

Ada Osakwe, Founder & Chief Executive, Agrolay Ventures and Nuli

Ada Osakwe is an award-winning food entrepreneur, investor and passionate African development advocate. She is Founder of Agrolay Ventures, an investment firm focusing on early-stage innovative food companies in Africa. Since 2015, the firm has built a portfolio of 8 high-growth investments in food and technology, including *The Nuli Juice Company* ('Nuli'), Nigeria's fastest-growing farm-to-table beverage producer and fast-casual restaurant chain that utilizes locally grown vegetables and fruits. Ada founded Nuli and serves as the start-up's Chief Executive.

Ada has received numerous recognitions for her work. She is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum and an Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow of the Africa Leadership Institute. Consecutively between 2016 and 2019, Forbes Afrique listed her as one of the Top 100 Africans contributing to economic impact on the Continent. She has also been a recipient of the *Entrepreneur of the Year* and *Achiever in Agriculture Awards* in 2015 and was on the *Forbes 20 Youngest Power Women in Africa* list in 2014.

Osakwe is a renowned authority on private sector investing in Africa's agribusiness sector. Part-time, she serves as the interim Chief Operating Officer of the World Hunger Fighter's Foundation (WHFF), a non-profit founded by World Food Prize Laureate Dr. Akinwumi Adesina to invest in young innovators for a hunger-free world. She is a Board Member of the One Acre Fund, a global non-profit that serves smallholder farming families across Africa. She is a member of the African Development Bank's (AfDB) *Presidential Youth Advisory Group*, and a mentor on the Future Global Leaders Fellowship Program. She also serves on the High-Level Advisory Group of *Generation Africa*, an initiative to invest in young African agripreneurs co-catalysed by Yara International and African billionaire Strive Masiyiwa of Econet.

From 2012 till 2015, Ada was the Senior Adviser on Investments to Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture, where she launched novel initiatives that attracted millions of investments to Nigeria's agribusiness sector. She was responsible for advising the Minister on all agribusiness investment-related activities involving private sector investors, and led the development and launch of the Fund for Agricultural Financing in Nigeria (FAFIN), an innovative private equity fund focused on investing in agribusiness processing companies in Nigeria. In her final assignment, Ada played a lead role in the campaign team that successfully ushered in Dr. Adesina as the current president of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB).

Prior to her public service she was Vice President at Kuramo Capital, a New York-based private equity firm, was a Senior Investment Officer at the AfDB and an Analyst with Actis, a multi-billion dollar Private Equity fund focused on emerging markets investing. She began her career as an Analyst at BNP Paribas investment bank, London.

Ada has an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, MSc in Economics and Finance from University of Warwick, U.K. and BSc in Economics (First Class Honours) from the University of Hull, U.K.