



GLOBAL IMPACT SPEAKER SERIES

Root Capital -- Making Capital and Markets Work for Small-Scale Farmers in Developing Countries

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| Who | Willy Foote CEO and Founder Root Capital |
| When | Wednesday, January 25, 2012 5 - 6 pm |
| Where | R 2240 Ross School of Business |
| | Reception immediately following |



Small grassroots businesses - such as coffee farmer cooperatives and artisan associations - are engines for sustainable development and poverty alleviation in rural communities in the developing world. Considered too small and risky for mainstream banks and too large for microfinance, these grassroots businesses are caught in the middle as they cannot access the capital they need to grow and sustain their operations. Willy will talk about how Root Capital addresses this market failure through their innovative lending model that serves the needs of these remote grassroots businesses and the challenges they encounter.

William Foote is Founder and CEO of Root Capital. He has received the Joan Bavaria Innovation Award, the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship and has been named an Ashoka Global Fellow, Young Global Leader, and member of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO). He serves on the Executive Committee of the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Foote holds a B.A. from Yale University and a M.Sc. in from the London School of Economics.

About Root Capital

Root Capital is a nonprofit social investment fund that is pioneering finance for grassroots businesses in rural areas of developing countries. It provides capital, deliver financial training, and strengthen market connections for small and growing businesses that build sustainable livelihoods and transform rural communities in poor, environmentally vulnerable places.

Since its launch in 1999, Root Capital has provided \$330 million in credit to 349 small and growing businesses in 30 countries, maintaining a 99% repayment rate from our borrowers and a 100% repayment rate to our investors.

Learn more about Root Capital at <http://www.rootcapital.org/>

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For more information about the Global Impact Speaker Series, contact wdi-spss@umich.edu.