

Global Food Systems Change – The Next Decade

Wednesday, 11th – Thursday, 12th May 2022

Participants' Biographies



Mr Tim Aldred

Tim has been Head of Policy at the Fairtrade Foundation since 2013. His team works on public policy issues that impact on Fairtrade farmers, including the climate crisis, trade policy, business and human rights, and living incomes and living wages. Tim was formerly a board member at the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) until 2021. Tim studied Chemical Engineering and Water Resource Management before beginning work in international development in Afghanistan in the mid-1990s. This was followed by ten years with the humanitarian response team at CAFOD. He came to Fairtrade from Progressio, where he was Head of Policy and Communications.



Ms Emily Armistead

Emily is a campaigner with over 20 years' experience of working for a better world through protecting the environment and human rights. A believer that change happens when multiple strategies and actors work together, Emily has worked with Greenpeace, ActionAid and Global Witness on campaigns which have forced companies towards more ethical supply chains, held major corporations to account on climate and halted government plans for polluting infrastructure. Since 2017 Emily has been a Deputy Programme Director at Greenpeace UK, with a responsibility for forests and oceans and is currently exploring how a systemic approach to food can help strengthen Greenpeace's campaigns to slow climate change and halt biodiversity loss.



Mr Joao Campari

Joao is Global Leader of WWF's Food Practice, in charge of the Network's efforts to enhance the sustainability of food systems worldwide. He leads a team that co-designs, with WWF's country offices and external partners, solutions that deliver nature-positive production, sustainable diets and reduction of food loss and food waste. Concurrently with his role at WWF, Joao has served as Chair of Action Track 3 of the UN Food Systems Summit, leading the Summit's work on nature-positive food production systems. Prior to WWF, Joao held the position of Special Environmental and Sustainability Advisor to Brazil's Minister of Agriculture. Joao has held technical and executive positions in multilateral and bilateral agencies (World Bank, UNDP and DFID), in the federal government of Brazil (Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture) and has advised national and sub-national governments (in Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay) on the design and implementation of regional development policies, combining socio-economic rural development with conservation. For thirteen years, Joao worked for The Nature Conservancy as Program Director in Latin America, Executive Director in Brazil and Lead Economist for the Global Lands program. Joao holds a bachelor's degree in international relations and economics, a master's degree in economics, and a Ph.D. in environmental economics. He has published two books on the economics of tropical deforestation.



Professor Mike Clarke

Mike catalyses collective impact for planetary health, building bridges across nature, climate, health and food sectors. He provides strategic advice to civil society, business, and government with a focus on global system-change and social cohesion, developing shared strategy among systems leaders and building capacity for collaboration. He is Chair of the Global Science and Policy Committee of BirdLife International and a trustee of UK civil society networks. Until 2019, he was CEO of the RSPB, the largest civil society organisation for nature in Europe. He is a Visiting Professor at University of Southampton's School of Geography and Environmental Sciences and is an Associate of the Institute for European Environmental Policy.



David Edwards

David is Director of Food Strategy at WWF-UK and sits on WWF's Global Food Leadership Team. Prior to joining WWF in 2018, David served for 10 years as Assistant Director of HRH The Prince of Wales' International Sustainability Unit, having worked previously both as a development consultant in Africa and as a research executive with KANTAR-TNS advising major food and drinks companies. He is a Trustee of [Food Foundation](#) and [SUSTAIN](#).



Mr Richard Ewbank

Richard has spent thirty-four years (incl. 8 years based in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Kenya) working for Government, UN and NGOs focusing on agricultural/rural development, emergency/conflict response and impact assessment across sub-Saharan Africa; Central America; the Middle East, Central, South and South-East Asia, including 14 years with Christian Aid as Global Climate Advisor. This involves providing technical and advocacy support (mainly programme development, support for strategy and guideline development, training, partner impact assessment, technical networking and advocacy) to departments, country programmes and partners on resilient livelihoods, with a focus on locally-led climate resilience, early warning/early action & climate services and climate resilient agriculture.

Qualifications: Agriculture (BSc, Wye College, Univ of London); Agricultural Economics (MSc, Aberystwyth, Univ College of Wales); Environmental Science, Policy and Planning (MSc, Univ. of Bath).



Mr Graham Gordon

Graham is the Head of Public Policy for CAFOD. He is currently leading the development of CAFOD's global advocacy programme on food systems and land, working across country programmes, global networks and UK policy spaces. He collaborates closely with Church leaders and Church organisations globally as they speak out to make their voices heard and to bring change for people in some of the hardest to reach communities.

Graham has over 25 years' experience working in international development for a variety of faith-based organisations. This includes many years with a local human rights organisation in Peru, working on peace and reconciliation, and indigenous and land rights.



Ms Marie-Claire Graf

Marie-Claire is a climate justice activist, youth advocate and public speaker for a just transition towards sustainable development and ambitious climate action through her diverse engagement in several initiatives on a local, national and international level. It's her aspiration to inspire and empower youth to take meaningful, impactful and positive actions to create a momentum for change. She was initiating and is leading several associations and movements around climate action, sustainable development, youth and girls empowerment, food systems transformation and education such as Real Food Systems, Sustainability Week International and the Youth Constituency of UN Climate Change. She served as Vice Chair for Youth at the UN Food Systems Summit and co-founded a Gen Z consulting company to transform the private sector. Through her work, she has been recognized with different awards and prizes such as the United Nations Youth Climate Champion.



Ms Melanie Heath

Melanie is the Global Director of Science, Policy and Information with BirdLife International. BirdLife is a global partnership of 118 national conservation organisations, working to mobilise lasting, sustainable protection for the world's birds, their habitats, and global biodiversity. BirdLife organises its work strategically around Species, Sites, Society and Systems – linking up birds, habitats and nature, and people. Melanie's role includes policy development across the BirdLife Partnership with particular current emphasis on the Global Biodiversity Framework and broader policy processes driving transformational change. Melanie heads the BirdLife delegation at multilateral environmental agreements across nature and climate and she is responsible for multiple collaborative partnerships working with stakeholders from a variety of sectors across NGO, government, finance and intergovernmental bodies.



Dr John Ingram

John is an Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow at Somerville College, University of Oxford. His interests are in the conceptual framing of food systems; the interactions among the many food system actors and their varied activities, and the outcomes of their activities for food security, livelihoods, enterprise and business, and environment; scenario analysis; and food system resilience. In addition to leading the Food Systems Transformation Research Group within Oxford's Environmental Change Institute, he leads the multi-university post-graduate 'Interdisciplinary Food Systems Teaching and Learning' programme (IFSTAL); co-leads the Foresight4Food (F4F) and Food System Impact Valuation (FoodSIVI) programmes; and coordinates the Global Food Security £15m programme 'Resilience of the UK Food System'.



Ms Merete Johansson

Motivated by unhealthy diets produced by food systems that are killing not only people but also our planet as key driver of climate change, Merete has launched an urgent Call to Action to nourish and rebalance ecosystems, by transforming food systems. The initiative, launched at the end of 2018, engages with youth, passionate about fixing food broken food systems, and has a Real Food Systems Youth Ambassador and Champions programme, as #1 solution to the Climate Emergency. Realfoodsystems.org website and social media offer powerful messages and presentations that time has run out and that we need to act now. As a catalyst for change, RFS volunteers, youth ambassadors and champions also engage with educational institutions, climate networks, and other changemakers and they advocate at international conferences and events.

With over 35 years of experience overseeing humanitarian response and development across the globe, Merete has followed numerous global agendas, and witnessed the gaps between targets and results growing.

All indicators point to a tipping point for our main source of life – the planet. The writing is on the wall and scientists have given us a small – and last – few years window of opportunity. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to listen and act now. Merete hopes that this initiative will motivate the young and elderly to demand that they and their planet be nourished with real food for a sustainable and healthier tomorrow – one that respects mother nature.

To highlight the importance and urgency of transforming today's unhealthy food systems, she draws attention to the inextricable links between global agendas, and the critical need for agents of change to get out of silos and implement prescribed solutions on a macro level, before it is too late.

Merete holds a Master of Arts degree in Economics from New York University. She is a Danish national, multilingual, and is passionate about healthy diets and promoting planetary and human health for future generations. She lives in Geneva and has one daughter.

Mr Rayan Kassem



Rayan is the West Asia Regional Director for Youth4Nature. Regional Youth Focal Point for the MENA in support of the Food Systems Summit 2021. He is a core member on the youth pledge campaign Act4Food Act4Change in support of #GoodFoodForAll and a Youth council member at Real Food Systems.

Rayan's expertise span across food systems, nature-based solutions, youth advocacy, climate justice, and water consumption and diets in which he is an author to a publication.

Rayan believes that advocating for the protection of nature through youth engagement on a continuous basis is necessary amid the region's instability and is eager to grow the potential for nature protection in West Asia and Globally.

Double master's degree in Environmental Sciences attained in Austria and Denmark. He has previously worked with UNDP-Lebanon, Greenpeace, and corporate GHG emission accounting in Denmark.

Rayan is fluent in Arabic and English with beginner levels in French and German.



Ms Frances Longley

Frances is the Chief Executive of ActionAid UK. She has over 20 years' experience in the not-for-profit sector and has worked in the UK, Eswatini and Afghanistan. Her career reflects a passion for the promotion of access and inclusion for marginalised and disadvantaged groups, especially women and girls. Previously, Frances worked with CARE International UK as Executive Director for Programmes & Policy, following four years as Chief Executive of Amref Health Africa from 2015. Frances is a trustee of the grant-making Joffe Charitable Trust, a member of the BBC Appeals Advisory Committee and a Disasters Emergency Committee board member. She has an MSc in Development from SOAS in London.



Mr Philip Lymbery

Philip is Global CEO of Compassion in World Farming, Visiting Professor, University of Winchester, President, Eurogroup for Animals, founding Board member, World Federation for Animals and UN 2021 Food Systems Summit Champion. Philip is an ornithologist, photographer, dedicated animal advocate and award-winning author. His critically acclaimed books, *Farmageddon: The true cost of cheap meat*, and *Dead Zone: Where the wild things were*, were the first mainstream books to show factory farming as a major driver of wildlife declines and at the heart of what needs to change to stave off the climate, nature and pandemic emergencies now facing humanity.



Dr Frances MacGuire

Frances's career on climate change spans over three decades in environmental and public health research, tertiary education and advocacy, policy analysis and development in academia, international and national NGOs and the NHS. Formally trained in the life sciences and public health, Frances has worked at the interface between science and policy making in climate change, air pollution and biodiversity protection, taking a risk management perspective. Among many projects, she completed research on climate impacts on coastal

ecology, hydrogeology and agriculture as part of early research on UK impacts funded by the then CEGB and MAFF in the early 1990s. Frances has led teams of climate advocates working within the UNFCCC negotiations and national teams in the UK, Australia, and the Pacific Island region. In her current role as Head of Policy at Lancet Countdown, UCL, Frances also chairs a WHO/Unicef/Lancet Working Group on children and climate change advocacy, as part of the global CAP2030 initiative.



Mrs Carol McKenna

Carol is Special Advisor to the Global Chief Executive of Compassion in World Farming. In her role Carol leads projects dedicated to transforming food systems. Carol is a successful campaigner and coalition builder with over thirty years of experience of a broad range of animal protection issues having worked with organisations including WSPA (now World Animal Protection), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Brooke Hospital for Animals. Carol is a Trustee of [Eating Better](#), an alliance of over sixty organisations working to accelerate the transition to a fairer, healthier and sustainable food system. Publications include [Farming, Food and Nature: Respecting Animals, People and the Environment](#), edited by Joyce D'Silva and Carol McKenna, Routledge, 2018, which examines the massive global impact caused by industrial livestock production and explores solutions.



Mr David Nussbaum

Following an executive career in international organisations in the private and NGO sectors, David now has a portfolio of non-executive and trustee board roles. He serves on the Boards of Drax Group plc, the Value Reporting Foundation, the International Budget Partnership, and the Ethical Investment Advisory Group of the Church of England.

David was Chief Executive of [The Elders](#), a group of mainly former Presidents and UN Secretary Generals founded by Nelson Mandela, until October 2021. Prior to that he was CEO of WWF-UK from 2007 and chaired WWF's Global Climate and Energy Initiative; CEO of Transparency International based in Berlin; FD and a Deputy CEO of Oxfam, leading Oxfam's operations in India for a period; and FD of Field Group plc.

David has previously served as non-executive Chair of Traidcraft plc, Vice-Chair of Shared Interest, Chair of TI-UK, Deputy Chair of the International Integrated Reporting Council, and on the Marks & Spencer plc Executive Advisory Board on Sustainability.

David has two degrees in theology, one in finance, and an honorary doctorate.



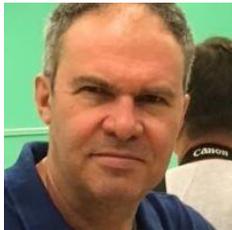
Ms Eirini Pitsilidi

Eirini is the Global Head of Food Systems Advocacy at Compassion in World Farming. She leads the organisation's policy advocacy work at the United Nations and all relevant global policy processes, focusing primarily on food systems transformation.

Before her current role, Eirini was Compassion's Global Communications Manager, leading the organisation's global communications and media work on food systems and the impacts of industrial animal agriculture on people, animals and the planet.

Prior to joining Compassion, Eirini worked in pharmaceutical public affairs and scientific communications for a number of international pharmaceutical companies.

Eirini has an MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare from the University of Edinburgh.



Mr John Plastow

John has been the Chief of Impact at Oxfam GB since mid-2020. Before that he was the International Programmes Director having joined the organisation in February 2019. In his current role he is responsible for leadership of Oxfam GB's programming and influencing functions. Previous roles included eight years as CARE International UK's Programme and Policy Director.

John spent many years working in and on contexts of fragility and conflict with direct experience of working in Sudan, Sri Lanka and Iraq. He also has extensive experience of working in countries in the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia and Eritrea, dating back to the mid-1990s. John has a particular interest in pastoralist communities and has worked extensively on humanitarian issues. He has served on the Board of Sphere, CALP and the DEC. He is also an active champion of locally led humanitarian action.



Ms Sarah Roberts

Sarah's role is to help Practical Action have the maximum impact possible in terms of progress towards a world that works better for everyone. She leads an expert team who ensure that changes that enable people to lift themselves out of poverty are embedded into local, national and international policies and change processes.

Prior to joining Practical Action in 2020, Sarah spent 12 years as Executive Director of the Ethical Tea Partnership. She has additional experience leading sustainability consulting assignments for large companies and not-for-profit organisations and has worked extensively across Africa and Asia. Much of Sarah's work has focused on agricultural value chains and driving change at a sector and systems level. She holds an MBA and an MSc in Environmental Technology.



Dr Cristina Rumbaitis del Rio

Cristina is an International Policy Associate with the Food and Land Use Coalition. Previously she was the Action Track Co-Manager for the Global Commission on Adaptation and Regional Programme manager for Action on Climate Today, a £23 million UK AID supported climate change mainstreaming programme in South Asia. She was a Senior Associate Director at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York from 2007-2015, where she developed and managed initiatives regarding building resilience, water management, small scale fisheries, and preservation of ecosystems. She is a Trustee of the WorldFish Center and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership.



Miss Rachel Thompson

Rachel is a Policy Advisor at the World Obesity Federation. She has experience spanning humanitarian, development and global health sectors, the common thread being a commitment to tackle inequality in health and beyond. Rachel has worked with the Red Cross Movement and several NGOs in programme roles across Africa and Asia. More recently, Rachel has worked at Chatham House on global health security, and with Women in Global Health on gender-related policy initiatives. At World Obesity, Rachel leads work in the food systems space, including a partnership with FAO and ongoing work around [The Global Syndemic](#) of obesity, undernutrition and climate change. Rachel was engaged in the UN Food Systems Summit, and also consults for the Global Alliance for the Future of Food. In her spare time, Rachel loves to row, swim and practice yoga in her home town of Cambridge.



Mr Dominic White

Dominic is Head of Sustainable Development Partnerships at WWF-UK, with 25 years international experience in community and natural resource management across a range of countries and across a range of policy issues including international sustainable development, natural resource scarcity and climate change. Integration of the social-environmental and economic elements of development are a common theme. Dominic's skills include partnership development and coalition building and stakeholder engagement. He has previously chaired Bond (the network for UK development NGOs), UKSSD (Stakeholders for Sustainable Development), Target Malaria's Ethics Committee and Climate Action Network (CAN)-UK.



Ms Liz Willetts

Liz, MEM, MMSc, is a practicing family medicine clinician and a substantive expert on global sustainable development policy. She serves in strategic advisory and consultancy roles on planetary health for international organizations and UN agencies.

Liz began working in food systems in 2001 in the urban public schools of the U.S. Since then, she has contributed to analyses on a range of food system and nutrition issues, including food education, implementation science, nutrition and migration, water ecosystems services, agriculture and climate change adaptation, true cost accounting on food value chains, and the social determinants of health. She has overseen long-term patient care on a range of dietary-related disease, including diabetes, kidney failure, thyroid disorders, anemia, cardiovascular disease, menstrual disorders, and stunting and wasting, and dental decay, among other conditions. In parallel, for over 13 years, Liz has attended intergovernmental negotiations on biodiversity, climate change, food security, water, and chemicals and waste as a policy journalist and analyst for the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). She is credited with facilitating IISD's inaugural contract to cover food policy issues starting in 2014, and she has followed UN food systems governance ever since. Notably, she attended the FAO-WHO's 2nd International Conference on Nutrition in 2014, a platform which facilitated the establishment of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture). She went on to provide policy reporting and analyses on the UN Committee on World Food Security at its 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th and 49th sessions, as well as its 2016 Open-Ended Working Group on Nutrition. In 2022, Liz was lead author for *Health in the Global Environmental Agenda: A policy guide*, in which she wrote a chapter on the [state-of-play of agriculture policy](#) across the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, from a global health perspective.



Ms Yolande Wright

Yolande works across Save the Children, leading on evidence-based programming and policy in the areas of Child Poverty, Climate and Urban. Her team also works extensively with external partners and co-chairs the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty with UNICEF – advocating for investments to end child poverty including child sensitive social protection.

Before joining Save the Children, Yolande worked at the UK government's Department for International Development (now FCDO) for over 20 years. Most recently, she was the Senior Lead on the UK's Ebola response in 2019. Prior to that she was Deputy and Interim Head of DFID's Conflict Humanitarian and Security Dept (CHASE) – leading on partnerships with key UN, Red Cross and civil society humanitarian and security organisations and supporting humanitarian responses across the world. She was also Head of the Livelihoods Professional

Group in DFID, and has over 10 years in various posts as an environment, climate and livelihoods adviser in Africa and Asia – including leading DFID's Extreme Poverty and Climate Change Team in Bangladesh where she worked extensively on social protection, graduation programming and climate change adaptation and DRR.

Yolande has a BSc in Natural Sciences from Durham University and an MSc in Environmental Change and Management from Oxford University. She has previous experience as a consultant and researcher on social and environmental issues – working for IUCN (the World Conservation Union) and as a consultant for ERM (Environmental Resources Management) with clients as diverse as the World Bank and BP. She started her career in the corporate sector at Procter and Gamble in its Global Management Systems department. She has three children and lives with her husband in South London.