

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elizka Relief Foundation's President & CEO Authors New Book Bridging Customary Land Governance and Global Agriculture Trade, Published by the International Trade Council

Author Kofi Kankam outlines a collaborative framework for integrating traditional leadership with sustainable agri-export markets

Kumasi, Ghana – August 20, 2026 – Elizka Relief Foundation is pleased to announce that its President and Chief Executive Officer, Kofi Kankam, is the author of a new book, *The Customary Governance & Land Lens*, published by the International Trade Council. This 15-chapter publication explores how traditional leadership frameworks can be mobilized to secure, restore, and manage land for sustainable agricultural production aimed at global markets. By examining the intersection of customary authority and international trade, the book offers practical strategies for building credible, eco-certified supply chains.

The publication addresses a persistent challenge in international trade: the friction between Western trade frameworks and customary land ownership systems, particularly in West Africa. Traditional communal land structures are often misunderstood by global buyers and institutions, leading to investment risks and missed opportunities for local communities. Kankam's work provides a blueprint for bridging this gap, demonstrating how traditional stewards can serve as key partners in establishing sustainable agri-export hubs.

Throughout the book, the author examines the legal interfaces between formal state law and customary practice, the role of social capital as trade collateral, and methods for resolving land disputes outside formal courtroom settings. The text also details how modern technologies, such as digital traceability tools, can responsibly map customary lands to meet the requirements of global eco-certification.

Additionally, the book addresses critical issues of inclusivity, focusing on gender equity within customary systems, and outlines guidelines for international partners seeking to design respectful supply chains. The final chapters discuss how this model, while rooted in West African contexts, can be scaled globally to foster a more inclusive and resilient international trading system.

“As global markets increasingly demand verifiable sustainability and ethical sourcing, understanding local land stewardship becomes essential for international trade partners. This book offers a thoughtful pathway for integrating traditional leadership into modern supply chains, helping to foster mutual trust and sustainable economic development,” said Ranjani Rangan, Chairperson of the International Trade Council.

The Customary Governance & Land Lens is written for international trade professionals, policymakers, agricultural exporters, impact investors, and development practitioners. It serves as an informative guide for those seeking to navigate complex land tenure systems, establish ethical sourcing channels, or implement sustainable agricultural initiatives in regions governed by traditional authorities.

BOOK DETAILS:

Title: The Customary Governance & Land Lens

Subtitle: Customary Land Governance and Sustainable Trade: Mobilizing Traditional Leadership for Eco-Certified Agri-Export Hubs

Author: Kofi Kankam, President & CEO, Elizka Relief Foundation

Published by: International Trade Council

Available at: <https://itradecouncil.org/books/vs82gf84asx74m9wyhhr6ky60s8apnq0>

ABOUT ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION:

Elizka Relief Foundation is restoring hope and dignity to vulnerable communities through compassionate service and sustainable solutions. Based in Ghana, the Foundation operates at the intersection of local restoration, diplomacy, and resilient livelihoods, and is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC, accredited by UNEP, UNFCCC, UNCCD, GCF, OPCW, ICAN, and VNOC. Under the leadership of President and CEO Kofi Kankam, the Foundation works across sustainable agriculture, digital inclusion, evidence-based solutions, and community empowerment to translate local realities into systemic change at the global level. Learn more at www.elizkafoundation.org.

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ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COUNCIL:

The International Trade Council is a peak-body trade organization dedicated to supporting businesses engaged in international commerce. The Council provides resources, networking opportunities, and advocacy for exporters and importers worldwide, and operates ADAMftd (www.adamftd.com), a global trade data solution providing customs data, shipping data, sanctions screening, tariff information, trade rules, regulatory data, and company intelligence for exporters.

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