



### **BIFAD Public Meeting**

**Monday, September 11, 2023 | 10:00am-12:00pm EDT and 1:30-3:30pm EDT**

**The Willard InterContinental Hotel Grand Ballroom  
1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004**

#### **Register for the Hybrid Meeting:**

**In-person Registration:** <https://form.jotform.com/232120052737142>

#### **Virtual Registration:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_z6l1MQ7rTXCxOMeb4pC9UQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z6l1MQ7rTXCxOMeb4pC9UQ)

### **Elevating Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in USAID's Agricultural, Nutrition, and Food System Programming to Inform Strategy Implementation: A Discussion of the BIFAD Climate Change Subcommittee Draft Commissioned Report**

#### **Meeting Description**

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), an advisory committee to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on food and agricultural development issues, is hosting a full-day public meeting to address the opportunities and challenges of transformational climate change adaptation and mitigation in USAID's agricultural, nutrition, and food systems programming. The meeting will take place on Monday, September 11, 2023 with both in-person and virtual participation options available.

The meeting will highlight a draft commissioned report guided by the *BIFAD Subcommittee on Systemic Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems*, a subordinate unit of BIFAD established in June, 2022 in response to a USAID request for advice on addressing the climate crisis in agricultural, nutrition, and food systems.

The program will include Agency, stakeholder, and public insights and deliberation of draft recommendations from the report on integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation opportunities within USAID's agricultural, nutrition, and food system programming, research investments, and operational practices, as well as mobilizing climate finance for more resilient and sustainable food systems.

The public meeting will be organized in two sessions:

- I. Morning Session: A Vision for USAID Research to Advance Food Security, Nutrition, Climate, and Environment Goals**

This session will focus on opportunities to integrate climate change in implementation of the [U.S. Government Global Food Security Research Strategy](#). Speakers will explore opportunities to strengthen the relationships among environmental, agricultural, nutrition, and food systems



research programming, promoting investments that take explicit account of climate impacts while advancing food security, nutrition, and environmental goals. This session will highlight USAID's plans to bring a climate change lens to agriculture, nutrition, and food systems research in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, other interagency partners, and the higher education community, particularly the Feed the Future Innovation Labs, in alignment with the U.S. Government Global Food Security Research Strategy. The session will invite comments and questions about this plan, and the conclusions will inform the specificity and actionability of recommendations relevant to research outlined in the BIFAD-commissioned study.

**II. *Afternoon Session: A Deliberation of Draft Report Recommendations from the BIFAD Subcommittee on Systemic Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems***

This session will provide a platform for the BIFAD Subcommittee on Systemic Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems to share and discuss the main findings, targets, and recommendations of the draft report with BIFAD, USAID representatives, and other stakeholders.

These include realistic 2030 targets for USAID and recommendations to achieve transformative change, encompassing both Agency operations and social and technical leverage points that merit additional investment. The recommendations are intended to support implementation of [USAID's 2022–2030 Climate Strategy](#) across the agricultural, nutrition, and food systems portfolio.

The Subcommittee's draft report will be linked to [www.usaid.gov/BIFAD](http://www.usaid.gov/BIFAD) on September 5, 2023. Members of the public are invited to submit written comments on the draft report until September 18, 2023. All public comments will be included in the public record and considered in BIFAD's finalization of recommendations. For questions about BIFAD, or to submit written comments, evidence, or materials in advance or following the meeting, please use [this feedback form](#) or contact Clara Cohen, Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD in the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security at USAID via email at [ccohen@usaid.gov](mailto:ccohen@usaid.gov) (Subject: Comment on the BIFAD Subcommittee on Climate Change Recommendations) or telephone at (202) 712-0119.

The BIFAD is a seven-member, presidentially appointed advisory board to the 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.

For questions about registration, please contact Rachel Helbig at [rachel.helbig@tetrattech.com](mailto:rachel.helbig@tetrattech.com).

## **AGENDA**

### **Morning Session**

#### ***A Vision for USAID Research to Advance Food Security, Nutrition, Climate and Environment Goals***

10:00am – 12:00pm EDT

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Laurence Alexander, BIFAD Chair and Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff  
10:00 – 10:07 am

#### **Framing Remarks**

Gillian Caldwell, Chief Climate Officer, USAID  
Rob Bertram, Chief Scientist, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID  
Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and Chief Scientist, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
10:07 – 10:22 am

#### **Sharing a Unified Vision for a Research Agenda that Supports Linked Food Security, Nutrition, Climate, and Environment Goals**

Cary Fowler, Special Envoy for Global Food Security, U.S. Department of State  
Rebecca Shaw, Chief Scientist and Senior Vice President, Global Science, World Wildlife Fund  
10:22 – 10:40 am

#### **Panel Discussion: Towards a Unified Vision for Research that Supports Shared Goals**

10:40 – 11:25 am

*Moderated by: Mario Herrero, BIFAD Subcommittee Member; Professor, Department of Global Development and Director of Food Systems & Global Change, Cornell University*

- Bambi Semroc, Senior Vice-President, Center for Sustainable Lands and Waters, Conservation International
- Antony Chapoto, Director of Research and Innovation, Indaba Agricultural Policy Institute, Zambia
- Jessica Fanzo, BIFAD Subcommittee Member and Professor of Climate and Director of the Food for Humanity Initiative, Columbia University
- Kate Brauman, Deputy Director, Global Water Security Center, University of Alabama

#### **Q&A and Discussion with BIFAD and the Public**

11:25 – 11:50 am

*Moderated by: Andrew Muhammad, BIFAD Subcommittee Member; Professor and Blasingame Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Policy at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture*

**Reflections and Implications for the BIFAD Climate Change Study**

Lini Wollenberg, BIFAD Subcommittee Co-Chair; Research Professor, Gund Institute, University of Vermont; and Associate Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

11:50 – 11:55 am

**Closing Remarks**

Laurence Alexander, BIFAD Chair and Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

11:55 am – 12:00 pm

**[Break for Lunch]**



## **Afternoon Session**

### **A Deliberation of Draft Report Recommendations from the BIFAD Subcommittee on Systemic Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems**

1:30 – 3:30pm EDT

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Laurence Alexander, BIFAD Chair and Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff  
1:30 – 1:35 pm

#### **Framing Remarks**

Gillian Caldwell, Chief Climate Officer, USAID  
1:35 – 1:45 pm

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

Erin Coughlan De Perez, BIFAD Subcommittee Co-Chair and Research Director and Dignitas Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition, Tufts University  
1:45 – 1:50 pm

#### **Presentation of Key Findings and Subcommittee Recommendations to BIFAD**

1:50 – 2:10 pm

#### **Presentation of the Study's Objectives, Methodology, Draft Findings, and Targets**

Lini Wollenberg, BIFAD Subcommittee Co-Chair; Research Professor, Gund Institute, University of Vermont; and Associate Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT  
1:50 – 1:55 pm

#### **Presentation of Recommendations 1 and 2**

Jessica Fanzo, BIFAD Subcommittee Member and Professor of Climate and Director of Food for Humanity Initiative, Columbia University  
1:55 – 1:58 pm

#### **Presentation of Recommendations 3, 4, and 5**

Andrew Muhammad, BIFAD Subcommittee Member; Professor and Blasingame Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Policy at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture  
1:58 – 2:02 pm

#### **Presentation of Recommendation 6**

Ishmael Sunga, BIFAD Subcommittee Member and CEO, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)  
Mario Herrero, BIFAD Subcommittee Member; Professor, Department of Global Development and Director of Food Systems & Global Change, Cornell University  
2:02 - 2:10 pm

***USAID and Stakeholder Perspectives: Reactions and Feedback to the Subcommittee's Draft Recommendations to the Board***

2:10 – 3:10 pm

**Panel Discussion: USAID and Implementing Partner Perspectives**

*Moderated by: Carlijn Nouwen, BIFAD Subcommittee Member and Co-founder, Climate Action Platform for Africa (CAP-A)*

2:10 – 2:40 pm

- Jonathan Cook, Senior Resilience and Climate Adaptation Adviser, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID
- Moffatt Ngugi, Natural Resources Officer, USAID/Mozambique
- Antony Chapoto, Director of Research and Innovation, Indaba Agricultural Policy Institute, Zambia
- Sarah Gammage, Director of Policy, Markets, and Finance for Latin America, The Nature Conservancy

**BIFAD and Participant Questions and Public Comment Period**

*Moderated by: Ishmael Sunga, BIFAD Subcommittee Member and CEO, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)*

2:40 – 3:10 pm

**BIFAD Member Deliberation of the Preliminary Recommendations**

*Moderated by: Rattan Lal, BIFAD Member and Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and Director of the CFAES Rattan Lal Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration, The Ohio State University*

3:10 – 3:20 pm

*The Board will hold a public deliberation of the preliminary recommendations presented in the Subcommittee's report. The moderator may also draw from questions submitted prior to the meeting during a written comment period and questions or comments shared by the online audience.*

**Concluding Remarks, Note of Appreciation to Subcommittee, and Adjournment**

Laurence Alexander, BIFAD Chair and Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

3:20 – 3:30 pm

**SPEAKER PROFILES**  
**(in order of appearance)**

\*Please see the full [BIFAD Member Bios](#) and [Subcommittee Bios](#) at these links\*



**Laurence B. Alexander, Ph.D.**  
**Chair, Board for International Food Agricultural Development (BIFAD)**  
**Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**

Dr. Laurence B. Alexander has served for eight years as Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 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, including extension services provided through a variety of programs in its School of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Human Sciences.

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. He joined the UF faculty in 1991 as an assistant professor and rose through the academic ranks to become a tenured full professor in the UF College of Journalism and Communications. While at UF, Alexander served as a Distinguished Teaching Scholar, Provost Administrative Fellow in the Office of Academic Affairs, Director of the Office of Graduate Minority Programs, Associate Dean of the 12,000-student Graduate School, and Chair of the Department of Journalism. He was selected as the 12th UF Distinguished Alumni Professor, was named a UF Research Foundation Professor, and was inducted into the UF Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars. His current community engagement includes service on the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, the Board of Directors of Jefferson Regional Medical Center, and the Board of the Economic Development Alliance for Jefferson County, Arkansas. He also serves as Vice Chair of the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum and Chair of the Southwestern Athletic Conference Council of Presidents and Chancellors. 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.



**Gillian Caldwell**  
**Chief Climate Officer, USAID**

Gillian serves as the Chief Climate Officer and is responsible for directing and overseeing all climate and environment work across the agency. She also serves as Deputy Assistant Administrator, overseeing DDI's Center for Environment, Energy, and Infrastructure and the Office of Environmental and Social Risk Management. Ms. Caldwell has worked to protect human rights and the environment throughout her career. Prior to joining USAID, she served as the CEO of Global Witness, which has a focus on tackling climate change and deploys investigations into corruption and natural resource extraction to drive systems change worldwide. From 2007-2010, she launched and led 1Sky, a highly collaborative

cross-sector campaign with over 600 allied organizations to pass legislation in the U.S. to address the climate crisis. Gillian also has extensive experience consulting in the areas of strategic planning and organizational development with over 70 non-profits, foundations, and universities. Ms. Caldwell has a B.A. from Harvard University and a J.D. from Georgetown University, where she was recognized as a Public Interest Law Scholar. She has received a series of awards recognizing her work as a leading global Social Entrepreneur.



**Rob Bertram, Ph.D.**  
**Chief Scientist, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID**

Rob Bertram is Chief Scientist in USAID’s Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, where he leads USAID’s evidence-based efforts to advance agricultural and food systems research supporting the U.S. Government’s global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future. He oversees USAID’s food security research portfolio spanning the U.S. University-led Feed the Future Innovation Labs, the CGIAR and other International Agricultural Research Centers and public-private partnerships in agricultural biotechnology, all of which collaborate with and build capacity of national research organizations across Africa, Asia and Latin America. He is active in multilateral science contexts, where he leads USAID participation in the CGIAR and the Global Crop Diversity Trust, chairs the FAO Global Action on Fall Armyworm Technical Committee, and formerly chaired the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and has served twice as a Senior Official in the Executive Committee of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement.



**Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Ph.D.**  
**Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics and Chief Scientist, U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young serves as the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), and as USDA’s Chief Scientist. The REE mission area is comprised of more than 8,500 employees with a \$4 billion budget across its five component organizations including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS). Together these organizations advance agricultural research, innovation, data, and Extension across a full range of agricultural issues including climate-smart agriculture, nutrition security, equity, and strengthening food supply chains. As Chief Scientist, Dr. Jacobs-Young advises the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials on scientific matters and chairs the USDA Science Council, which convenes all parts of USDA’s scientific enterprise.

Prior to being appointed by President Biden to serve as the REE Under Secretary, Dr. Jacobs-Young was Administrator for ARS from 2014 to 2022. Prior to that role, she served as ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs, leading the research objectives of the entire Agency. She also led the Office of International Research Programs, which is responsible for ARS’ liaison with its international partners.

From 2009 to 2012, Dr. Jacobs-Young served as the inaugural OCS Director, where she was responsible for facilitating the coordination of scientific leadership across the Department to ensure that research supported by, and scientific advice provided to, the Department and external stakeholders were held to the highest standards of intellectual rigor and scientific integrity. She has also served as the Acting Director for NIFA and as a senior policy analyst for agriculture in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Dr. Jacobs-Young is a native of Georgia. She holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Wood and Paper Science and a B.S. degree in Pulp and Paper Science and Technology from North Carolina State University. She is a graduate of American University's Key Executive Leadership in Public Policy Implementation Program, and a proud fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Academy of Public Administration.



**Cary Fowler, Ph.D.**

**Special Envoy for Global Food Security, U.S. Department of State**

Dr. Cary Fowler is perhaps best known as the “father” of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon described as an “inspirational symbol of peace and food security for the entire humanity.” This facility provides ultimate security for more than 1 million unique crop varieties, the biological foundation of agriculture and the raw material for all future plant breeding and crop improvement efforts.

Dr. Fowler is the former Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, an international organization cosponsored by Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Prior to leading the Crop Trust, he was a Professor at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, and a senior staff member of Bioversity International. Earlier, he oversaw the UN’s first global assessment of the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources. He was responsible for drafting and negotiating the first FAO Global Plan of Action on the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, formally adopted by 150 countries in 1996. Following this, Dr. Fowler twice served as Special Assistant to the Secretary General of the World Food Summit and represented the CGIAR in the multi-year negotiations on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.

In 2015, Dr. Fowler was appointed to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development by President Obama. He is a former board member of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, and former chair of the Livestock Conservancy.



**Rebecca Shaw, Ph.D.**

**Chief Scientist and Senior Vice President, Global Science, World Wildlife Fund**

Dr. Rebecca Shaw is Chief Scientist and Senior Vice President at WWF. She works with experts around the world to identify the emerging challenges to WWF’s mission and advance scientific inquiry to develop strategic solutions to those challenges. She leads WWF’s Global



Science team whose research agenda informs WWF's global conservation framework and identifies tools critical to achieving WWF's goals. She has been published widely in leading peer-reviewed scientific journals such as Science and Nature and is the recipient of numerous awards for her academic and non-academic work. She was also a lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report focused on impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability.



**Mario Herrero, Ph.D.**  
**BIFAD Subcommittee Member**  
**Professor, Department of Global Development and Director of Food Systems & Global Change, Cornell University**

Mario Herrero is a professor in the Cornell CALS Department of Global Development, the director of Food Systems & Global Change, a Cornell Atkinson Scholar, and the Nancy and Peter Meinig Family Investigator in the Life Sciences. His research focuses on increasing the sustainability of food systems for the benefit of humans and ecosystems. He works in the areas of food systems and the environment, climate mitigation and adaptation, livestock systems, true cost of food, sustainability metrics, and healthy and sustainable diets. Herrero is a highly-cited researcher according to the Web of Science, and is in the top 10 of Reuters list of most influential climate change scientists.

Herrero has played senior roles in many global initiatives on food and the environment. Currently, he is a Co-Chair of the Food Systems Countdown Initiative, Coordinating Lead Author of the IPBES Nexus Assessment, a Commissioner and Executive Committee member of the EAT-Lancet 2.0 study, a member of the steering group for the global True Cost of Food Coalition, and he serves on the executive committee of the Global Burden of Animal Diseases program.

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**Bambi Semroc**  
**Senior Vice-President, Center for Sustainable Lands and Waters, Conservation International**

Ms. Semroc has worked at Conservation International for more than 15 years, with a focus on sustainable agriculture. During her tenure she has worked with retail and consumer goods companies to craft next generation sustainability commitments and innovative sourcing programs and landscape initiatives. Over the past decade she led CI's coffee program and started up the Sustainable Coffee Challenge, a sector-wide effort to make coffee the world's first sustainable agricultural product. Ms. Semroc works to ensure companies have the information and tools necessary to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem service considerations into their decision-making processes. She has collaborated with the Starbucks Coffee Company, Walmart, McDonald's, Nestle, The Coca-Cola Company and others.

Ms. Semroc has been featured for her expertise in sustainable agriculture in media outlets including Men's Journal, Food Tank, Chicago Tribune, Mongabay and Daily Coffee News.

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Prior to Conservation International, Ms. Semroc worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in northern Togo. She holds a master's degree in International Development from American University and a bachelor's degree in English and French from Indiana University.



**Antony Chapoto, Ph.D.**  
**Director of Research and Innovation, Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute**

Dr Antony Chapoto is an ardent agriculture and development economist who has conducted research on agriculture and food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa and has published numerous articles in peer reviewed journals, co-authored book chapters, working papers, advisory notes, policy briefs and infographics. He is currently the Research and Innovation Director of the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute. He is also the Technical Chair of the Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ANAPRI). He is currently ANAPRI's Coordinator for the Comprehensive Action for Climate Change Initiative in Zambia and Ghana. Chapoto, was instrumental in the establishment of IAPRI in 2011 and became the Institute's Research Director in 2014 from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), where he was a Research Fellow under the Development Strategy and Governance Division from 2012 to 2014. Prior to IFPRI, Chapoto was a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University stationed in Zambia with the department's Food Security Research Project as the USAID Chief of Party and Research Coordinator. His research interests focus on agricultural development issues in Africa, including climate change and natural resources, agricultural technology and productivity, smallholder farm commercialization, home-grown medium- and large-scale farmers, and food markets and policy. He has spent a large part of his career doing research, engaging policy makers and agriculture stakeholders on key policy issues through a variety of outreach and capacity-building activities for sustainable policy change and development in SSA. Antony holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University, a Masters in Agricultural Economics from the University of Zimbabwe, and a Bachelors in Agriculture and Natural Resources from Africa University, Zimbabwe.



**Jessica Fanzo, Ph.D.**  
**BIFAD Subcommittee Member**  
**Professor of Climate and Director of the Food for Humanity Initiative, Columbia University**

Dr. Jessica Fanzo joined the Climate School of Columbia University as a Professor of Climate and Director of the Food for Humanity Initiative in July 2023. Fanzo comes to the Climate School from Johns Hopkins University, where she was the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Global Food Policy and Ethics and the Director of Hopkins' Global Food Policy and Ethics Program. Her most recent book, [\*Can Fixing Dinner Fix the Planet?\*](#), was published by JHU Press in 2021. Her research interests include linkages between agriculture, the environment, climate, and health disciplines to improve food systems, the diversity, and quality of diets and nutrition outcomes.



**Kate Brauman, Ph.D.**  
**Deputy Director, Global Water Security Center, University of Alabama**

Dr. Kate Brauman is the Deputy Director at the Global Water Security Center at the University of Alabama. Prior to this, she was a 2020-21 Water and Climate Resilience Fellow at the U.S. Department of Defense through a AAAS Science Technology Policy Fellowship, where she worked on water resilience at military installations. Brauman’s academic research includes assessment of worldwide trends in water consumption and availability, irrigation and agricultural water use, and the science and implementation of investments in watershed ecosystem services. She was a coordinating lead author for the 2019

Global Assessment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a section lead for the 2021 UNEP Global Synthesis Report “Making Peace with Nature”, and a 2018 AAAS Leshner Leadership Fellow for Public Engagement. Brauman received her undergraduate degree from Columbia University and her doctorate from Stanford University’s Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources.



**Andrew Muhammad, Ph.D.**  
**BIFAD Subcommittee Member**  
**Professor and Blasingame Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Policy at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture**

Dr. Andrew Muhammad is Professor and Blasingame Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Policy at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. His research and outreach program focuses on assisting stakeholders in the evaluation of opportunities and policies on international trade and global food demand. He worked in the Federal Government as the Associate Director of the Market and Trade Economics Division (2016-2018) and Chief of the International Demand

and Trade Branch (2013-2016) at USDA’s Economic Research Service in Washington, D.C., where he advised the Department on international issues. Dr. Muhammad currently serves on several advisory boards including USDA’s Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee and the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center, and previously served on the Council on Food, Agricultural, & Resource Economics (C-FARE) and International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium. His education includes a Ph.D. in Food and Resource Economics (2000) from the University of Florida.



**Eva (Lini) Wollenberg, Ph.D.**  
**BIFAD Subcommittee Co-Chair**  
**Research Professor, Gund Institute, University of Vermont**  
**Associate Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT**

A Research Professor at the University of Vermont and Food and Climate Specialist at the Alliance of Bioversity and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical, or CIAT), Dr. Lini Wollenberg works on low-emissions development in food systems. 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 Southeast Asia for 13 years. She received her Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley.



**Erin Coughlan de Perez, Ph.D.**  
**BIFAD Subcommittee Co-Chair**  
**Research Director and Dignitas Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition, Tufts University**

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**  
**BIFAD Subcommittee Member**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)**

Mr. 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 have 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 B.Sc. (Economics) from the University of Zimbabwe and an M.Sc. (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.



**Carlijn Nouwen**  
**BIFAD Subcommittee Member**  
**Co-founder, Climate Action Platform for Africa (CAP-A)**

Ms. Carlijn Nouwen is an entrepreneur with over two decades of professional experience in the intersection of economic development, inclusive business, and management consulting. She is the co-founder of Climate Action Platform for Africa (CAP-A), a system orchestrator that focuses on identifying, quantifying, prioritizing and realizing inclusive economic growth opportunities for the African continent *through* climate action. She drives CAP-A's strategy and its data and green industrialization work, shaping the cutting edge of Africa's climate action agenda.

Carlijn spent nearly a decade at Dalberg Advisors, where she contributed to the growth and diversification of Dalberg Advisors' Africa offices and helped the Dalberg Group expand its capabilities beyond consulting. She led Dalberg Africa's inclusive business inclusive industrialisation practice. Carlijn started her career at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, followed by seven years at McKinsey & Company, with a focus on healthcare and financial services.



**Jonathan Cook**  
**Senior Resilience and Climate Adaptation Advisor, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID**

Jonathan Cook is a Senior Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Advisor with USAID in Washington, DC. He is a key part of the Agency's work on adaptation finance and nature-based solutions, in addition to providing broader adaptation-related support to USAID missions and other stakeholders. He returned to USAID in 2021 after spending two years supporting the Global Commission on Adaptation and co-leading its action track on Nature-Based Solutions. He also co-authored two chapters of the Commission's flagship report, *Adapt Now*, released in

2019. Previously, he spent six and a half years as a Senior Climate Change Adaptation Specialist at USAID and seven years at the World Wildlife Fund, including positions with the Macroeconomics Program Office, Greater Mekong Program (based in Lao PDR), and Climate Adaptation Program of which he served as Deputy Director. He is a co-author of the Fourth U.S. National Climate Assessment (2018) and other reports and publications.



**Moffatt Ngugi, Ph.D.**  
**Natural Resources Officer, USAID/Mozambique**

Moffatt Ngugi is a Foreign Service Officer at USAID. He previously led the Food Integrated Systems for Food Production team in Washington at USAID/RFS. He has worked in agriculture and food security since 2010 on issues relating to agriculture, climate and natural resources management. A geocologist in rangeland science, physical land resources and agroecology, he studied at the University of Nairobi,

Ghent University and Colorado State University and has worked in diverse settings worldwide. Examples of his work include social and ecological characterization of key resource areas in the horn of Africa, postdoctoral research at University of California Davis about biogeochemical modeling of greenhouse gasses; Consultancies for terrestrial carbon science; and inventory of forage resources in Dakota grasslands. At USAID he collaborates with stakeholders to address climate change concerns in the sustainable development across natural systems in order to improve livelihood and living standards.



**Sarah Gammage, Ph.D.**  
**Director of Policy, Markets, and Finance, Latin America, The Nature Conservancy**

Sarah is the director of Policy, Markets and Finance for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Latin America. She leads a team of carbon, sustainable finance, corporate engagement, and policy specialists. She is a development economist with 30 years of experience working on environmental and economic development in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Economics from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague and a master's in economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Sarah has worked with and for several international and multilateral organizations, including the International Institute for Environment and Development, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Labour Organisation, the International Center for Research on Women, and UN Women. She has written academic and policy research articles on gender and trade, poverty, labor markets, migration, and the environment. Sarah is a member of the International Association for Feminist Economics, a member of Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), and a Senior Fellow of the International Center for Research on Women. She has worked extensively in Latin America and the Caribbean and is fluent in Spanish.



**Rattan Lal, Ph.D.**  
**BIFAD Member**  
**Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and Director of the CFAES Rattan Lal Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration, The Ohio State University**

Rattan Lal, Ph.D., is a Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and Director of the CFAES Rattan Lal Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration at The Ohio State University; an Adjunct Professor of the University of Iceland and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute; and a Visiting Professor at Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaiso, Chile. Dr. Lal is widely recognized globally as a pioneer in soil-centric agricultural management to improve food security globally and develop climate-resilient agriculture through soil carbon sequestration, sustainable intensification, enhancing use and efficiency of agroecosystems, sustainable management of soils, and soil health.

He served as President of the World Association of the Soil and Water Conservation, the International Soil Tillage Research Organization, the Soil Science Society of America, and the International Union of

Soil Sciences, Vienna, Austria. He has served as a member of various U.S. and international committees, such as the Federal Advisory Committee on National Assessment of Climate Change, Senior Science Advisor to the Global Soil Forum of IASS, and the United Nations Food Systems Summit Science Committee.

Dr. Lal has been the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Padma Shri Award of the Government of India, the World Food Prize, Arrell Global Food Innovation Award of Canada, Japan Prize, U.S. Awasthi IFFCO Prize of India, GCHERA World Agriculture Prize, and Glinka World Soil Prize of FAO, Rome, Italy. Dr. Lal earned his bachelor's in science degree from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, a M.Sc. from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, and a Ph.D. from the Ohio State University, Columbus.