



In collaboration with:



GFIME
GLOBAL FORUM
 ON INNOVATIONS FOR MARGINAL ENVIRONMENTS

20-21 NOVEMBER 2019

AL HABTOOR POLO RESORT DUBAI, UAE



Agenda

Food Security and Innovation Day

Wednesday, 20 November 2019

08:45	Morning Refreshments & Networking
09:15	WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS H.E. Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Al Mehairi, Minister of State for Food Security – UAE
09:20	OPENING ADDRESS: Safeguarding The Future of Marginal Environments Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director General, ICBA - UAE
09:25	INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS: How will we feed humanity as earth becomes an ever more marginal environment for agriculture? Dr. Nina Fedoroff, Evan Pugh Professor Emerita, Penn State University - USA
09:45	MINISTERIAL PANEL: An outlook on food security - from STEM → Farm → Fork → Food Security <i>The future of safeguarding the food security value chain.</i> <i>Leadership in Food Security</i> Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Al Mehairi, Minister of State for Food Security – UAE• H.E. Sarah bint Youssef Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Sciences – UAE, Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and The Future - UAE• H.E. Dr. Bandar M.H. Hajjar, President, Islamic Development Bank – KSA• H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) – Sudan Moderator: Ms. Thin Lei Win, Food Security Correspondent, Thomson Reuters Foundation – Italy
10:25	INNOVATORS PANEL: Unlocking value - supporting agriculture and food innovation and the future of smart investments <i>Can smart agriculture strategies mitigate climate risk, increase food production and save the planet, all at the same time?</i> <i>Innovation & Investment</i> Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Managing Director, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) - UAE• Dr. José Graziano da Silva, Eighth Director General, Former Director General, UNFAO - Brazil• Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, Chairman & Chief Executive, FAYODE – Nigeria• Dr. Alex Ariho, Chief Executive Officer, African Agribusiness Incubators Network – Ghana• Mr. Soud Ba'alawy, Chairman, Enspire - UAE• H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Dukheiri, Director General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and Former Minister of Agriculture – Sudan• Ms. Hajbouha Zoubeir, President, Phosboucraa Foundation – Morocco Moderator: Ms. Thin Lei Win, Food Security Correspondent, Thomson Reuters Foundation – Italy

11:15

Impact on
Farmers

GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT: Farming on the frontlines of marginal environments
Gauging the impact of farming in marginal environments in the face of food security challenges

Panelists:

- Ms. Jane Ininda, Associate Program Director, **Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA) - Kenya**
- Ms. Rosemary Nenini, Coordinator, **Twala Women's Group - Kenya**
- Mr. Bektashev Jakhongir Rakhimovich, Farm Manager, "**Baxt Imkon Rivoj Chorvasi**" farming entity, **Uzbekistan**
- Ms. Ejezie Juliet, Farm Manager, **Dozliet Anim Farms, Nigeria** and Volunteer, **Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network**
- Mrs. Alem Greiling, Founder and CEO, **Nutri-Dense, Ethiopia**

Moderator: Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, Former Director General, **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – Germany**

11:50

Morning Break

Launch of ICBA YES initiative @ the Soil Museum stand



Main Programme (Cont.) – Stream A: Business & Policy Sessions

12:15

Nutrition

KEYNOTE: Come dine with me 2050 edition – what's on the menu, and what's out of stock?

Mr. Patrick Crowley, **Founder, Chapul – USA**

12:30

Nutrition

PANEL DISCUSSION: Global nutrition trends, capabilities and emergencies

Panelists:

- H.E. Dr. Tariq Al Gurg, Chief Executive Officer, **Dubai Cares - UAE**
- Prof. Afaf Kamal Eldin, College of Food and Agriculture, **UAUEU, UAE**
- H.E. Dr. Mariam Mohamed Fatima Matar, Founder and Chairperson, **UAE Genetic Diseases Association – UAE**
- Dr. Salwa Karboune, Associate Dean (Research) – McGill University and Scientific Director, Consortium for Research, **Innovation and Transformation of Agrifood – Canada**
- Mr. Patrick Crowley, Founder, **Chapul – USA**
- Ms. Randa Habib, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs Manager, **First Food Consultancy - UAE**

Moderator: Ms. Thin Lei Win, Food Security Correspondent, **Thomson Reuters Foundation – Italy**

13:00

Genomics

PANEL DISCUSSION: Genomics – a sign of the apocalypse or the answer?

Genomics innovation, impact and ethics in new frontiers.

Panelists:

- Dr. Ren Wang, **BGI – China**
- Dr. Nina Fedoroff, Evan Pugh Professor Emerita, **Penn State University - USA**
- Prof. Benildo de los Reyes, Bayer Crop Science Endowed Chair in Plant Genomics and Associate Department Chair for Research and Graduate Programs – Department of Plant and Soil Science, **Texas Tech University – USA**
- Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director General, **ICBA - UAE**

Moderator: Mr. Ben Deighton, Managing Editor, **SciDev.Net – UK**

13:30

Lunch

Main Programme (Cont.): Business & Policy Sessions

14:15

*Future-Proofing
Strategies*

PANEL DISCUSSION: Trailblazers breaking new ground - projects and policies

Panelists:

- Dr. Adil Bushnak, Chairman, **Bushnak Group - Saudi Arabia**
- H.E. Yerlan Baidalet, Director General, **Islamic Organization for Food Security - Kazakhstan**
- Mr. Babar Bajwa, Regional Director (Central West Asia), Project Leader ACIAR, **CABI - Pakistan**
- Dr. Samuel Gameda, Senior Soil Scientist, **International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre - Ethiopia**
- Dr. Marcus Thomson, Research Scholar – Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land use and Energy (FABLE) Consortium - **International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) - Austria**

Moderator: Ms. Seta Tutundjian, Director of Programs, **ICBA - UAE**

15:00

*Controlled
Environment
Agriculture*

DEBATE: Can sky high innovation deliver on sky high expectations?

Can controlled environment agriculture mitigate our biggest challenges?

Panelists:

- Mr. Abdulaziz Al Mulla, Cofounder and CEO, **Madar Farms - UAE**
- Mr. Ronald de Ruyter, Founder, **GrowArabic BV - UAE**
- Mr. Yazen Al Kodmani, Operations Manager, **Emirates BioFarm - UAE**
- Dr. Habtamu Giday Gebraegziabher, Post-doctoral Fellow: Urban and Vertical Farming, **International Center for Biosaline Agriculture - UAE**
- Mr. Hans Hassle, Co-Founder, **Plantagon - Sweden**

Moderator: Mr. Ben Deighton, Managing Editor, **SciDev.Net - UK**

15:30

Afternoon Break

15:45

INTERACTIVE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS: Affordable agri-innovation

Each roundtable duration is 20 minutes; participants will be able to take part in three interactive discussions of their choice for the hour.

Topics and Facilitators:

Big Data & Blockchain Mr. Deepak Pareek, CEO and Founder, **Digi Agri - India**

Remote Sensors Mr. Murali Krishna Gumma, Head, GIS and Remote Sensing Lab, **ICRISAT - India**

Drones Dr. Ali Elbattay, Senior Scientist – Remote Sensing and Drones Technology, **ICBA - UAE**

Platforms & Apps Dr. Khalil Ammar, Principal Scientist, **ICBA - UAE**

17:00

Close of Day 1 - Main Programme: Business & Policy Sessions

Climate Impact and Sustainability Day

Thursday, 21 November 2019

09:15	Morning Refreshments & Networking
09:40	Welcome From GFIME Chairperson
09:45	Opening Address: Engaging youth, future leaders of climate impact progress Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Deputy Director General, ICBA - UAE
09:50	Regional Address: The scary new normal – a climate in crisis Mr. Rachid Serraj, Author of Agriculture and Food Systems to 2050 (2018) and Senior Project Officer/Delivery Manager for the Regional Initiative on Small Scale Family Farming, Regional Office in Near East and North Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Egypt
10:00 <i>Sustainability</i>	PANEL DISCUSSION: Is it too late to develop a sustainability strategy centered on circularity? <i>How can agri systems be reimagined? How quickly can we mobilize change? How can improved systems better manage resources, waste and carbon?</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Director – Land and Water Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)• Dr. Javier Mateo – Sagasta, Senior Researcher, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) – Sri Lanka• Mr. Mohamed Aissaoui, Founder, My Farm – UAE• Ms. Habiba Al Marashi, CoFounder and Chairperson, Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) - UAE <i>Moderator:</i> Ms. Seta Tutundjian, Director of Programs, ICBA – UAE
10:35 <i>Climate in Crisis</i>	KEYNOTE: Space Farming – Could the Marginal Environments Hold the Key to Out of this World Capabilities? Dr. Jennifer Ngo-Anh, SciSpacE Team Leader - Directorate of Human and Robotic Exploration Programmes (HRE-RS), European Space Agency – The Netherlands
10:55 <i>Climate in Crisis</i>	PANEL DISCUSSION: Giving a Face to the Name – Tracking Climate Impact’s Irreversible Consequences <i>The increasing urgency of marginal environment innovation as we approach the point of no return.</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director - Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) – Lebanon• Prof. R. Quentin Grafton, Chairholder - UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance, Australian National University – Australia• Dr. Abdelbagi M. Ismail, Principal Scientist and IRRI Representative for Africa, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) - Kenya• Dr. Asad Qureshi, Senior Scientist – Irrigation and Water Management, ICBA - UAE• Mr. Rashyd Zaaboul, Modeler - Climate Change, ICBA, UAE <i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Ben Deighton, Managing Editor, SciDev.Net – UK
11:30	Morning Break

Main Programme (Cont.) – Stream A [Business & Policy Sessions]

12:00

Clean
Energy

PANEL DISCUSSION: Clean Energy – Can Marginal Environments Benefit?

Exploring alternative energy sources and the agricultural implications.

Panelists:

- H.E. Mohammed Mohammed Saleh, Director General, **Federal Electricity and Water Authority - UAE**
- Dr. Alejandro Rios Galvan, Director, **Sustainable Bioenergy Research Consortium (SBRC) – UAE**
- Mr. Anup Isaac, Country Director, **Yellow Door Energy - UAE**
- Prof. Yassir Makkawi, Professor of Chemical Engineering, **American University of Sharjah (AUS) - UAE**

Moderator: Ms. Thin Lei Win, Food Security Correspondent, **Thomson Reuters Foundation – Italy**

12:45

Research
and Policy
Without
Borders

PANEL DISCUSSION: Are We All Destined To Become Climate Refugees?

Can industry transparency and climate-smart strategies save us from water scarcity crises, sustainability failures and rising temperatures?

Panelists:

- H.E. Dr. Hussein Al Mahmoudi, CEO, **Sharjah Research Technology and Innovation Park – UAE**
- Dr. Jacques Wery, Deputy Director General – Research, **ICARDA - Egypt**
- Dr P.C. Sharma, Director, **Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (ICAR) – India**
- Ms. Seta Tutundjian, Director of Programs, **ICBA – UAE**
- Ms. Kata Molnar, Co-Founder and CEO, **Waterproof Investments, Hungary**
- Mr. Joseph Lentunyoi, Director and Founder, **Laikipia Permaculture Center - Kenya**

Moderator: Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, Former Director General, **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – Germany**

13:30

Lunch

14:15

Sustainable
Future

DEDICATED SESSION: Launching the GSP International Network of Salt Affected Soils (INSAS)

Hosted by: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The International Network of Salt-Affected Soils (INSAS)

The International Network of Salt-Affected Soils (INSAS) is to be established, under the aegis of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), with the aim to facilitate the sustainable and productive use of salt-affected soils for current and future generations. The mission of INSAS is to support and facilitate joint efforts towards the sustainable management of salt-affected soils for food security, agricultural sustainability and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

14:15

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Director Land and Water Division, FAO

14:25

Opening address

Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director-General, ICBA

14:30

Introduction to the International Network of Salt-Affected Soils

Ms. Zineb Bazza, GSP Secretariat, FAO

14:40

The importance of INSAS for natural resource management

H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO and Chair of the Committee of Agriculture of FAO

14:50	The status of salt-affected soils in NENA with a focus on Iraq Dr. Hassan Kutaiba, Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), Ministry of Agriculture, Iraq
15:00	The status of salt-affected soils in Eurasia with a focus on Uzbekistan Dr. Gulchekhra Khasankhova, UZGIP Institute, MAWR, Uzbekistan
15:10	The status of salt-affected soils and spatial modelling of the soil salinity variation in Senegal Dr. Macoumba Loum, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Équipement Rural, Senegal
15:20	The status of salt-affected soils in Africa with a focus on Djibouti Dr. Mohamed Egueh, Djibouti Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Djibouti
15:30	Discussion All participants
15:55	Closing of meeting Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Director Land and Water Division, FAO
16:00	Close of GFIME 2019