

Global Food Systems

Wednesday, 17th – Thursday, 18th May 2023

Participant Biographies



Lasse Bruun

Lasse is the UN Foundation's Director for Climate and Food. He is an advocacy expert on food systems, energy transition, sustainable agriculture and social justice, with twenty years experience in leadership, development, campaigning and movement building. Prior to joining the UN Foundation, Lasse built 50by40, a global NGO bringing together 70 organizations across 45 countries. Within this role, Lasse enabled close global collaboration between multiple stakeholders, pushed sustainable livestock to the forefront of the food systems debate and brought about meaningful collaboration and exchange between Global North and Global South movements.

With a background in rhetoric and political science, Lasse has curated high-level international dialogues and campaigns in more than 20 countries, enabling an exchange of ideas between sectors, movements and powerholders. In 2021, Lasse was appointed the global civil society lead on sustainable consumption for the UN Food System Summit Action and co-led the summit's work on food system management. Lasse runs a small farm using agroecology and intercropping to grow vegetables.



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 a trustee of the Together Coalition, a UK social cohesion charity, and Chair of the Global Science and Policy Committee of BirdLife International. Until 2019, he was CEO of the RSPB, the largest civil society organisation for nature in Europe, and played an active role in The Climate Coalition. 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.



Ed Davey

Edward is Partnerships Director of the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) and Co-Director of WRI UK.

In the FOLU role, he advocates for global policy change on food and land use systems, working in partnership with national governments, international institutions and FOLU's Ambassadors. In this capacity, he served as an adviser to the UK government during its Presidency of COP26 and was involved in the preparation of the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

As Co-Director of WRI UK, he is jointly responsible for the care of WRI UK's 50+ staff, its relationship with the UK government, UK-based Board members and other key partners, as well as with WRI's royal patron, King Charles III.

Edward lives in Lewes, in East Sussex, with his wife Davina, son Oliver, daughter Lara and chocolate Labrador, Rosie. He is the author of 'Given Half A Chance: Ten Ways to Save the World,' published in 2019, and an enthusiastic member of the East Sussex Bach Choir.



Stephanie Draper

Stephanie is Bond's chief executive. Stephanie has spent over 20 years working to accelerate a just and sustainable future, with a focus on sustainable development. She brings extensive international experience of bringing sectors together to collaborate and shape a better future.

She was previously at Forum for the Future working on how to practically achieve the systems change needed to deliver the UN Global Goals. As their chief change officer and deputy CEO she shaped the sustainable nutrition, 1.5 degrees and sustainable value chains and livelihoods Labs and how organisations can deliver transformational strategies. She also created new approaches to understanding impact.

She has been instrumental in creating a number of cross sector initiatives (between business, NGOs and governments) and partnership such as the Protein Challenge, the Sustainable Shipping Initiative and the School of Systems Change, where she is faculty. Prior to Forum Stephanie founded the Corporate Responsibility team at The Work Foundation.



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.



Richard Ewbank

Degree in agriculture (Wye, London) and postgraduate degrees in agricultural economics (UCW Aberystwyth) and environmental science (Bath). Thirty-five years (including 8 years based in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Kenya) working in the UN and INGOs focusing on rural development and climate resilience, emergency/conflict response and M&E/impact assessment across programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, the Middle East, Central, South and South East Asia.



Michael Gidney

Michael has worked in international development for 30 years, with a particular focus on fighting poverty through trade. He joined the Fairtrade Foundation in 2009 as Deputy Executive Director, before becoming Chief Executive in 2012.

Prior to this, he spent eight years as Director of Policy at Traidcraft, where he led their public policy programme on issues including EU-ACP trade relations and UK Company Law reform. Michael also sits on the UK government's Strategic Trade Advisory Group.

Michael lives in Suffolk with his wife and two children.



Jo Grace

Jo is driven by the belief that no child should grow up hungry or live in poverty. Jo has worked in international development for more than 20 years mostly focussed on issues of food security, livelihoods, nutrition, gender, social protection, and climate change. From working as the Team Lead for Rural Livelihoods Research for the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit in Kabul, to Director of Programmes for the Aga Khan Foundation in Mozambique, to her current role as Head of Hunger Reduction and Livelihoods for Save the Children UK for the past 8 years, she has worked on issues relating to food systems from a research, policy, and implementation perspective.

Save the Children exists to help every child reach their full potential. In the UK and around the world, we make sure children stay safe, healthy and keep learning, so they can become who they want to be.



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.



Niamh Gray

Niamh is a Biology student at University and a board member/social media lead at Real Food Systems (RFS). Her areas of expertise are youth engagement in food systems transformations and maintaining biodiversity while feeding the planet. She has been working with RFS for three years by supporting their campaigns, managing their social media, and helping to strategize in meetings. She has talked to young changemakers from all around the world through RFS and her work at university in sustainable food systems. Her research has focussed on the environmental impact of food consumption and ways to mitigate this.



Melanie Heath

Melanie is Senior Director of the Global Programme Office of TRAFFIC, working to ensure that trade in wild species is legal and sustainable, for the benefit of the planet and people. Melanie is part of TRAFFIC's senior leadership team and plays a leading role in the development and promotion of the work of the Global Programme Office, with special attention to global and multi-regional programmes, partnerships and policy dialogue.

TRAFFIC has recently launched its 2030 Strategy with a significant focus on five priority areas: strengthening global policy frameworks; improving effectiveness of national policies and regulations; empowering communities; enabling responsible supply chains; and catalysing responsible consumption. Before joining TRAFFIC, Melanie was Global Director for Science and Policy with BirdLife International.



Simon Hotchkin

Simon joined Practical Action in October 2022, with a background in tropical agriculture, in particular tea and coffee. For more than two decades, he's championed sustainable business practices, embedding development outcomes across value chains. Most recently at Bettys and Taylors of Harrogate, Simon also served as a Board member and Vice Chair of the Ethical Tea Partnership. In his role at Practical Action, Simon has his eye on the big picture and future trends. He represents us internationally at the highest levels to build relationships that enable us to deliver greater change. He is key to shaping our global strategic direction, identifying and embedding innovative approaches that make long-lasting improvements for people who live in poverty and who deal with the many impacts of climate change.



Merete Johansson

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.

With almost 40 years of experience overseeing humanitarian response and development across the globe, working in both UN Headquarters and the field, Merete has followed numerous global agendas, and witnessed the gaps between targets and results growing. She currently works for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as Chief of Section, Operations and Advocacy Division in Geneva. The Realfoodsystems.org platform is an approved activity outside of Merete's UN functions.

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 Johansson 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.



Anna Jones

Anna joined the World Resources Institute in January 2023 and is the Programme Coordinator for the Food Systems Collaboration Network.

Prior to joining WRI, Anna worked at the Environment Agency in its Regulated Industry and Biodiversity & Geomorphology departments. Anna has an MSc in Environmental Management for Business from Cranfield University and a BSc in Zoology from Cardiff University, which included a placement year at the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust.



Philip Lymbery

Philip is Global Chief Executive of Compassion in World Farming International, the leading farm animal welfare environmental organisation with offices in 12 countries on 4 continents, responsible for achieving major bans on some of the cruellest farming practices in Europe/UK.

He is also Visiting Professor at the University of Winchester, President of Eurogroup for Animals, the Brussels-based umbrella body of 80 leading animal welfare societies in Europe. He is also a founding Board member of the World Federation for Animals (WFA), a global membership organisation to represent the animal protection movement at intergovernmental level.

In 2021, Philip had an ambassadorial role with the United Nations as a 'Champion' for the UN Food Systems Summit and was appointed co-lead of the Summit's Sustainable Livestock Solutions Cluster.

Philip is a dedicated animal advocate, naturalist, photographer 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. His third book, *Sixty Harvests Left: How to reach a nature-friendly future* was published by Bloomsbury in August 2022.



Alice Macdonald

Alice is an international development professional with over a decade of experience in advocacy, campaigns and politics. Since March she has been the Campaign Director of Hungry for Action, a global campaign aiming to raise the global food crisis to the top of the political and public agenda. She was previously Head of Policy and Campaigns at Project Everyone leading efforts to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals where she led global campaigns in partnership with the United Nations.

Alice was previously Head of Campaigns and Advocacy at Save the Children where she ran 'Action/2015' one of the biggest global coalition campaigns ever focussed on the SDGs. She has worked around the world including as a governance adviser in Rwanda and in South African and Ethiopia supporting country-led advocacy work. She lives in Norwich in the East of England and is the Labour Party's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Norwich North.



Frances MacGuire

Frances' career focussing on climate change, environmental protection and sustainable development spans over three decades working in international and national NGOs, academia and the NHS. Trained in the life sciences and public health, Frances has worked at the science policy interface within a risk management framework and she has led international and national campaigns in the UK, Australia, and the Pacific Island region.

In her current role at Lancet Countdown: Tracking Progress on Health and Climate Change, Frances works on international climate policy, youth advocacy and the impact of climate change on the potential for infectious disease outbreaks across Europe. Frances collaborates with a range of health professionals and academics in low and middle income countries, on climate mitigation and adaptation, including sustainable food production.



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.



David Nussbaum

David is an experienced Chair, Non-Executive Director, Trustee and former CEO, with an unusual international executive and non-executive track record in both private and NGO sectors.

His NGO background encompasses environmental (at WWF), social (at Oxfam and Traidcraft) and governance (at Transparency International and the IIRC / VRF), culminating as CEO at The Elders – working directly with former world leaders in their advocacy with current Heads of State and others. He also has commercial experience as a former CFO of a newly listed plc, and currently the Senior Independent Director of an £8 billion FTSE 250 group.

David has two degrees in theology, one in finance, and an honorary doctorate. He and his wife have four adult children and two grandchildren, and live in the UK.



Sue Pritchard

Sue is the Chief Executive of the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission. Sue leads the organisation in its mission to bring people together to act on the climate, nature and health crises, through fairer and more sustainable food systems, and a just transition for rural communities and the countryside. Sue's background is in combined research and practice in leadership and organisation development for systems change, working with leaders across public, private and not for profit organisations, especially on complex partnership projects. She is a Trustee of CoFarm Foundation and is an independent Governor at Royal Agricultural University. Living on an organic farm in Wales, Sue and her family raise livestock and farm for conservation.



Hanna Saarinen

Hanna has more than 15 years of experience in private, public, and non-governmental sectors. Five of those she spent in Southeast Asia dedicating herself to land rights and governance, with particular focus on strengthening the role of local civil society in land tenure issues in Laos.

Since 2015, she works for Oxfam's EU Advocacy Office in Brussels, influencing the European Union's development policies related to food security and agricultural investments. She is also Oxfam International's Food Policy Lead. Her academic background is in economics, business administration, and social psychology.



Njavwa Sanga

Njavwa is a Researcher in E3G's Clean Economy team. She supports work in the international sphere with a focus on research and monitoring of macroeconomic and development outcomes, and financial flows for agriculture and food systems transformation.

Day-to-day, Njavwa undertakes analysis, helping to develop practical policy and institutional proposals, understanding the politics of change, supporting coalition work and campaigns to support ambitious outcomes within macroeconomic venues, climate, and food system venues.

Prior to joining E3G, Njavwa worked at HM Treasury on international climate policy. She holds a BSc in Economics from Loughborough University.



Ruth Segal

Ruth is CAFOD's policy lead on food systems and land. She has been working for more than 25 years on food and agriculture issues internationally and in the UK. This has included supporting development partners implementing natural resource management programmes in Ethiopia; advocacy work in Nepal on food security policy; research roles in UK; setting up a food produce market in her local town; and completing a PhD examining policy dynamics shaping international agricultural research. She has a professional interest in seed sovereignty and an amateur interest in bread baking.



Debbie Tripley

As the Global Director of Campaigns and Advocacy for Compassion in World Farming Debbie has been leading cutting edge campaigns and advocacy programs within the NGO sector for more than 10 years. Recently appointed to the Compassion team, she was previously 8 years at WWF as Director of Advocacy and Policy heading up their wide-ranging advocacy and policy team to make significant interventions across climate, marine, UK nature and agriculture. During the passage through Parliament of the recent UK Environment Act Debbie lead the WWF UK team's advocacy and sat as a board member of the Green Alliance. Together with the WWF team she spearheaded the insertion into the UK's new Environmental Act of world leading legislation on due diligence, making companies accountable for forest risk commodities in their supply chains in order to stop illegal deforestation creeping into imports of animal feed. Debbie has considerable experience of influencing govts at an international level attending UN Conventions, such as climate COPs and also UNEP, as well as speaking up for children suffering from environmental harms under the UN Rights of the Child Convention.

Debbie is a keen public speaker with a background in law, practicing at the UK Bar and bringing judicial reviews on behalf of environmental NGOs, including Greenpeace and WWF. She has over 20 years knowledge of international and UK environmental law, conservation and human rights law.