innovation.



AI-Driven Healthcare Innovation: Periwinkle Technologies leverages AI to improve cervical cancer detection, saving lives by making early detection accessible to underserved communities.



Sustainable Food Waste Solutions: NaFarm Foods addresses food waste through solar-powered dryers, creating hygienic, sustainable food preservation systems.



Universal Water Access: SkyJuice Foundation's low-cost, sustainable filtration technology is transforming water access in vulnerable regions.



Community-Led Climate Solutions: OpenMap Development Tanzania empowers communities to take ownership of climate resilience through data-driven action.

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