SPEAKER PROFILES

(in alphabetical order)

David Abreu
Senior Director, Digital and Data for Impact and Integrated Management (CGIAR)

David Abreu brings a focused strategic approach to Digital and Data maximizing the reach of research organizations. He has worked as an architect of technology, both for business and research, for more than 20 years. He has contributed to technology integration activities, led the development of large-scale results-based management systems, served as an expert in ICT, and provided strategic advice to governments, international organizations, and CGIAR.

These experiences have shown him that digital transformation is much more than a technology challenge. Success can only be achieved through deep engagement with all the communities involved, and successful platforms result from iterative development processes engaging management, user communities, partners and funders, facilitated by development and technical teams.

Yan Bai
Economist, Food Prices for Nutrition DataHub (World Bank)

Yan Bai is a consultant at the Development Data Group of the World Bank, specializing in food security, nutrition and price analysis. He holds the PhD degree in Food and Nutrition Policy from Tufts' Friedman School of Nutrition. Before joining the Friedman School, Yan earned his Master's degree in International Business (MIB) at Tufts' Fletcher School, focusing on International Finance and Global Health. Prior to his graduate education, Yan worked at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Rothschild Group, where he acquired industry experiences in healthcare, life sciences, and agriculture sectors. Yan is also an assistant professor at the School of Public Affairs, Zhejiang University in China.

Christopher Brett
Lead Agribusiness Specialist (World Bank)

Christopher Brett was appointed as the Lead Agribusiness Specialist with the World Bank in November 2016 and joined the Agriculture and Food Global Agricultural Practice, now based in Rome. He has a Master's Degree in Management for Agricultural Development from Cranfield University in the United Kingdom. He has more than thirty five years' experience of working within the public, private and voluntary sectors in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Prior to working with the World Bank, he worked for 9 years as the Global Head of Sustainability and Partnerships for a large multi-national agricultural supply chain management company, as part of the senior management team, Chris supported the company's transition from a trading-based company to a global agri-business supply chain management company.
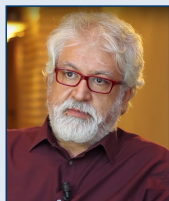
Anthony Bennett
Senior Programme Officer (HiH FAO)

Anthony has over 25 years of international work experience in working for FAO and IFAD on improving market access, food systems, sustainable value chains development and investments. He has led the design, negotiation and implementation of a range of complex and large multi-donor funded initiatives. He is currently coordinating the FAO Hand in Hand Initiative, an FAO Priority Programme Area.

Tony returned to work for FAO from IFAD in 2010 where he lead the FAO global work on food loss and waste, including the setting up of multiple Multidisciplinary platforms and collaborations with the private sector (e.g., Rockefeller for the African union) before moving to Asia Pacific in 2016 as Food Systems Senior Officer (Post-production). He has experience working on improved post-harvest management, value addition, with farmer cooperatives and small- and medium-scale agricultural enterprises and related training and has worked in over 110 countries. Tony holds an M.Sc. (Agriculture in Engineering Technology) from University College Dublin and M.A. (Research Meritus) Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

Carlo Cafiero
Senior Statistician and Economist (FAO)

Carlo Cafiero is a senior statistician and economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. He leads the Team in charge of producing food security and nutrition statistics at global, regional and country levels; is the focal point for the indicators used to monitor SDG Target 2.1.; and represents FAO in the Technical Advisory Group of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Over the past 8 years, he has managed the "Voices of the Hungry" project, which has been instrumental in establishing the Food Insecurity Experience Scale a globally valid tool for measuring the severity of individual and household food insecurity.

Recently he has led the Team who drafted the Committee on World Food Security, High Level Panel of Experts (CFS-HLPE) Report #17 on Data Collection and Analysis Tools for food security and nutrition. Prior to joining FAO in 2011, he taught statistics, agricultural economics, and agricultural policy at the Graduate school of Agriculture at the University of Naples Federico II, Italy. He received a PhD in agricultural and natural resource economics from the University of California at Berkeley, a Doctoral degree in agricultural policy from the University of Naples Federico II, Italy and a MS in agricultural economics from the University of Arizona.

Betina Dimaranan
Senior Research Coordinator (IFPRI)

Betina Dimaranan is a Senior Research Coordinator at the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) where she coordinates the Food Security Portal (FSP). She also coordinated the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium at IFPRI. Betina Dimaranan has conducted research on trade policy issues, biofuels policies, food and agricultural policies, and growth and economic development.

Before joining IFPRI, Betina was a Research Economist and the Database Administrator at the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) in Purdue University. Betina received an M.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University.

Carola Fabi
Senior Statistician (FAO)

Carola is a Senior Statistician with over 30 years of experience in various fields of official statistics, working for FAO for the past 22 years. She is currently responsible for the Data Lab, created in FAO at the end of 2019 with the objective to modernize the statistical processes, and promote the use of non-official, unstructured data and data science methods such as web scraping and text mining to fill in data gaps or for early warning purposes. She leads the team on Methodological Innovation that developed the corporate Statistical Working System, which processes the main statistical domains in FAO and is responsible for the SDG indicator 12.3 on food losses.

Before joining FAO she worked on international price comparisons. Carola holds a master degree (Laurea) in Economic Statistics from the University of Rome La Sapienza and an M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from the Imperial College, London, UK.

Nadine Gbossa
Director, Food Systems Coordination (IFAD), Chief Means of Implementation (UN Food Systems Coordination Hub)

Nadine Gbossa started her career with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, and the United Nations Office for Project Services in Abidjan and New York. From 2004, she has held senior management positions with the United Nations Development Programme in Niger and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Italy. As Country Director, Representative and Regional head for IFAD, Ms Gbossa worked in several African countries with vulnerable communities, governments, development partners and the private sector for inclusive growth.

From 2016 to 2018, Ms. Gbossa headed the Global Partnerships and Policies Division in the Development Co-operation Directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris leading the OECD's development cooperation work. In August 2018, was appointed as Representative for IFAD in Nigeria, managing the largest country programme in the region. Subsequently, IFAD appointed her as Director for the West and Central Africa region leading one of IFAD's largest investment divisions. In 2021, Nadine was appointed as Director for Food Systems Coordination in IFAD and she is the Chief of the Means of Implementation for the UN Food System Coordination Hub.

Neli Georgieva
Coordinator, Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (FAO)

Neli Georgieva coordinates the implementation of the Second phase of the Global Strategy to Improve agricultural and Rural statistics, hosted by FAO. She has a long experience in the field of the agricultural statistics at national and international levels. She joined the FAO statistics division in 2014, and since then worked on several important statistical projects: World Census of Agriculture 2020 program; Global Strategy to Improve agricultural and Rural statistics Phase I and Agricultural Integrated survey (AGRIS) – methodological development and country implementation; 50 x 2030 Initiative – Data production component.

Before joining FAO, she worked as statistician in Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union), coordinating the successful dissemination of the Farm Structure Survey/Agricultural census 2010 data and important indicators linked to the agricultural policy. Her career includes as well a valuable data use experience, working on the Common agricultural policy of the European Union. Prior to this, she had managed the agricultural statistics directorate of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture.

Daniele Giovannucci
Co-Founder & President (COSA)

Daniele Giovannucci is an author and thought leader on sustainable development themes. He is a co-founder and current President of COSA, the Committee on Sustainability Assessment, a non-profit consortium serving governments, institutions, and Fortune 500 companies with innovative ways to measure and advance sustainability. He is an advocate for pragmatism, such as the democratization of data and the human-scaling of advanced data technologies that engage rural communities more effectively in their own resilient development.

His public service includes a decade at The World Bank and a United Nations appointment to lead the expert teams formulating the strategic input to the Food and Agriculture Strategy for the 21st Century. Daniele also serves in his local government (a certified LEED Gold City) and as a community volunteer. His academic work includes review and editorial guidance for various scientific and professional publications, IETI Fellowship, and teaching in two Universities. Downloads of his more than 70 books and professional papers rank in the top 1% of the 950,000 professional authors tracked by the Social Science Research Network (Elsevier).

Tsitsi Makombe
Director, External Relations (AKADEMIYA2063)

As Director of External Relations, Tsitsi Makombe leads AKADEMIYA2063's efforts to build, enhance, and maintain innovative and strategic partnerships. She cultivates relationships with a diverse array of partners and stakeholders including continental and regional organizations, national governments, non-state actor organizations, and investors. Tsitsi provides programmatic support to the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS), a core program of AKADEMIYA2063, that provides policy-relevant data and analysis, strengthens data quality and capacities, and promotes mutual accountability processes in support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Prior to joining AKADEMIYA2063, Tsitsi was a Senior Program Manager with the International Food Policy Research Institute where she successfully managed diverse partnerships and multi-year projects and programs in support of CAADP. She is a certified project management professional (PMP) with over 15 years of programmatic and research experience in African agricultural development. A citizen of Zimbabwe, Tsitsi received her M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University and a B.S. degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources from Africa University.

Claire Melamed
CEO (GPSDD)

Dr. Claire Melamed is the CEO of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. This growing network brings together several hundred members -- governments, private sector, and civil society -- to harness and leverage data and data technology towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. She was previously Managing Director of the Overseas Development Institute, and in 2014, she worked in the office of the UN Secretary General, writing the report of the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution, "A World That Counts."

Claire is based in London and heads up a global team based in ten countries. Claire is an Affiliated Researcher at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy at the University of Cambridge and serves on a number of Boards and advisory groups for institutions including the UK Office of National Statistics Data Science Campus, Full Fact, and Mo Ibrahim Foundation Governance Index.

Vasco Molini
Programme Manager 50x2030 Initiative (World Bank)

Vasco Molini leads the design, implementation, and results management of the 50x2030 initiative. This initiative aims to increase countries capacity to produce, analyze, interpret, and apply data to decisions in the agricultural sector. In his previous role, Vasco was a Senior Economist at the World Bank, specialized in issues related to inequality and statistical capacity building. Over the course of more than one decade with the Bank, he worked in Mozambique, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Ghana, Nigeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya, where he led country level dialogues on jobs, poverty reduction, polarization and conflicts; and managed country-level statistical capacity building initiatives.

Vasco has also published on these topics in more than twenty internationally peer-reviewed journals. Prior to joining the World Bank, Vasco worked as researcher at the Free University of Amsterdam where he led research projects on household vulnerability to shocks, food security and nutrition, and on weather and price insurance for poor farmers. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Florence and a Post-Doc from the Free University of Amsterdam.

José Rosero Moncayo
Director, Statistics Division (FAO)

José Rosero is the Director of the Statistics Division (ESS) in FAO based in Rome-Italy. He holds a master´s degree in economics of development and a Ph.D. in economics from Amsterdam University. He has served as Executive Director of the National Institute of Censuses and Statistics of Ecuador, as a former President of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and as member of the High Level for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition he also served as Vice Minister for Social Development, as Technical Secretary of the Social Front and as Coordinator of the Integrated System of Social Indicators in his home country Ecuador. Dr. Rosero has wide experience in research, social policy design and international statistics.

Marie Christine Monnier
Coordinator, Land and Water Division (WAW)

Marie-Christine Monnier is a senior Agronomist and Agro-economist with 35 years of experience in agriculture and rural development, extension and business development services, international development support and humanitarian aid. Her initial spezialisations in soils, cropping systems and peasant studies have evolved to a comprehensive expertise in resilient farming systems, sustainable food and nutrition security and rural populations' centered value chains development approaches.

She has a working experience of the private sector, international NGOs and public institutions, both at French and European levels. Before joining FAO in 2021 as coordinator of the World Agriculture Watch, Marie-Christine Monnier was engaged in field projects management in conflict affected areas in Central and Eastern Africa then in the Sahelian zone. Her other experiences in Middle East, Asia-Pacific, South America and the SIDS territories of Indian Ocean and the Carribbean have all reinforced her conviction that both male and female family farmers and their communities, as the key actors of change in the Food Systems mandatory transformation, must be better supported with adapted policies and investments. This focus on data at the level of farms, to inform decision makers through a dynamic knowledge of their status, functioning, performances and challenges, is precisely what the WAW methodology is offering.

Karl Morteo
Information Technology Officer (HiH FAO)

Karl has over 30 years of experience developing and supplying IT solutions & services. He is currently working at the Food and Agriculture Organization where he is leading the development of the flagship Hand-in-Hand geospatial platform which brings together technical units from across the Organization and integrates data from United Nations system, international organizations, NGOs, space agencies. public data providers and the private sector.

Previously Karl has delivered IT solutions at the global, regional, and national scale in the domains of animal health, livestock, fisheries, crops, plant genetics and pests, food security, climate, trade and markets, soil, land, and water.He has also worked in telecoms, merchant banking and the space industry. Karl is a Cloud Architect, Scrum Master, PRINCE2 project manager and an ITIL practitioner. He graduated from the University of Leeds with a bachelor's degree in Computational Science and completed a master's degree in Intelligent Knowledge Based Systems at Cranfield Institute of Technology.

Jaron Porciello
Co-Director, Hesat2030 & Associate Professor (University of Notre Dame)

Jaron Porciello is a data scientist working on evidence, data, and evaluation issues at the intersection of the science-policy interface for agriculture and food systems. She is currently an Associate Professor of Practice at the Lucy Family Institute for Data & Society at the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame. She holds associate scientist appointments at Max Planck Institute for Human Development at the Center for Cognitive Rationality in Germany, and the National Research Council of Italy, Institute of Information Science and Technologies. Prior to this, she was a research scientist at Cornell University for more than 15 years.

She is the lead investigator for Hesat2030: A Global Roadmap to End Hunger Nutritiously and Sustainably, in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, and the Shamba Centre for Food and Climate. Hesat2030 builds on the success of Ceres2030: Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger, a global effort to coordinate G-7 donor decision-making in the international effort to end hunger and transform the lives of the world's poorest people (Sustainable Development Goal 2).

Jo Puri
Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department (IFAD)

Jyotsna Puri (or Jo) is the Associate Vice-President - Strategy and Knowledge Department (SKD) at IFAD. She leads the organizations strategy work in IFAD's key areas targeting agriculture, climate, gender, nutrition, youth and social inclusion. Puri provides the vision for evidence-informed advice on program designs and implementation, contributing to resource mobilization, and supporting IFAD's global remit in providing state-of the art policy advice related to these topics.

Puri has worked previously at the Green Climate Fund, 3ie, UNEP, the World Bank and UNDP. She is also adjunct associate professor at Columbia University, New York where she was also a research scientist. She has published in many academic journals and written for newspapers and provided advice as a board member to several development organizations. In 2019, Puri was selected one of 16 women who have shown leadership in restoring the earth through their efforts, by the Global Landscape Forum. She holds a PhD and MSc in Agriculture and Resource Economics and an MA in Development Economics.

Sara Savastano
Director, Research and Impact Assessment Division (IFAD)

Sara Savastano is the Director of IFAD's Research and Impact Assessment Division. Before joining IFAD, she was Senior Economist with the World Bank's Development Economic Research Group and was professor of economics at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy. She also served as economist at the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance. She is Board member of the International Association on Applied Bioeconomy Research and the Italian Association of Development Economists.

She has published in peer reviewed journals on issues related to land markets and agricultural productivity, as well as the intensification of farming systems, investment, and technology for rural and structural transformation. Savastano holds a PhD in economics from the University of Rome Tor Vergata.
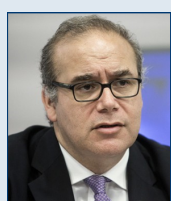
Johan Swinnen
**Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
and Managing Director, Systems Transformation Science Group (CGIAR)**

Johan Swinnen is Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Managing Director, Systems Transformation Science Group (CGIAR). He presently serves as a co-lead of the finance lever of the UN Food Systems Summit, is a Commissioner in the Food Systems Economics Commission, Co-Chair of the Think20 (T20) Task Force on Climate Change, Sustainable Energy, and Environment, and also a member of the Champions 12.3 Leadership Group to Reduce Food Loss and Waste (SDG Target 12.3) and the Africa Europe Strategic Task Force on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems.

Prior to joining IFPRI, he was professor of economics and director of the LICOS Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance at KU Leuven (Belgium) and senior research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels. He has also served as a lead economist at the World Bank and economic advisor to the European Commission.

Máximo Torero
Chief Economist (FAO)

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen is the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He joined the Organization in January 2019 as Assistant Director-General for the Economic and Social Development Department.

Prior to joining FAO, he had been Executive Director at the World Bank Group since November 2016 and, before the Bank, Dr. Torero led the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).