

Sustainable Livestock and Food Systems Transformation

Monday 3rd – Tuesday 4th February 2025

Participants' Biographies



Ms Lili Balogh

Lili is a bioengineer and tropical agronomical engineer, involved in the international Food Sovereignty and Agroecology movement for the past decade. She has worked in several eco-political NGOs to promote agroecology and regenerative food systems in different parts of the world.

In the past decade, she has focused on building the Hungarian Agroecology movement stronger. She worked as the Program Manager of Greenpeace Hungary for a year, which she left to re-engage more actively in the support of the transition to sustainable food systems.

In February 2022, Lili became the President of Agroecology Europe Association and the Hungarian Agroecology Network Association. She began her own farm in West Nógrád in 2018, where she started applying holistic management, regenerative agriculture, permacultural, and agroecological principles. She was a member of the Strategic Dialogues on the Future of Food and Agriculture launched by the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen in 2024.



Mr Oliver Camp

At the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Oliver works at the intersection of human health and environmental sustainability in food systems. Through GAIN's programmes and policy engagement, he focuses on integrated approaches to nutrition and climate, including through the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition and the Food and Land Use Coalition. He has a background in the private sector and consultancy, always with a focus on nutrition, health, climate, and environmental sustainability.



Professor Mike Clarke

Mike helps build partnerships and collaborative networks for greater collective impact on system-change and social cohesion. He works internationally with many civil society organisations and businesses across nature, climate, health and food sectors. Mike is an Associate of the IEEP and a Visiting Professor at Southampton University's School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, where his current research interests include large-scale nature restoration and Earth Systems Justice.

He is a Vice-President and was CEO of the RSPB, the largest voluntary organisation for nature in Europe. He has been a high-level expert for the EU and United Nations, and was a trustee of BirdLife International, the world's largest civil society partnership for nature. Mike also chairs the Trustees Board for the Together Coalition, one of the most powerful and diverse partnerships ever assembled in the UK for social cohesion.



Dr Chantal Clément

Chantal is Deputy Director of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food). Spanning research, advocacy, and policy, her work focuses on agroecology, the food-climate nexus, and food systems governance. She played a key role in IPES-Food's 3-year process to build a Common Food Policy for the EU and supported the creation of the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa. Chantal holds a PhD in Political Science from Carleton University.



Dr Namukolo Covic

Namukolo is Regional Director, East and Southern Africa (ESA), CGIAR, and ILRI Director General's Representative to Ethiopia, and CGIAR Country Convenor for Ethiopia. She has over 20 years' experience on different aspects of food security and nutrition including research, program implementation and leadership development. Most recently she was on the leadership teams of two United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) 2021 action tracks, and is a founding member of the Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All. She co-leads the Governance Working Group of an Independent Expert Group that emerged from the UNFSS that has developed a Monitoring Framework on Food Systems Transformation to guide progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) countdown to 2030.

Before joining ILRI, she was a senior research at IFPRI and has worked on projects in several countries, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia. She is recognized for her ability to work at the interface of research, policy, and program processes and has worked extensively with the government of Ethiopia and other African national and regional stakeholders on different fronts of food systems and nutrition. Since 2011 she has supported African Union (AU) efforts on linking agriculture and nutrition in the CAADP process and has served on several AU Task Forces including for the development of the CAADP Results Framework and Biennial Review process, as well as the African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative of the AfDB and the AU. She is a member of the EAT Lancet Commission 2.0.



Mr Richard Ewbank

Richard has spent thirty-seven years (incl. 8 years based in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Kenya) working for Government, UN and NGOs focusing on agricultural development, emergency/conflict response and impact assessment across sub-Saharan Africa; Central/South America; the Middle East, Central, South and South-East Asia, including 17 years with Christian Aid as Global Climate Advisor. This involves providing technical support (mainly programme development, training, impact assessment, technical networking and advocacy) to country programmes and partners, with a focus on locally-led climate resilience, anticipatory action & climate services and climate resilient agroecology.

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



Ms Joanna Grace

Jo is driven by the belief that no child should grow up hungry or in live in poverty. Jo has worked in international development for more than 20 years mostly focussed on issues of food security, livelihoods, nutrition, social protection, gender 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 10 years as Head of Hunger Reduction and Livelihoods and more recently Interim Director of Programme Quality and Impact, both for Save the Children UK, Jo has worked on issues relating to food systems from a research, policy, and implementation perspective.



Dr Helen Harwatt

Helen is a senior research fellow in the Environment and Society Centre at Chatham House.

Helen focuses on food system shifts to identify pathways towards creating Paris-compliant food systems that minimize adverse environmental impacts, maximize public health benefits and address ethical issues.

She is a frequent panellist and speaker at conferences and events around the world, and is currently part of the leadership team for Action Track 2 of the UN Food Systems Summit.

Prior to joining Chatham House, Helen completed a research fellowship at Harvard Law School, exploring dietary shifts from animal to plant-based as an option for meeting climate goals and restoring native ecosystems, and remains a visiting fellow.

Helen has completed several additional research fellowships in the UK and USA, and worked with NGOs to design food procurement assessment schemes and tools for the food service sector.



Mr Elijah Innes-Wimsatt

Elijah is the Director of Corporate Climate Solutions at Conservation International, specializing in integrating nature into corporate climate strategies. Over the last decade, he has worked with global agricultural companies to drive positive outcomes for nature, climate, and people. Most recently he's led an effort to define principles for high-integrity climate action in corporate value chains and a project to map the global potential for Natural Climate Solutions within agricultural value chains. Elijah serves on the board of the International Platform for Insetting and has participated in technical committees for the Science Based Targets initiative and Greenhouse Gas Protocol.



Mr Rayan Kassem

Rayan is the Engagement Manager on Food and Agriculture Transformation at the World Benchmarking Alliance. He also holds the roles of Youth-led advocacy on Climate Change Consultant at UNICEF Lebanon; Global Ambassador and previous West Asia Regional Director at Youth4Nature; Regional Youth Focal Point for the MENA in support of the UN Food Systems Summit; Youth mentor and member of Act4Food Youth Ambassador at Real Food Systems and Co-founder of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network – Lebanese Chapter.

Rayan is an advocate, campaigner, and youth leader associated with multiple global organisations and initiatives working at the intersection of food systems, climate, and biodiversity. His advocacy is centred on youth empowerment, policy reforms, and corporate accountability.

Rayan has represented the voices of over 500,000 youth on topics related to food systems, youth empowerment, and climate change. In his current role with the World Benchmarking Alliance, Rayan works with multi-stakeholders to utilise data from the Food and Agriculture Benchmark to call for corporate accountability. Rayan currently leads a global coalition on Food Loss and Waste aiming to improve the performance of multinational food and agriculture companies along the value chain. Rayan works with multilateral organisations to embed corporate accountability such as with the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, the OECD, and the G20.



Mr Vedantha Kumar

ClIFF is a global philanthropy focused on transforming the lives of children and adolescents. At ClIFF, Vedantha oversees a \$100m philanthropic portfolio to accelerate climate action focused on land use, legal action and Brazil. Prior to ClIFF, he had a wide-ranging career developing climate policy in the UK government. He helped negotiate the EU Emission Trading System and create the UK's post-Brexit alternative. In the run-up to COP26, he led the development of key international coalitions on transport and industrial decarbonisation. Domestically, he led the development of the strategy to decarbonise heating in the UK. He is a recent Policy Fellow at the Centre for Science and Policy at the University of Cambridge, and a current trustee of Murmur, a foundation driving climate leadership from the music and arts.

Outside of climate, he is a passionate musician and a former UK chess player.



Mr Davide Laborde

David is the Director for Agrifood Economics division at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. He has been leading the division since February 2023. In this role, he supervises a number of flagship publications, such as the State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) or the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) and leads the work of the division on policy monitoring, policy reform, and realignment of incentives to support agrifood system transformation. He also provides leadership on two priority areas for the institution: resilience and bioeconomy.

Before joining FAO, David worked at the International Food Policy Research Institute of the CGIAR in Washington D.C. for 16 years as part of the Markets, Trade, and Institution Division. He led the research theme on Macroeconomics and Trade and was also a co-director of the Ceres2030 project.

David's research interests include food security and nutrition, especially in the context of globalization and climate change. He has worked extensively on measuring and modelling domestic and border farm and food policies in a general equilibrium context, as well as on reforms of

these policies facing environmental (climate change, biofuels, sustainability) and social (poverty) issues. Since 2015, he has been focusing on costing the roadmap to achieving SDG2 in a globalized context while considering the role of goods, capital, and migration flows while delivering on key climate actions.

David has developed a number of partial equilibrium models, in particular, the MIRAGE and MIRAGRODEP models, and databases such as MACMapHS6 on tariffs as well as TASTE software. He has been a contributor to the GAP database and a GTAP research fellow since 2005. For his contributions, he received the Alan Powell award in 2018.

Throughout his career, David has published extensively, having more than 150 publications, and edited a number of books and high-level policy reports.



Mr Philip Lymbery

Philip is Global CEO of Compassion in World Farming International, the leading farm animal welfare environmental organisation operating in over 40 countries worldwide.

He is President of the federation, Eurogroup for Animals, and is a founding Board member of the World Federation for Animals.

Philip was an official 'Champion' for the UN Food Systems Summit. In 2024, he was the sole representative of animal welfare at the EU Commission President's Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture and is a member of the UN Advisory Board on Food Systems.

An award-winning author, his latest book is *Sixty Harvests Left: How to reach a nature-friendly future*.



Mrs Carol McKenna

Carol is Special Advisor to the Global Chief Executive of [Compassion in World Farming](#), the leading international animal welfare environmental NGO. Carol is a successful campaigner and coalition-builder with decades of experience working to advance farmed animal welfare. Co-editor of [Regenerative Farming and Sustainable Diets: human, animal and planetary health](#) (Routledge. 2024). Co-editor of [Farming, Food and Nature: respecting animals, people and the environment](#), Routledge, 2018. Trustee of [Eating Better](#), an alliance of over sixty organisations working to accelerate the transition from producing and eating too much meat and dairy to a fairer, healthier and more sustainable food system.



Mr Marcelo Molento

Marcelo graduated in Veterinary Medicine in Brazil and received his Ph.D. in Parasitology from McGill University, Canada. He works on epidemiology, disease dynamics/expansion, and innovative therapies, developing strategies for disease control using bio-friendly products. He is an active member of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology and the Brazilian College of Veterinary Parasitology. Likewise, he has published over 200 scientific articles and collaborates with research centers in more than 15 countries. He collaborates with FAO/UN, WOA, and WHO on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Drug Resistance. Prof. Molento is a supervisor for M.Sc. and Ph.D. students at the Federal University of Paraná. He loves to receive young minds for motivating discussions and reflections on global health issues.



Ms Ruth Richardson

Ruth is the inaugural Executive Director of the Accelerator for Systemic Risk Assessment (ASRA) designed to contribute to the emerging field of systemic risk analysis and response with particular attention to helping decision-makers better understand, assess, and incorporate sensitivity to systemic risks into their decision-making. Prior to this, Richardson was the Executive Director of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, a unique collaboration of over 25 foundations committed to food systems transformation. In this capacity she was appointed by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres to the Advisory Committee for the 2021 Food Systems Summit and as Chair, Champions Network. She also served on the Advisory Board of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as well as on the Steering Committee of TEEBAgriFood led by UN Environment. Bringing over 25 years of experience devoted professionally to social change and planetary health, Richardson has also had the privilege to act as first Director of the Unilever Canada Foundation, Founding Chair of the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network, the first Environment Director at the Metcalf Foundation, and a lead consultant to establish The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. In 2020, Richardson was awarded 2021 Alumni of Influence by her alma mater, University of Toronto, Canada.



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.



Ms 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 led 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.



Mr Arjan van Houwelingen

For the past 12 years, Arjan has successfully led the strategic policy and public affairs portfolio for a number of animal welfare organisations and established the relevance and importance of animals and their welfare for achieving sustainable development, food systems transformation and addressing the drivers of environmental challenges at the United Nations and in relevant global policy processes.

Previously, Arjan worked for the United Nations for many years, including four years with UNDP, where he supported the conceptualization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and eight years with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) where he led negotiations with the Israeli authorities on humanitarian aid security and headed up the socio-economic affairs and research departments.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Arjan worked primarily in Central and Eastern Europe where he co-founded the Policy and Education Center for Assistance to Transition (PECAT) and consulted with organisations such as the World Bank, EU, USAID and the OECD.