

Presenters



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 co-edited 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.



Jane Rabinowicz

Executive Director, USC Canada

Jane Rabinowicz is a champion for food sovereignty and community leadership at local, national, and international levels. As Executive Director of USC Canada, Jane and her team collaborate with partners in 12 countries to enhance seed biodiversity, promote ecological agriculture, and protect farmers' rights. Jane first joined USC Canada in 2011 to bring their innovative Seeds of Survival program home to Canada, working with farmers and partners to develop Canada's most comprehensive seed security program, The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security. In 2018, Châtelaine Magazine highlighted Jane as one of 25 women changing the way we eat, and in 2016 Jane was named one of the 53 most influential people in Canada's food system by The Globe and Mail. In addition to her work at USC Canada, Jane is Co-Founder of the Silver Dollar Foundation and sits on the Board of Directors of Tides Canada. Jane previously held leadership positions with Équiterre and Santropol Roulant, and has served on the Boards of Directors of Centraide du Grand-Montréal, Food Secure Canada, Girls Action Foundation, and the Centre for Community Organizations. Jane shares the role of Executive Director with Martin Settle as a leadership team, and splits her time between Montreal and Ottawa.



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.



Sonia Laszlo

Associate Professor of Economics and Director of the Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

Prof. Sonia Laszlo is Associate Professor of Economics and Director of the Institute for the Study of International Development. Her research expertise covers many aspects of applied microeconomic analysis in economic development. Specifically, she is currently working in two broad research areas: decision-making under uncertainty (namely concerning technology adoption among subsistence farmers) and the micro-economic effects of social policies and conditions (in the area of education, health and labour markets), with a focus on women. Prof. Laszlo has conducted her research in Peru, Kenya and in the Caribbean, using laboratory experiments, surveys or randomized controlled trials. She is also a member of the Centre Interuniversitaire de Recherche en Organizations (CIRANO) and the Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE). In 2005 she co-founded and has since been an executive member of the Canadian Development Economics Study Group (CDESG), which groups both academic and policy development economists in Canada.



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.