



**Transformative Pathways Toward a Climate-Resilient
Agricultural, Nutrition, and Food System:
A Public Consultation Ahead of the 27th Conference of Parties**

187th BIFAD Public Meeting
10:00 am to 12:00 pm EDT, October 26, 2022 (Virtual)

[LINK TO REGISTER](#)

MEETING DESCRIPTION

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development ([BIFAD](#)) is hosting a public meeting, *Transformative Pathways Toward a Climate-Resilient Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition System: A Public Consultation Ahead of the 27th Conference of Parties*, to present the preliminary findings of a commissioned study on systemic solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agricultural, nutrition, and food systems. In consultation with the agricultural, nutrition, food systems, and climate change communities, BIFAD seeks input on the emerging findings and aims to strengthen the study recommendations and ensure their utility to improve long-term food security and inform ambitious implementation of USAID's Climate Strategy.

In response to a request from USAID for advice on addressing the climate change crisis, BIFAD formed the BIFAD [Subcommittee on Systemic Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems](#) in June, 2022. The subcommittee is leading transdisciplinary evidence gathering to support USAID's role in accelerating inclusive systems change and transformative climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches in agricultural, nutrition, and food systems, and in targeting climate finance to benefit smallholder farmers. The subcommittee's efforts are intended to inform implementation of the [USAID Climate Strategy 2022–2030](#), the [U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy 2022–2026](#), and other sectoral policies. A list of subcommittee members may be found [here](#).

A BIFAD-commissioned study on systemic solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agricultural, nutrition, and food systems, guided by the subcommittee, was introduced and discussed at a [BIFAD public meeting](#) on August 31, 2022. A final report is anticipated in spring 2023. The study will achieve the following three objectives:

1. Suggest realistic 2030 targets and intermediate results to guide USAID program design for the agricultural, food, and nutrition sectors;
2. Identify priority leverage points for transformative systemic change and scaling climate finance to achieve the targets and intermediate results for the sector; and
3. Prioritize areas for USAID action in the sector and recommend interventions.

At the public meeting, and in the lead-up to the 2022 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 27th Conference of Parties ([COP27](#)), authors of the BIFAD-commissioned study will present and



discuss preliminary findings (to be posted publicly a few days prior to the meeting at www.usaid.gov/bifad/climatechange), related to the following:

1. Climate-resilient pathways for inclusive, transformative systemic change in agricultural, nutrition, and food systems;
2. Key systems for inclusive transformation in food, agriculture, and nutrition;
3. Barriers to inclusive transformation in agricultural, nutrition, and food systems;
4. High-potential leverage points for transformative systemic change; and
5. Climate-finance solutions to catalyze inclusive adaptation and mitigation actions in the agricultural, food, and nutrition sector.

The virtual public meeting will be on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm EDT. A public comment period will be held from 10:55–11:15 am EDT, and case studies, evidence, and relevant publications for inclusion in the public record may be submitted in advance or after the meeting to BIFAD Executive Director, Clara Cohen, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID, at ccohen@usaid.gov. The event will be hosted via ZOOM. All participants should register [here](#).

About BIFAD: The BIFAD is a seven-member, presidentially appointed advisory board to the US. Agency for International Development (USAID), established in 1975 under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended, to ensure that USAID brings the assets of U.S. universities to bear on development challenges in agriculture and food security and supports their representation in USAID programming.

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

[Laurence Alexander](#), BIFAD Chair and Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
10:00–10:05 am

Introducing the BIFAD Subcommittee on Systemic Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems

[Lini Wollenberg](#), Subcommittee Co-Chair; Professor of Environment and Natural Resources and Fellow, Gund Institute, University of Vermont
10:05–10:10 am

BIFAD subcommittee Co-Chair Lini Wollenberg will introduce the BIFAD subcommittee members, provide an update on progress toward subcommittee objectives, and explain the purpose of the BIFAD-commissioned study.

Presentation of Progress and Preliminary Results of the BIFAD-Commissioned Study

[Rahel Diro](#), Coordinating Author and Subcommittee Advisor, Tetra Tech

[Ed Carr](#), Coordinating Author, Director and Professor, International Development, Community, and Environment Department, Clark University

[Dan Zook](#), Study Author; Executive Director, ISF Advisors

[Carmen Benson](#), Study Author and Senior Counselor, BIFAD Support Team, Tetra Tech

10:10–10:30 am

Members of the BIFAD-commissioned study author team will present the preliminary findings and opportunities in the Working Paper: Systemic Solutions to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Agricultural, Nutrition, and Food Systems. Study authors will discuss next steps to prepare a final report and recommendations for BIFAD in spring 2023.

Panel Discussion: Next Steps and Future Direction of the Study

Moderated by: [Lini Wollenberg](#), Subcommittee Co-Chair; Professor of Environment and Natural Resources and Fellow, Gund Institute, University of Vermont

10:30–11:00 am

Members of the BIFAD subcommittee and USAID staff will share feedback on the study, with a brief response from the study author team.

Panelists:

[Erin Coughlan De Perez](#), Subcommittee Co-Chair; Research Director and Dignitas Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition, Tufts University, and Senior Advisor, Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Center

[Ishmael Sunga](#), Subcommittee Member; CEO, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), South Africa

[Ann Vaughan](#), Senior Advisor for Climate Change, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID

[Songbae Lee](#), Agricultural Finance Team Lead, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID

BIFAD Questions and Discussion with Subcommittee and Author Team

Moderated by: [Lini Wollenberg](#), Subcommittee Co-Chair; Professor of Environment and Natural Resources and Fellow, Gund Institute, University of Vermont

11:00–11:20 am

Public Comment and Questions

Moderated by: [Erin Coughlan De Perez](#), Subcommittee Co-Chair; Research Director and Dignitas Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition, Tufts University, and Senior Advisor, Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Center

11:20–11:50 am

Members of the public are invited to share their reflections, questions, and/or advice to include: 1) questions on the emerging results, methods, or next steps for the author team or subcommittee, 2) technical input, particularly around the emerging priority leverage points and advice of any specific interventions to investigate within the identified systems or leverage points, and 3) recommendations for organizations to contact and publications to review in the next round of key informant interviews and written evidence review.

Summary of Key Points and Next Steps

[Lini Wollenberg](#), Subcommittee Co-Chair; Professor of Environment and Natural Resources and Fellow, Gund Institute, University of Vermont

11:50–11:55

Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

[Laurence Alexander](#), BIFAD Chair and Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

11:55–12:00

SPEAKER PROFILES

Please see the full [BIFAD member bios](#) and [Subcommittee bios](#) at this link

Dr. Laurence B. Alexander



Chairman of BIFAD
Chancellor, University of
Arkansas at Pine Bluff

BIFAD Chair Dr. Laurence B. Alexander has served for eight years as Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), a public historically black land-grant research university that offers degrees in more than 40 programs at the bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. levels. Prior to joining UAPB, Alexander had a distinguished 22-year career as a professor and administrator at the University of Florida (UF), the state's land-grant flagship research institution that is a member of the Association of American Universities. A native of New Orleans, Alexander earned a bachelor's degree from the University of New Orleans, a master's degree in Journalism and Communications from the University of Florida, a Juris Doctor from Tulane University, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Florida State University.

Dr. Eva (Lini) Wollenberg



Subcommittee Co-Chair
Research Professor, Gund
Institute, University of
Vermont

Subcommittee Co-Chair Dr. Eva (Lini) Wollenberg, is a Fellow in the Gund Institute and Associate Scientist of the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Dr. Lini Wollenberg is a social scientist and natural resource management specialist concerned with rural livelihoods and the environment. She led the research program on Low Emissions Agricultural Development for the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) from 2009 to 2021. Prior to joining CCAFS, Lini worked with the Ford Foundation and Center for International Forestry Research. Lini lived and worked in SE Asia for 13 years. She received her PhD from University of California, Berkeley.

Author Team

Rahel Diro



Disaster Risk Finance
Associate, Tetra Tech

Rahel Diro is an Associate specializing in Disaster Risk Finance at Tetra Tech. She currently serves as an advisor to the BIFAD Climate Change Subcommittee. Rahel has over a decade of experience in climate risk management and food security. She has worked in Africa, Asia, and Latin America providing technical support to climate risk management and resilience programs leveraging research and stakeholder management expertise to drive impact. Prior to joining Tetra Tech, Rahel worked at the International Research Center for Climate and Society (IRI) at Columbia University as a Senior Staff Associate. She also worked at Oxfam America implementing a holistic climate risk management program in Ethiopia. Rahel holds a MPA in Finance and Economic Policy from Columbia University, a joint Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from Ghent and Humboldt Universities, and a BSc. in Agribusiness Management from Haramaya University in Ethiopia.

Lydia Mbevi



Gender, Youth, and Social
Inclusion Lead Author, IFC
Consultant

Lydia Mbevi has more than 19 years of experience as a gender equality and social inclusion expert in agricultural development, humanitarian assistance, and livelihoods. Lydia has provided support to projects and clients in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia, South Sudan, Rwanda, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Nigeria, Lesotho, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and the Philippines. Her main role is using an integrated approach to transform opportunities for women, youth and other marginalized populations is realized in different projects. She also mentors and coaches project gender and social inclusion specialists to ensure that they have skills and tools to provide technical support to their teams. Lydia works with private sector organizations to ensure inclusive agricultural market systems. She also provides technical expertise on climate resilient agriculture. Lydia has a Masters in Gender and Development.

Dr. Ed Carr



Director and Professor,
International Development,
Community, and
Environmental Department,
Clark University

Dr. Edward R. Carr is a geographer and anthropologist whose career and research focus on exploring alternative ways of achieving meaningful and enduring improvements to human well-being. His work provides insights into the ways development and adaptation interventions impact human well-being, both positive and negative, how livelihoods work to order agrarian and other worlds, and how resilience presents both barriers to, and opportunities for, the transformative changes needed to manage our world. He is currently the Panel Member on Climate Change Adaptation on the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility. Previously, Carr served as a Science and Technology Policy Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the U.S. Agency for International Development. In this role, he was the first climate change coordinator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, and later served as an adviser on the Climate Change Team in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and the Environment. Carr has also served as the lead author of two global environmental assessments, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and The United Nations Environment Programme's Fourth Global Environment Outlook and is a lead author for Working Group II of the current Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Carmen Benson



Senior Counselor, BIFAD
Support Contract, Tetra
Tech

Carmen Benson is the Senior Counselor for the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), providing thought leadership and managing administrative and logistical support through the BIFAD Support Contract at Tetra Tech. Ms. Benson is an agriculture education and extension specialist with more than 13 years of experience supporting collaborative research partnerships and leading multi-disciplinary teams on international development initiatives, primarily with U.S. land grant universities and the U.S. military. Carmen previously served as Chief of Party with Michigan State University for the USAID Grain Research and Innovation (GRAIN) project in Afghanistan, partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture, Afghan universities, and private sector stakeholders to build public research capacity while empowering women in research. Her previous experience includes technical assignments in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste. She has her Masters in Agricultural Extension from Iowa State University, her BS in Agricultural Education from the University of Georgia and is currently a doctoral candidate at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Tyrone Hall



Behavior Change
Communications Author,
Tetra Tech

Tyrone Hall is a climate change specialist with over a decade of in-country research, intergovernmental and industry experience across the Americas, Sub-Saharan Africa, India and the Pacific region. Tyrone has an exceptional record of harnessing diverse institutional voices, directly strengthening and boosting outcomes aligned with core priorities: from social enterprises and regional institutions to global partnerships at the forefront of multilateral processes. His climate policy and communication competence is grounded in award-winning doctoral research. He earned both Vanier and Ontario Trillium Awards, the two most prestigious in Canada, for his doctoral work. Tyrone earned a doctorate in Communication with a specialization in sustainability policy and politics from York University. His research examined campaign and negotiation processes in relation to the landmark Paris Agreement on Climate Change, alongside communication processes in 17 indigenous and traditional villages across Belize, Fiji, and India. He earned a Masters in International Development from Clark University. He is passionate about and previously taught advanced level university courses on climate and food politics and supported the deployment of tech for rural economic development in Africa and Latin America.

Dan Zook



Executive Director, ISF
Advisors

Dan Zook is the Executive Director of ISF Advisors and has a passion for how we finance the transformation of our global food system towards a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive model. Based in New York, Dan co-founded ISF Advisors to provide research, strategic, and financial advisory support towards the mobilization of capital for the food and agriculture sector. Over the past two decades, he has worked with leading investors, financial institutions, and development organizations in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. His work includes framing strategic interventions, managing complex stakeholder partnerships, supporting early stage development of blended finance structures, and mobilizing capital for industry leading initiatives. He also contributes to ISF's research agenda and is a published thought leader in the inclusive finance space. He previously worked as a strategy consultant specializing in financial services for Dalberg and Booz & Company where he led engagements focused on inclusive financial services, social impact, and organizational transformation. Dan also worked for Standard Chartered Bank in the UAE and began his career as a microfinance program officer for Plan International in Vietnam. Dan holds an MBA with honors from Cornell's Johnson Business School and a BA from Princeton University in neuroscience.

Panelists

Dr. Erin Coughlan de Perez



Subcommittee Co-Chair
Research Director, Dignitas
Professor, Friedman School of
Nutrition, Tufts University

Subcommittee Co-Chair Dr. Erin Coughlan de Perez, bridges science, policy, and practice in research on climate risk management around the world. Erin focuses on extreme events, exploring how droughts, floods, heatwaves, and other climate shocks can be anticipated before they happen. Erin works with humanitarian teams to develop early action protocols to avoid disaster impacts and researches the adoption and effectiveness of climate change adaptation measures. Erin is also a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report. As part of Working Group II on Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, Erin is authoring the chapter entitled, Decision-Making Options for Managing Risk. Erin received a Ph.D. from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, M.A. in climate and society from Columbia University, and B.S. in environmental science and international development from McGill University.

Ishmael Sunga



Chief Executive Officer,
Southern African Confederation
of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)

Subcommittee Member Ishmael Sunga is the Chief Executive Officer of The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), based in South Africa. SACAU is a farmers' organization representing the common interests of farmers in 12 countries in southern Africa. In his role of CEO, Ishmael has spearheaded the organization's work in relation to digital solutions; climate change; the development of a new generation of farmers and farmers' organizations; multi-stakeholder platforms; systems thinking; and the governance of value chains. His wide-ranging experience and thought leadership has seen him serving a range of organizations, including the United Nations Food Systems Summit, the World Economic Forum, African Union/NEPAD, AGRA, Montpellier Malabo Panel of Experts, Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Generation Africa and the Commission on Sustainable Agriculture Intensification. Ishmael holds a BSc (Economics) from the University of Zimbabwe and an MSc (Strategic Management) from the University of Derby, UK, with more than 30 years' experience in the development sector, including development research, international development assistance and development consultancy.

Ann Vaughan



Senior Advisor for Climate Change, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS)

Ann Vaughan joined the Biden-Harris Administration in February 2021 and works in USAID's Bureau for the Resilience and Food Security (RFS) as a Senior Advisor for Climate Change. The Bureau for Resilience and Food Security works with a host of partners to advance inclusive agriculture-led growth, resilience, nutrition, and water security, sanitation and hygiene in priority countries to help them accelerate and protect development progress, including against the impacts of climate change. Ann is leading USAID's efforts to implement the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE) as well as working across RFS to elevate and integrate climate actions across the Bureau's Agriculture, Water and Nutrition Centers and is working to ensure USAID's new Climate Strategy. Prior to joining USAID, Ann worked at Mercy Corps, served as a field officer for USAID in Kandahar, Afghanistan, as a Congressional staffer working on foreign aid appropriations. She started her international development experience as a Health Peace Corps Volunteer in Quilali, Nicaragua. She has her Masters in International Development Studies with a focus on post-conflict reconstruction from George Washington University and Undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary.

Songbae Lee



Agricultural Finance Team Lead, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS)

Songbae Lee joined RFS in 2020 as Agricultural Finance Team Lead, supporting USAID in its efforts to mobilize capital for agriculture. Before this role, he spent eight years at Calvert Impact Capital, a non-profit impact investing debt fund, where he was responsible for deal origination, credit assessment, and ongoing portfolio monitoring. Prior to that, he worked for Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein in their global energy investment banking group in New York City, Banc of America Securities in their real estate investment banking group in San Francisco, and Mercy Corps in their microfinance institution in Kyrgyzstan. He holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago and a B.S. from the University of Vermont.