

Africa and India: Experiences with Transformation of Food and Agriculture and Opportunities for learning and collaboration

26 November 2021
 10:30-13:45 GMT
 16:00-19:15 IST
 11:30-14:45 CET

Chairs and panellists

Session 1: Comparing experiences with food systems and agriculture transformation of African nations and Indian States



Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, FARA

Yemi Akinbamijo is the Executive Director of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). He is an agriculture expert with a track record of leadership in Food/Nutrition Security, Rural Development, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. He is a former university lecturer and obtained his PhD in Agriculture and Environmental Sciences from the Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands.

With more than 30 years in the practice of agriculture and rural development, he has served with increasing responsibilities and leadership roles in institutions with national, regional and continental mandates, including as a Diplomat/Head of Mission.

His publications are present in various agricultural disciplines – Animal Production, Crop Production, Ecological and Organic Farming, Climate-Smart Initiatives, etc. He is a former editor of the Bulletin of Animal Health and Production in Africa (Peer-review Journal) and lead author of the book, *Crop-livestock Integration in West African Cities*. In addition, he has contributed to knowledge through peer-review journals, conference proceedings, special publications, etc. in more than 80 scientific publications.

Dr. Deepak Mishra, ICRIER

Deepak Mishra is the Director and Chief Executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Prior to joining ICRIER, he was the Practice Manager at the World Bank's Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment Global Practice, responsible for East Asia and Pacific region. Deepak has held various positions at the World Bank, including the Co-director of the World Development Report 2016 (Digital Dividends), Country Economist for Ethiopia, Pakistan, Sudan and Vietnam. His research work has been published in various academic journals including the Journal of Development Economics, the Journal of International Economics and the Journal of Agriculture Economics.



Deepak has also served as the World Bank's Country Economist for India, based in New Delhi, and working closely with the Government of India and with several state governments including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Punjab. Prior to joining the World Bank, Deepak worked at Tata Motors, Federal Reserve Board and the University of Maryland. Born in Odisha, Deepak received his M.A. (Economics) from the Delhi School of Economics and Ph.D. (Economics) from the University of Maryland.



Prof. Dr. Joachim von Braun, ZEF

Prof. Dr. Joachim von Braun is an agricultural economist, with a Doctoral degree from University of Göttingen, Germany. He joined ZEF as Professor and Director of the Department for Economic and Technological Change in December 2009. He was also Director of ZEF during its foundation phase 1997-2002. He is co-coordinator of the “Transdisciplinary Research Area Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Futures” of Bonn University in the context of the excellence initiative of the University. At ZEF he directs some research projects, such “Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation” (PARI) in Africa and India, and “Volatility in Markets and the Poor”. His research addresses international and development economics topics, incl. markets and trade; poverty; health and nutrition; agriculture, and science and technology. Prof. von Braun is President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences of the Vatican, he is member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Academy of Science and Art of North-Rhine Westphalia, German Academy of Science and Engineering (acatech), member of the African Academy of Sciences, and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. He serves as Chair of the Scientific Group for the Food Systems Summit 2021 of the UN Secretary General. Among awards received by Prof. von Braun are a honorary Doctoral degree from University of Hohenheim, and the Bertebos Prize of the Swedish Academy of Agricultural Sciences for his research on food security, and the Justus von Liebig Prize for his research on international nutrition. Prof. von Braun was Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) based in Washington, DC, USA, and President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

Dr. Muhammed A. Usman, ZEF

Dr. Muhammed A. Usman is a Senior Researcher at the Center for Development Research (ZEF). He has obtained his PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Bonn. He also holds a Master of Science in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Bonn and a Master of Science in Business and Economics with a major in Economics from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. His areas of expertise include policy-relevant research on water quality, sanitation and hygiene, agriculture, and health and nutrition in Africa. He has extensive experience in quantitative economic analysis. Prior to joining ZEF, he worked as a Planning Officer with the Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation (ETC) from 2006-2010.



Dr. Shyma Jose, ICRIER

Shyma Jose is a fellow at ICRIER. Her research areas include nutrition, agriculture, food security, poverty, employment and labour market conditions. At ICRIER, she is currently working on issues related to the sources and drivers of agricultural growth and nutritional security in India.

She has a PhD in Economics from Centre for Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her doctoral thesis was on the informal employment and decent work conditions in the garment industry. She also has an M. Phil from the same institution. She has published in national and international journals and book chapters on issues related to food and nutritional security, gender differential in malnutrition, education and the informalisation of the workforce.

Session 2: Increasing productivity and domestic supply of sufficient, affordable and healthy foods

Prof. Dr. Ashok Gulati, ICRIER

Ashok Gulati is currently the Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Prior to this, he was the Chairman of the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP), Government of India.



He also served as the Director at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for more than 10 years. He is currently a Member of the Tenth Audit Advisory Board of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and also on the Board of Directors of the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) and Godrej Agrovet Limited.

He has 17 books and several research papers on Indian and Asian agriculture to his credit. He is a prolific writer in media on agri-policies and for his contributions to the field, the President of India honored him with "Padma Shri" award in 2015.



Dr. Ousmane Badiane, AKADEMIYA2063

Dr. Ousmane Badiane is Distinguished Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists, recipient of the Africa Food Prize in 2015 and member of the World Academy of Sciences, is the founder and Executive Chairperson of AKADEMIYA2063. He has over 30 years of experience, as academic and a practitioner, in international development. As the Director for Africa at the International Food Policy Research Institute, he was instrumental in developing and guiding the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

As Lead Specialist for Food and Agricultural Policy at the World Bank, he served as advisor to the Vice President for Africa and originated projects with funding ranging from US\$5 million to US\$150 million. Between research and development finance, he taught Economics of Development in Africa at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies for many years.

Dr. Badiane received PhD in agricultural economics from the University of Kiel in Germany. He is also recipient of a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of KwaZulu Natal.

Dr. Usha Barwale Zehr, Mahyco Private Limited

Dr. Usha Barwale Zehr is Director and Chief Technology Officer at Mahyco Private Limited (MAHYCO), India. She received her Ph.D. from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Subsequent to her formal education, she worked at Purdue University in the Sorghum improvement program. For the last 20 years, she has been utilizing new technologies and tools including biotechnology for improving the quality and productivity of seeds and agriculture for small holder farmers in Asia and Africa. In addition, Dr. Zehr serves as Director of the Barwale Foundation (a non-profit Research Foundation), and as a board member of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa. Recently, she has also taken on additional responsibilities for bringing digital tools in the agricultural value chain.





Temitope Adegroye, Sahel Consulting

Temitope Adegroye is a Partner and Head of the Abuja office at Sahel Consulting where he is responsible for client engagement, project management and implementation. He is passionate about the agribusiness sector and has worked extensively across a broad range of value chains, with specific expertise on roots and tubers. He is proficient in market analysis, business strategy development, business sustainability, and project management.

Temitope Adegroye has led several studies on agricultural policies and market entry strategies and implemented consulting projects in a range of priority areas including innovations in seed systems, mechanization, on-farm productivity enhancement and improved market access for agribusiness stakeholders. Temitope Adegroye holds an MBA from Lagos Business School, Pan Atlantic University, Nigeria. He also holds a Master of Science (MSc) in Agronomy from the University of Ibadan and received his undergraduate degree in Plant Science from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife.

Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, IGIDR

S. Mahendra Dev has been the Director and Vice Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in Mumbai, India, since 2010. Prior to this, he was Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices for the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India, Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Studies in Hyderabad, and Acting Chairman of the National Statistical Commission of the Government of India. He is a recipient of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for outstanding work on development studies and has approximately 120 research publications in international and national journals in the areas of agricultural development, poverty, public policy, inequality, food security, nutrition, employment guarantee schemes, social security and farm and nonfarm employment. He has written or edited 20 books, including *Inclusive Growth in India*. He has been a consultant and adviser to many international organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the ILO, the FAO, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF, UNESCO, the UK DFID, and the OECD. He received his PhD from the Delhi School of Economics and completed his postdoctoral research at Yale University.



Dr. P. Soman, Jain Irrigation Systems Limited

Dr. P. Soman is a Chief Agronomist at the Jain Irrigation Systems Limited. His extensive experience of over 20 years on this position has contributed to the research in precision farming technology, as well as to the adaptation of drip technology and development of PF packages for as many as 63 different crops. He also organised a very effective training program for farmers and Training of Trainers in India and other countries as Chief Trainer and Head of Extension services. Due to his long-term expertise, he provides technical support to farmers in many countries in Africa, India and Asia. He is also an expert in Fertigation science, with one already published book and a second one on the way. He has published over 72 research papers in refereed international journals and has

presented papers in several international conferences. Dr. P.Soman is member in various professional and international bodies, such as the American Society of Agronomy (since 1981) and the Indian Agronomy society, to name a few. He has obtained his PhD in 1980 from the Reading University in the UK. After his graduation, he joined ICRISA in India, where he was working as a Principal Scientist in Agronomy for 14 years. Dr. P.Soman has received many academic recognitions from highly renomated Indian universities.

Dr. Heike Baumüller, PARI - ZEF

Dr. Heike Baumüller is a Senior Researcher and Coordinator of the Program of Accompanying Research (PARI) at the Centre for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, Germany. Her research focuses on the role of information and communication technologies in facilitating agricultural innovation along agricultural value chains in developing countries. Prior to joining ZEF, she was a Senior Research Fellow with the Energy, Environment and Development Programme at Chatham House in London, researching the environmental and socio-economic dimensions of trade in natural resources. Previously, Dr. Baumüller coordinated the Environment and Natural Resources Programme at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Bonn.



Session 3: Strengthening food systems resilience against shocks



Prof. Dr. Sheryl Hendriks, University of Pretoria

Dr. Sheryl Hendriks is head of Department and Professor of Food Security at the Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development, University of Pretoria. She also leads the University of Pretoria's Institute for Food, Nutrition and Well-being, bringing research together from over 35 academic disciplines at the University. Prof. Hendriks is a food security policy expert with extensive experience in policy analysis and programme design. Her research focuses on food security and nutrition policy analysis and monitoring and evaluation of food security at the household, national and global information system level. She teaches food security policy analysis and monitoring and evaluation. She is actively engaged in high-level global food security policy think tanks and panels, such as serving two terms on the UN Committee on World Food Security's High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition and as a current member of the Montpellier Malabo Panel. She led the food security component of the African Union/NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme from 2007 – 2010. Prof. Hendriks is a transdisciplinary specialist, leading, facilitating and coordinating large research teams focussed on finding solutions to complex food security and nutrition-related problems.

Dr. Manasi Phadke, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management

Dr. Manasi Phadke is project consultant and economist and holds a PhD in Economics from Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. She has worked in a range of consultancy assignments spanning the fields of agriculture economics, rural development and public finance. Manasi is a Short Term Consultant to the World Bank. She was deeply involved in designing the Results Framework for the World Bank funded project titled State of Maharashtra's Agriculture and Rural Transformation (SMART). She has also led studies on agriculture markets in Maharashtra for the World Bank. She lent research and M&E support for the World Bank funded Project on Climate Resilient Agriculture (PoCRA). She has been associated with prestigious research projects in agriculture supported by ICRIER, Union Ministry of Agriculture, IFPRI and the Mahalanobis National Crop Forecasting Centre (MNCFC), New Delhi.

Dr. Phadke is a visiting faculty at Symbiosis Institute of Business Management. She is a prolific writer and blogger and a regular contributor of articles to financial dailies such as Hindu Business Line and Business Standard.





Dr. Ayodele Odusola, UNDP

Dr. Ayodele Odusola is UNDP Resident Representative in South Africa and Director of the UNDP Africa Finance Sector Hub. Prior, he was Chief Economist and Head of the Strategy and Analysis Team for United Nations Development Programme’s Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), where he coordinated economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in Africa. He also led the preparation of regional flagship reports for UNDP Africa. Dr. Odusola provides intellectual leadership to SDG acceleration frameworks in sub-Saharan Africa, managing the network of Senior Economists in UNDP Africa Country Offices and providing

strategic advice on policy matters to the RBA Director. He also served as the UNDP corporate Chair of the Technical Committee on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). He coordinated UNDP’s partnership with pan African partnership like the African Union and African Development Bank. Dr. Odusola holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. As an economist, he focuses on dynamics of macroeconomics and development economics pertaining to the African continent. In addition to being an African Visiting Scholar to the IMF in 2002, Dr Odusola had served as a consultant to many international organizations like the World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, the World Institute of Development Economic Research, the Global Development Network, the West African Monetary Institute and the West African Institute of Financial and Economic Management.

Shri P. V. S. Suryakumar, NABARD

P.V. S. Suryakumar joined the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 1986 and has handled a variety of functions; appraisal, funding & monitoring of projects, headed & implemented various types of programs, training, policy, advocacy & communications. Today he holds the function of Deputy Managing Director at NABARD. He worked across the geographies; Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, New Delhi and Karnataka.



Academically, he obtained a Masters in Plant Genetics from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in 1986. He is a Commonwealth Scholar and obtained Masters in Sustainable Development from the Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent, UK in 2010. He undertook the 25th Management Education Program at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in 2001. He is an Associate of the Indian Institute of Banking & Finance. He is an author of cases, contributed to newspapers on policy issues and published two books on Cases and Sustainable Agriculture.



Dirk Schattschneider, BMZ

Mr. Dirk Schattschneider is Commissioner for the special initiative "ONE WORLD No Hunger" (SEWOH) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). He is Assistant Director General at BMZ. He is head of the Directorate for Sustainable supply chains, nutrition and rural development, and sustainability standards at BMZ. Previously, he was assigned to the Ministry’s regional office for Eastern Europe. He has also held positions at the Federal Ministry of Health and the Chancellery of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Dr. Lukas Kornher, ZEF

Dr. Lukas Kornher is a Senior Researcher and Coordinator of the Volatility project at the Center for Development Research (ZEF). He earned a Diploma in Economics from University of Mannheim obtained his PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Bonn. He also worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Kiel and the German International Cooperation (GIZ). His research interests are in the areas of international trade and nutrition economics with a particular focus on behavioral aspects and intra-household inequality. Currently, he is the Lead Researcher in a project that conducts analysis and implementation of measures to reduce price volatility in national and international markets for improved food security in developing countries. The focus of this work relates to the new African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), its prospects and implementation challenges as well as the wider implications for international trade integration of the African continent. He has published widely in the field of international trade and trade policy. Dr. Kornher gained research experiences in several African and South Asian countries and teaches agricultural and development economics at various levels.



Dr. Pramod Kumar Joshi, NAAS

Dr. Pramod K. Joshi is the former Director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute. Prior to this, he held the position of the director of the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad, India. His areas of research include technology policy, market, and institutional economics.

Dr Joshi has received the Professor R.C. Agrawal Lifetime Award of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics and Dr MS Randhawa Memorial Award of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He is the fellow of

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Indian Society of Agriculture Economics. Dr Joshi has also served as the chairman of the SAARC Agricultural Centre's governing board in Dhaka, Bangladesh and UN-CAPSA governing board in Bogor. He also served as the member of the intergovernmental panel on the World Bank's International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development; International Steering Committee for the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Challenge Program of CGIAR.

Dr. Assefa Admassie, University of Addis Ababa

Dr. Assefa Admassie is a Professor at the Department of Economics at the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. Previously to his current position, he was the Principal Research Fellow (executive Director) of the Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute which is an affiliate of the Ethiopian Economics Association. He holds a PhD degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Hohenheim. Before his current position he has been teaching several courses at the Alemaya University of Agriculture and the Addis Ababa University. During his stay at the two universities he has advised several undergraduate and post graduate students. He has also been working as a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn – Germany between 1998 and 2002. During his stay at the University of Bonn he has taught PhD level courses and supervised PhD students.





Dr. Shahidur Rashid, IFPRI

Shahidur Rashid is the Director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi. A native of Bangladesh, he received his Master of Social Science in Economics from the Chittagong University, Bangladesh in 1987 and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1999.

Dr. Rashid has worked on agriculture and food policy issues in Asia and Africa for more than a decade. From September 2005 to July 2010, he was based in IFPRI's regional office in Addis Ababa to conduct research on countries in East and Southern Africa region. His passion and commitment to see tangible change take place in South Asia and East Africa is evident by many of his past and present endeavours.

Dr. Rashid's ongoing activities include, (a) managing the Research for Ethiopia's Agriculture Policy (REAP), a Gates funded project to provide analytical support to the Ethiopia's Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), (b) managing a study on the value chains of high value Bangladesh, and (c) strategic grain reserves in selected African countries, including the newest nation, the Republic of South Sudan.

Dr. Fatunbi Oluwole Abiodun, FARA

Dr. Fatunbi Oluwole Abiodun is the Lead Specialist: Innovation Systems and Partnerships in FARA. He holds a doctorate degree in Agronomy with specialty in Farming Systems and Soil Fertility from University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He leads the strategic development and implementation of various research and development initiatives and the erstwhile Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program (SSA CP), credited with the development and proof of the Innovation Platform as a veritable instrument for achieving quick impact from research outcomes.



He has over 20 years professional work experience. He holds leadership positions in steering committees Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), AU-SAFGRAD, ProEco Africa among others, where he contributes to the development of strategic pathways and policy issues. He also has vast experience in facilitating intercontinental partnerships for Africa agricultural research and development. He is an adjunct Professor of Agricultural Innovation Systems at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa.