Presenters



Celina Caesar-Chavannes

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Parliament of Canada

Celina Caesar-Chavannes is a successful entrepreneur and the recipient of both the Toronto Board of Trade's Business Entrepreneur of the Year for 2012 and the 2007 Black Business and Professional Association's Harry Jerome Young Entrepreneur Award. Ms. Caesar-Chavannes was a well-known research

consultant and worked with a variety of private, government and non-government organizations.

An international lecturer on the inclusion of marginalized populations in clinical research, Ms. Caesar-Chavannes has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto, an MBA in Healthcare Management, and an Executive MBA from the Rotman School of Management. She is a past member of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto. She also served as member of the Institutional Advisory Board of the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction, part of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. She is also a member of the Congress of Black Women.

Ms. Caesar-Chavannes served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister from December 2015 to January 2017.

Ms. Caesar-Chavannes has deep roots in Whitby, where she lives with her husband and three children.



Jean Lebel

President, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Jean was appointed President of IDRC on May 1, 2013. As President, Jean leads the Centre's contributions to Canada's development, foreign policy, and global innovation efforts. He is responsible for significant funding partnerships with Canadian and foreign governments, philanthropic organizations, and the private sector. Jean previously served as Vice-President, Program and Partnership Branch, overseeing all IDRC programming, as well as Director, Agriculture and

Environment. He holds a PhD in environmental sciences from l'Université du Québec à Montréal and an MScA in occupational health sciences from McGill University.



Shenggen Fan

Director General, IFPRI

Shenggen Fan (樊胜根) has been director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) since 2009.

Dr. Fan joined IFPRI in 1995 as a research fellow, conducting extensive research on pro-poor development strategies in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. He led IFPRI's program on public investment before becoming the director of the Institute's Development Strategy and Governance Division in 2005.

He is one of the Champions of Target 12.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, dedicated to inspiring ambition, mobilizing action, and accelerating progress toward cutting global food loss and waste. He serves as a member of the Lead Group for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement appointed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. He serves as advisor to many national governments (including China and Vietnam) on agriculture, food security and nutrition.

In 2017, Dr. Fan received the 2017 Fudan Management Excellence Award. The award is referred to in China as the "Nobel Prize for Management." This highly prestigious award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of management.

In 2014, Dr. Fan received the Hunger Hero Award from the World Food Programme in recognition of his commitment to and leadership in fighting hunger worldwide.

Dr. Fan received a PhD in applied economics from the University of Minnesota and bachelor's and master's degrees from Nanjing Agricultural University in China.



Dr. Jemimah Njuki

Senior Program Officer, Agriculture and Food Security, Canada's International Development Research Centre

Dr Jemimah Njuki is a Senior Program Specialist at Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) where she oversees a portfolio of agriculture and food security projects focused on reducing post-harvest losses, improving nutrition and engaging women and youth in agribusiness, as well as overseeing gender integration and women's

empowerment in agriculture projects in IDRC's Agriculture and Food Security Program. For the last 15 years she has carried out gender research and managed women's economic empowerment programs in Africa and Asia. She has published widely on gender and women's economic empowerment specifically in the areas of gender and technology, women and markets, and women and livestock. She has recently coedited two books; one on 'Women and livestock in Eastern and Southern Africa', and the other on 'Transforming Gender and Food Systems in the Global South'. She is the founder and editor in chief of the Journal of Gender, Agriculture and Food Security. Prior to joining IDRC, she started and led the Women in Agriculture Program (Pathways to empowerment) at CARE USA, working in 6 countries in Africa and Asia and headed the Gender and Impact Program at the International Livestock Research Institute. She is an

Aspen New Voices 2017 Fellow and currently chairs the advisory committee of the African Women in Agriculture Research and Development (AWARD) and in the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification.



Faris Ahmed

Director, Policy & Campaigns, USC Canada

Faris joined USC Canada in 2005 and leads policy work in close collaboration with ecological agriculture, biodiversity and food sovereignty networks in the South and in Canada. He is an active member of the civil society networks of the Committee for World Food Security (CFS), the CBD Alliance and Food Secure Canada. Faris has worked at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Oxfam, South Asia Partnership, and as a

photographer/writer covering environmental issues. He holds an MA in International Development Studies from the University of Toronto.



Sue Szabo

Director General, Food Security and Environment, Global Affairs Canada

Sue Szabo, Director General, leads the Food Security and Environment Division at Global Affairs Canada. She has built a strong academic foundation in economics which has taken her to over 50 countries and given her first-hand experience on a wide range of issues, including women's enterprises, health, innovative

financing and governance with a particular focus on the potential for strategic public investments to catalyze socially beneficial private initiatives. She received her MPhil and PhD in Economics from the University of Cambridge which has moved her into leadership positions in policy, programming and research at IDRC, Canada's Department of Finance, Aga Khan Foundation Canada, and the World Bank.



Agnes Quisumbing

Senior Research Fellow, Poverty, Health, and Nutrition (PHND), International Food Policy Research Institute

Agnes Quisumbing, a senior research fellow, co-leads a research program that examines how closing the gap between men's and women's ownership and control of assets may lead to better development outcomes. Her past work at IFPRI analyzed the factors that enable individuals, households, and communities to move out of poverty over the long term, and on how

resource allocation within households and families affects the design and outcome of development policies. Her research interests include poverty, gender, property rights, and economic mobility. She led a study on intrahousehold allocation and development policy in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guatemala, and South Africa. She has also worked on women's land rights in Ghana, the Philippines, and Sumatra. She has been involved in longitudinal studies in Bangladesh, Guatemala, and the Philippines, and is currently engaged in impact evaluations of agricultural development programs, focusing on their impacts on gender asset inequality, in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

A citizen of the Philippines, Quisumbing joined IFPRI in 1995. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. in economics from the University of the Philippines, Quezon City, and her A.B. in economics from De La Salle University in Manila. Before joining IFPRI, Quisumbing worked at the University of the Philippines, Diliman and Los Baños; the World Bank; Yale University; and the International Rice Research Institute.