



EXPO
2020
DUBAI
UAE



Bureau
International
des Expositions

EXPO TALKS FOOD, AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS

23 FEBRUARY 2021



Tuesday 23 February 2021

Please note that all timings are GMT + 4, and subject to final confirmation

10:30am

Introduction to Food, Agriculture and Livelihoods at Expo 2020 Dubai

How do we sustainably grow food to meet future demand?

Welcome Remarks

Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy

UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation
Director General of Expo 2020 Dubai

Keynote Remarks

H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri

Minister of State for Food and Water Security

Eugene Willemsen

CEO PepsiCo - Africa, Middle East, South Asia

10:45am

Build Bridges

Expo's Build Bridges series is designed to facilitate meaningful human connections, dialogue and storytelling to help each of us know one another better.

Building Bridges to Achieve Good Food for All

A conversation on the importance of agriculture, gastronomy and food as a reflection of culture and belonging, curated by the Chef's Manifesto and featuring food influencers and chefs from Nigeria and Peru.

Chef Palmiro

Ocampo

Peruvian Chef,
Member of the Chefs'
Manifesto

Ozoz Sokoh

Nigerian Food
Blogger

Paul Newnham

Director, SDG2
Advocacy Hub
Secretariat
Moderator

11:30am

In Conversation with: Peru and Austria

This conversation turns the focus to two of our International Participants, and their respective approaches to sustainable food and agriculture

*Moderated by **Adriano Konialidis**, Director, Participant Management, Expo 2020 Dubai*

Martin Hablesreiter

Co-founder, honey & bunny,
Austria

Juan Carlos Guerrero Abad

General Director of Genetic Resources
and Biotechnology, National Institute
of Agrarian Innovation, Ministry of
Agrarian Development and Irrigation
of Perú (MIDAGRI)

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11:45am **Cooking Demo: Making More with Less**

Cooking masterclass taught by Chef Megha Kohli of India teaching healthy, nutritious recipes which use less water, produce less waste, and mitigate the impact of food systems on biodiversity and the environment.

Megha Kohli

Indian Chef; Head Chef, Lavaash by Saby, New Delhi

12:00pm **In Conversation with ICBA and Mission Possible - The Opportunity Pavilion**

Food Security at Expo

Two fireside chats offering a glimpse into Expo 2020 Dubai's approach to food security – from ICBA's work on desert farming and value chain development, to Mission Possible's efforts in bridging gaps across communities and building awareness around food security.

Moderated by **Philip Dunn**, Senior Manager, Sustainability Pavilion, Expo 2020 Dubai

Mariam Saeed Abdullah Aljenaibi

Owner and CEO, Alebdaa Althahabi Investments

Dr. Dionysia Angeliki Lyra

Halophyte Agronomist, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)

12:15pm **In Conversation with the Women's Pavilion**

The Role of Women in Building the Great Green Wall and Safeguarding Food Security

This session explores the role of women in the grand project of building the Great Green Wall across the Sahel-Saharan region of Africa and their contributions in preserving biodiversity and safeguarding food security.

Moderated by **Hind Al Owais**, Vice President, Participant Management, Expo 2020 Dubai

Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Ms. Hindou Ibrahim

Founder, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)

Ms. Leah Wanambwa

Senior Policy Officer for Climate Change and Desertification Control, African Union

Mr. Abdoul Salam Bello

Alternate Executive Director, World Bank Group Board of Directors

Ms. Nathalie Gisabo Gahunga

Chief Gender Officer, African Development Bank

Ms. Juliette Ngalim

Project Manager and Gender Lead, GreenAid, One Billion Trees for Africa

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1:00pm

Leave No One Behind

Our Leave No One Behind series looks at best practices in localising sustainable development across a range of social contexts, with the aim to catalyse opportunity for all.

From Farm to Fork: Building Resilient Food Systems

This event brings together leading policymakers, food security experts and private sector actors to discuss opportunities and present solutions to build more efficient, inclusive and resilient food systems from farm to fork.

HE Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri
Minister of State for Food and Water Security,
United Arab Emirates

HE Janusz Wojciechowski
European
Commissioner for
Agriculture

Mr. Amir Abdulla
Deputy Executive
Director, United Nations
World Food Programme

Aamer Sheikh
President and General
Manager, PepsiCo Middle
East, North Africa &
Pakistan

Dr. Ismahane Elouafi
Chief Scientist, UN
Food & Agriculture
Organisation
Moderator

1:30pm

Live in Balance

Our Live in Balance series spotlights our relationship with the natural world, and positions Expo as a critical catalyst to restore balance with our planet.



المجلس العالمي
WORLD MAJLIS

How Will We Eat?

Innovations in nutrition and farming that will help feed the next 2 billion people

Join us in this World Majlis, to begin to explore how the world must transform the ways we grow and consume food, to ensure enough supply for the future while respecting the limits of our planet's resources.

H.E. Hussain Al Mahmoudi
CEO, Sharjah Research
Technology and
Innovation Park, UAE

Professor Andrew Lowe
Director of Food
Innovation; Chair of Plant
Conservation, University
of Adelaide, Australia

Katja Seidenschur
Sustainability Director –
Nestlé Europe Middle
East and North Africa,
Switzerland

Meiny Prins
CEO, Priva, Netherlands

Willem Van Walt Meijer
CEO, Al Ain Farms, UAE

Brandy Scott
Host of The Business
Breakfast, Dubai Eye
103.8, ARN, UAE
Moderator

With Contributions From:

Bilay Want
Director and Owner, Sumpura Foods, UK

Peetchai 'Neil' Dejkraisak
Co-founder and CEO, Jasberry, Thailand



**EXPO TALKS
FOOD, AGRICULTURE &
LIVELIHOODS
SPEAKERS LIST**

23 FEBRUARY 2021



Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy
UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and
Director General of Expo 2020 Dubai

In February 2016, Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy was sworn in as Minister of State for International Cooperation, in the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Additionally, she holds responsibility within the Cabinet, for the UAE's bilateral relations with Sub Saharan African countries and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Since her first ministerial appointment in February 2008, Her Excellency has and continues to manage, the Vice President's Office for Political Affairs, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

In November 2013, as Managing Director of Dubai's World Expo 2020 bid, Reem oversaw a historic success at the Bureau International des Expositions. Dubai Expo 2020 will be the first held in the MEASA (Middle East, Africa and South Asia region). Her Excellency holds the position of Managing Director of the Dubai Expo 2020 Higher Committee as well as Director General of the Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau, in preparation for the upcoming national milestone. Since its launch in 2007 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Her Excellency has served as Chairperson of Dubai Cares, a philanthropic organisation with the aim of improving access to quality education in developing countries.

Her Excellency was formerly Chairperson of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority, which drives the UAE's global competitiveness across many sectors.

Her Excellency completed her undergraduate degree at Tufts University, earning a BA in International Relations and French, followed by an MA from Harvard University. Prior to her current position as Minister of State, Her Excellency served as Commercial Attaché, and subsequently Deputy Chief, of the UAE Embassy to the United States of America, in Washington DC.

**H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed
Saeed Hareb Almheiri**
Minister of State for Food and Water
Security



Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri was appointed as Minister of State for Food and Water Security as part of the reformation of the UAE Cabinet announced on July 2020. Her Excellency is responsible for monitoring national food stocks, investing in food technology, and following up international relations in this area. Previously, Her Excellency was appointed as Minister of State for Food Security following the Cabinet reshuffle of October 2017. Her responsibilities included overseeing the development of the necessary infrastructure that would ensure the country's food security objectives, in line with UAE Centennial 2071 Plan.

In addition, H.E. represents the UAE federal government in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) as well as the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA). She is a member of the Board of Directors in the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) and also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural, the Dubai Future Foundation (DFF) and the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Food Systems Innovation. She has also been nominated to lead some unique projects in the field of aquaculture under the initiatives of H.H. the President of UAE, through the Ministry of Presidential Affairs to establish the foundation needed for this emerging economic sector to develop and thrive in the country.

H.E. Almheiri previously served as Assistant Undersecretary for Water Resources and Nature Conservation Affairs at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, where she was appointed to oversee the Biodiversity, Fisheries, Coastal & Marine Sustainability and Marine Research departments.

H.E. Mariam Almheiri received her bachelor and master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) in Aachen, Germany.

Eugene Willemsen

CEO PepsiCo - Africa, Middle East, South Asia



Eugene Willemsen is Chief Executive Officer, Africa, Middle East, South Asia. Since 2015, he has served on the PepsiCo executive committee, reporting to the Chairman and CEO.

PepsiCo products are enjoyed by consumers more than one billion times a day in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. PepsiCo generated more than \$67 billion in net revenue in 2019, driven by a complementary food and beverage portfolio that includes Frito-Lay, Gatorade, Pepsi-Cola, Quaker and Tropicana. PepsiCo's product portfolio includes a wide range of enjoyable foods and beverages, including 23 brands that generate more than \$1 billion each in estimated annual retail sales.

Over the past two decades, Eugene has earned a reputation as a transformative leader who can harness the power of diverse teams to create high-performing businesses and some of the world's most resonant brands.

Most recently, Eugene served as Chief Executive Officer, Sub-Saharan Africa. From 2015 to 2019, he served as Executive Vice President of Global Categories & Franchise Management where he was responsible for the strategic direction of PepsiCo's global categories and brands as well as PepsiCo's global commercial functions, during which he oversaw a period of strong growth.

Prior to that, Eugene led the company's global tea joint venture with Unilever, which operates in roughly 120 countries worldwide, following more than a decade leading PepsiCo businesses in Europe. He has served as SVP, general manager for PepsiCo's South East Europe business, overseeing our operations in 17 countries, including Turkey; SVP, Commercial for PepsiCo Europe, heading up the Marketing & Sales functions across Europe for all lines of business; SVP, general manager for PepsiCo Northern Europe; and General Manager of PepsiCo's snack business in the Benelux and Belgium. Eugene joined PepsiCo from Friesland-Campina in 1995.

Eugene holds a BBA from Nijenrode University in the Netherlands, a MSc in Economics from the "VU University" in Amsterdam and an Executive MBA from INSEAD. He has been a board member of the ANA, the AdCouncil and the Dutch Grocery Manufacturers Association, where he served as its Chairman. In 2017, he was named one of the "25 Most Influential People in the Netherlands at 50."

Chef Palmiro Ocampo

Peruvian Chef, Member of the Chefs' Manifesto



As an advocate for the World Food Programme, Chef Palmiro Ocampo is a Zero Hunger champion in his home country Peru, working to eradicate hunger and end all forms of malnutrition. To this end, Chef Palmiro is part of Generacion Con Causa, a new generation of Peruvian chefs that are involved in social gastronomy and help lead the TV show Cocina Con Causa (Cooking with Cause), a programme showcasing nutritious, affordable, tasty and accessible cooking. He has also started his own non-profit CCori Optima – an organisation which teaches people how to utilise all parts of an ingredient and how to reduce food waste. As a member of the Chefs' Manifesto, Chef Palmiro has attended the EAT Forum in 2019, featured in season 1 of the Chefs' Manifesto Podcast and, in his work, mainly focuses on Chefs' Manifesto thematic area 4 – value natural resources and reduce waste, and 8 – nutritious food that is available and accessible for all.

Ozoz Sokoh

Nigerian Food Blogger



Ozoz Sokoh is a food explorer and geologist. A 'traveler by plate', she believes that food is more than eating. Central to her work is the preservation of Nigerian cuisine, challenging myths and assumptions about its culinary legacy through 400+ years, its impact from the American South to Europe, and paying homage to Black ancestors and their intellectual might beyond mere labour. Ozoz has a 11-year-old blog, Kitchen Butterfly, where she articulates her philosophy and practice. In 2013, she created The New Nigerian Kitchen, focusing on a celebration and documentation of seasonal Nigerian produce. Her work has been featured on CNN African Voices and Anthony Bourdain's Parts Unknown. Nigerian-born, Ozoz today lives in Ontario, Canada.

Paul Newnham

Director, SDG2 Advocacy Hub Secretariat



Paul Newnham currently heads up the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 Advocacy Hub as Director, an initiative bringing together NGOs, advocacy groups, civil society, the private sector and UN agencies to coordinate global campaigning and advocacy to achieve SDG2. To this end, the SDG2 Hub facilitates a network of 900 chefs from 80 countries to support chef action on the SDGs. Chefs are equipped with a simple set of actions called the Chefs' Manifesto, to drive progress on the Global Goals. Paul has over 20 years' experience in, and extensive knowledge of, the Not For Profit Sector having worked in National and Global roles with a focus on Campaigning, Youth Mobilisation, Advocacy, Marketing and Communication. Having worked with World Vision Australia, New Zealand and the Global Headquarters for 15 years, his career has focused on the belief that it is possible to end global poverty. He has worked in communities throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, to achieve planned objectives and generate positive, lasting and sustainable change. He is a strong advocate for good development, working alongside communities to improve livelihoods. Through inspirational and evocative leadership, Paul is able to enthuse and motivate others, achieving goals beyond expectation.

Martin Hablesreiter

**Co-founder, honey & bunny,
Austria**



Martin Hablesreiter studied both architecture in Vienna, London, and Barcelona. After graduation he worked in Tokyo, before founding the transdisciplinary studio honey & bunny in Vienna, with Sonja Stummerer. Their work is based on social and ecological sustainability. Honey & bunny consider themselves as inbetweeners, and their work encompasses publications, installations, exhibitions, performances and design.

Juan Carlos Guerrero Abad

**General Director of Genetic
Resources and Biotechnology,
National Institute of Agrarian
Innovation, Ministry of Agrarian
Development and Irrigation of Perú
(MIDAGRI)**



Ph.D. and M.Sc. in Genetics and Plant Breeding at Sao Paulo University, and the Institute of Science and Technology of Austria (IST-Austria). Mr. Guerrero has a degree in Agronomy Engineering at Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Peru. His research focuses on the enhancement of genetic resources of the agrobiodiversity. At present, Juan Carlos Guerrero is the General Director of Genetic Resources and Biotechnology at the National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA), an organism under the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation of Peru.

Megha Kohli

Indian Chef; Head Chef, Lavaash by Saby, New Delhi



Megha Kohli is one of India's youngest chefs. Currently the head chef of Lavaash By Saby, the Armenian restaurant in Delhi's artsy Mehrauli area which has created quite a buzz, Megha has already garnered an experience of twelve years in the industry at this young age. Deeply influenced by her grandmother's and mothers cooking, Megha started pottering around in the kitchen when she was barely five years old, indulged, as she was by her grandmother who had no qualms about her messing up the kitchen! She has previously worked with Oberoi hotels, The Olive Bar and kitchen group of restaurants and is also an independent food consultant. Currently, Megha is the head Chef and head of operations at Lavaash By Saby. Lavaash is the only Armenian restaurant in the country. She was involved with Lavaash since its inception and stayed in Calcutta for two months to research on Calcutta-Armenian cuisine. She believes firmly in using only local, regional and sustainable produce. Her restaurant is one of the first restaurants in India with a menu that uses 100% local ingredients and nothing in the kitchen is imported. Known for her very warm and affable nature, Megha is a popular name in the industry now. She loves to interact with her guests and rattle off the history behind each dish she serves. She wants her guests to know just how much thought, effort and research have gone into the preparation of each dish. Megha's mantra is that cooking is an emotional process and not a technical one. You can serve the most perfectly prepared dishes, but if you haven't connected with the food and the farmers while making it, it's an effort gone to waste. Chef Megha is a Future 50 Foods champion and a core member of the Chefs' Manifesto, representing the network at multiple events and through initiatives including the Chefs' Manifesto Podcast and Case Studies.

Mariam Saeed Abdullah Aljenaibi

Owner and CEO, Alebdaa Althahabi Investments



After graduating from UAEU in Agribusiness in 2010, and Exchange Leadership International Program in Agriculture and Food Safety from the USA in 2018, engineer Mariam joined the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment from 2012-2015. She covered the organic industry focusing on policies for organic development across the UAE. Eng Mariam is now CEO for Alebdaa Alzahabi Investment and Organic Guild, in coordination with Nabta Agriculture community building consumer awareness for the organic and sustainable brands in GCC and Europe and investing in multiple aspects relating to the organic and sustainable industry. Mariam has been a trainee under German organic expert Eng. Riath Shnyein since 2012 until now.

Dr. Dionysia Angeliki Lyra
Halophyte Agronomist,
International Center for Biosaline
Agriculture (ICBA)



Dr. Dionysia Angeliki Lyra works as a Halophyte Agronomist at the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) in Dubai United Arab Emirates since 2013. She is specialized in the Research and Development of sustainable modular farming systems well-adapted in desert environments targeting to enhance the food security of underprivileged rural communities. She is working on nutrition-sensitive systems utilizing marginal water and land resources by combining different production components. Looking for multidisciplinary project opportunities and partnerships to integrate a diversified spectrum of cost-effective, simply to use, productive and profitable farming modules..

Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Secretary of the
United Nations Convention to
Combat Desertification
(UNCCD)



Ibrahim Thiaw of Mauritania was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General as Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on 31 January 2019.

Mr. Thiaw brings to the position 40 years of experience in sustainable development, environmental governance and natural resource management. In 2018, he was Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Sahel and supported ongoing efforts to advance the recalibration of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and the development of the UN Support Plan for the Sahel.

Prior to this position, from 2013 to 2018, he served as Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), where he played a key role in shaping the organization's strategic vision and mandate, overseeing the development and implementation of the mid-term strategy and programme of work, and strengthening collaborations with Governments and other environmental governing bodies. Mr. Thiaw joined the United Nations in 2007 as Director of UNEP's Division for Environmental Policy implementation.

Before joining the Organization, he was the Regional Director for West Africa, and later Acting Director General, of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Mr. Thiaw started his career in Mauritania, his home country, where he served in the Ministry of Rural Development for 10 years. He holds an advanced degree in forestry and forest product techniques.

Ms. Hindou Ibrahim
Founder, Association for
Indigenous Women and
Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)



Environmental activist and member of Chad's pastoralist Mbororo community, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim began advocating for Indigenous rights and environmental protection at age 16, founding the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) to introduce new income revenue activities for women and collaborative tools such as 3D participatory mapping to build sustainable ecosystems management and reduction of nature-based resource conflicts. Her vision is to grow support for both traditional knowledge and science to improve resilience to climate change especially for rural communities.

She is a member of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC) and served as co-chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change during the historic UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris. She is dedicated to the protection of all Indigenous peoples, from the Congo to the Arctic, and the value of their knowledge in the fight against climate change. She advances environmental protection for Indigenous peoples by participating in international policy dialogues held around the three Rio Conventions; Climate Change (UNFCCC), Biodiversity (CBD), and Desertification (UNCCD) pressuring governments to recognize land rights of Indigenous peoples and advance their solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation. Ibrahim's work with indigenous communities at the local and global level has achieved broad recognition and support including, the Pritzker Emerging Environmental Genius Award; the 2020 Refugee International's Refugees International Holbrooke Award; the Daniel Mitterrand Prize; appointment as a UN SDG Advocate, Conservation International Board Member and Lui-Walton Senior Fellow; Member of the EAT Advisory Board; named Ambassador of the EDEN Project; and National Geographic Explorer. She was recognized by BBC as a top 100 women leader and by TIME's Women Leaders in Climate Change. Her TED talk on Indigenous knowledge meets science to solve climate change has surpassed more than 1 million views.

Ms. Leah Wanambwa
Senior Policy Officer for Climate
Change and Desertification
Control, African Union



Leah Wanambwa Naess is a Senior Policy Officer, in the Environment Division at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She is specifically working on Climate Change, Conservation of Africa's Wild Fauna and Flora (wildlife) and biodiversity portfolios. Leah has over 15 years of experience working on environmental policy, advocacy and communication. Prior to joining the African Union Commission, she worked at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya and the Greenbelt Movement, an NGO in Kenya.

**Mr. Abdoul Salam
Bello**

**Alternate Executive Director,
World Bank Group Board of
Directors**



Mr. Bello most recently served as Senior Project Officer at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), leading a land restoration programme in the Sahel. Prior to that, he was Advisor to the Executive Director of the Africa Group II at the World Bank Group from 2014 to 2019. He discharged that function during the negotiations process for the reform of the World Bank Group's safeguard policies, the Financing for Development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Between 2007 and 2014, he held a series of senior positions in multilateral institutions. They included Chief of Staff at the New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) in South Africa, and Economist at the Islamic Development Bank in Saudi Arabia. Prior to that, Mr. Bello worked in the private sector, including as Assistant Project Manager at Renault France in 2005. Mr. Bello holds a Master's Degree in International Risk Management from HEC Paris, France; a master's degree in Management of International Activities from the University of Lyon; a Master's Degree in Diplomacy and Strategic Negotiations from Paris-Sud University and an Engineer's Degree in Telecommunications from the University of Toulon, France. Mr. Bello also graduated from the Executive Education Program for Senior Managers in Government at Harvard Kennedy School, USA.

Mr. Bello is Senior Fellow at the Africa Center of the Atlantic Council in Washington D.C. and authored two books: *Les Etats-Unis et l'Afrique, de l'esclavage à Obama* (L'Harmattan, 2019) and *La régionalisation en Afrique: Essai sur un processus d'intégration et de développement* (L'Harmattan, 2017).

**Ms. Nathalie Gisabo
Gahunga**
Chief Gender Officer, African
Development Bank



Mrs. Nathalie Gisabo Gahunga is the Chief Gender Officer for the West and Central Africa sub-regions at the African Development Bank (AfDB). She provides strategic leadership on gender mainstreaming across the Bank's five development priorities for the institution that are to Light up and Power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialize Africa; Integrate Africa and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa for the two sub-regions.

Previously, Mrs. Gahunga worked in the Bank's Agriculture and Agro-industry Department, overseeing gender mainstreaming activities in all agricultural and agribusiness projects and providing gender technical support to various flagship program teams.

Mrs. Gahunga has over 15 years of multidisciplinary experience in the field of gender and development. She has been involved in the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies, programs, and advocacy in various areas. She has also organized and led workshops, seminars, and high-level meetings.

Before joining the AfDB, she was Regional Coordinator for the program for Women in Informal Cross-border Trade in the Great Lakes Region and the Fight against Muskoka Maternal Mortality in Chad and Central Africa for UN-WOMEN. Previously, she was the Executive Secretary of the Organization of the African First Ladies against HIV / AIDS (OAFLA) during the First Lady of Rwanda's tenure as President. At that time, she coordinated the continental campaign "Treat Every Child Like Yours," which received the "John Thompson' Legacy of a Dream' Award" from Georgetown University.

Mrs. Gahunga contributed to creating the Concertation of Collectives of Women's Associations in the Great Lakes region (COCAFEM / GL), made up of women's organizations from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda.

In 2003, Mrs. Gahunga was awarded a Research Fellowship from the Gender Boston Consortium at the Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in Boston. She was a lecturer at the "Women's Leadership in Securing Peace and Security, Priority Goals for Women in the 21st Century Conference" at Harvard University, United States.

She is part of the first French-speaking cohort of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) training program for conflict prevention and peacemaking, organized in February 2020. Mrs. Gahunga holds a Master's degree in International Relations.

HE Janusz Wojciechowski

**European Commissioner for
Agriculture**



His Excellency Janusz Wojciechowski has been the European Commissioner for Agriculture since 2019. Prior to that, he has served as a Member of the European Court of Auditors from 2016–2019 and a Member of the European Parliament representing Poland from 2004–2016. His Excellency Wojciechowski also served as a Member and Deputy Speaker of the Polish Parliament (Sejm), as well as President of the Polish Supreme Audit Office.

Prior to joining politics, His Excellency was a jurist, serving on Poland's High Court of Justice. He has a Master's degree in Law from the University of Łódź.

Mr. Amir Abdulla**Deputy Executive Director,
United Nations World Food
Programme**

Amir Mahmoud Abdulla became the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme in March 2009. Since February 2017, Mr Abdulla has led the successful implementation of the new corporate architecture aligning WFP's strategy, human resources, programme structure, financial management, and planning, monitoring and reporting to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at country level. In addition to his responsibilities as deputy principal, he currently oversees the Executive Board Secretariat and the divisions providing key support to WFP field operations worldwide: Emergency Operations, Supply Chain Operations, and Security. In 2015 and 2016, Mr Abdulla was based in New York to enhance WFP's engagement with the United Nations system, Member States and key stakeholders. In addition to his WFP responsibilities, he was appointed Vice-Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) from January 2016 until November 2017, and facilitated the inter-agency discussions around the repositioning of the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and related reform initiatives. Before moving to New York, he was the Chief Operating Officer (COO), overseeing the WFP Regional Directors and the Directors of Emergencies, Gender, and Field Security, and was responsible for leading WFP's extensive field operations. Mr Abdulla's career at WFP began as a logistics officer in 1991. He then went on to serve in a variety of field and headquarters posts. From 2000 to 2001, as Project Manager for WFP's corporate information management system, he successfully led the implementation of an integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution using SAP software. From 2001 to 2004, Mr Abdulla served as Director of Budget and, in 2004, was named Regional Director for the Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. He served in that position until July 2006, when he took up the post of Regional Director for Southern Africa until his return to WFP headquarters in Rome in 2008 to become WFP's Chief Financial Officer (CFO). During his tenure as CFO, he led WFP's successful implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), the first large-scale adoption of IPSAS within the United Nations system. Prior to joining WFP, Mr Abdulla was a Branch Manager in Juba and Port Sudan for the shipping and forwarding company Transintra, and Assistant Area Manager for the engineering company Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor in the Sudan. He also taught at the American School and Comboni College in Khartoum. Mr Abdulla is a graduate of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University, where he read Electrical Engineering and graduated in June 1978 with a BSc Honours degree. He is an Associate of The City & Guilds of London Institute. A national of the Sudan and the United Kingdom, Mr Abdulla was born in Khartoum in 1957. He is married with three grown children and two grandchildren.

Aamer Sheikh

**President and General
Manager, PepsiCo Middle
East, North Africa & Pakistan**



Aamer Sheikh is the President and General Manager at PepsiCo - Middle East, North Africa and Pakistan. PepsiCo is ranked third in the Forbes 2018 list of the world's largest food and beverage companies and its products are enjoyed by consumers more than one billion times a day in more than 200 countries. PepsiCo has a diverse portfolio of food, beverages and probiotics and a strong brand portfolio including brands like Pepsi, Lays, Doritos, Mountain Dew, Cheetos, Mirinda, Ruffles, Aquafina, Quaker, and Tropicana. Notably, 22 of its brands generate over \$1 billion each in annual retail sales.

MENAPAK Cluster has been set up as a new operating cluster within PepsiCo Africa, Middle East, and South Asia (AMESA) Sector to leverage common needs across these markets. This newly formed cluster includes the franchise beverages businesses in Middle East, North Africa and Pakistan along with the foods businesses based out of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE and Pakistan.

Prior to his current role, Aamer was appointed as the Chief Financial Officer for PepsiCo's Asia Middle East & North Africa Sector (AMENA) in September 2017 and was designated with leadership of the company's financial operations in 40+ countries, covering Beverages, Snacks and Nutrition businesses, including 10 Joint Ventures. AMENA included highly developed markets such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea as well as high growth emerging markets such as China, India, Egypt, Pakistan and Thailand.

Aamer became a part of the PepsiCo family in 1999 in Pakistan in Finance. After several Finance leadership roles, he moved to UAE in 2005 as Senior Director New Business Development for Middle East & Africa (MEA) region. In 2008, Aamer was appointed as the chief financial officer for the MEA region, a role he held until early 2014.

In April 2014, Aamer took on the role of SVP Planning & Transformation for the AMENA sector. In 2016, he moved to Plano, Texas as SVP Commercial Finance for the Frito Lay North America (FLNA) sector, where he was responsible for driving profitable revenue growth by leading FLNA's pricing, marketing & innovation finance, customer finance teams as well as food service finance for FLNA.

Prior to his time at PepsiCo, Aamer held multiple finance roles including five years in the USA, working as an auditor for Ernst & Young and The Walt Disney Company and leading the Finance Function for Unisys for 3 years in Pakistan.

Aamer is a CPA and holds a BBA in public accounting from Loyola University of Chicago. He has also attended several executive education courses at Harvard and Wharton School of Business.

Dr. Ismahane Elouafi
Chief Scientist, UN Food &
Agriculture Organisation



Dr. Ismahane Elouafi is currently the Chief Scientist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and is a member of FAO's core leadership team.

From 2012 until her appointment with FAO in November 2020, Dr. Elouafi was Director General at the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), headquartered in the United Arab Emirates.

Dr. Elouafi had previously held senior scientific and leadership positions, including Senior Advisor to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Branch in Ottawa, Canada (2006-2007), and Manager then Director of Research Management and Partnerships Division at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (2007-2012).

She also worked as a scientist with several international research organizations, including the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).

Dr. Elouafi has been a member of various strategy expert panels and advisory groups, including the Global Commission on Adaptation and HarvestPlus.

She sat on several Board of Directors, including the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, 2015-2020), the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI, 2019-2020), and the CGIAR System Management Board (2020).

She is also a member of the Scientific Group for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

Dr. Elouafi holds an M.Sc. in Genetics and Plant Breeding (1995) from the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine, Morocco, and a Ph.D. in Genetics (2001) from the University of Cordoba, Spain.

**H.E. Hussain Al
Mahmoudi**

**CEO, Sharjah Research
Technology and Innovation
Park, UAE**



H.E. Hussain serves a dual role as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the American University of Sharjah Enterprises (AUSE) and as the CEO of the Sharjah Research, Technology and Innovation Park (SRTIP). Both these entities were established through royal decree by the Ruler of Sharjah, who also directly appointed H.E. Hussain to these responsibilities in order to create collaborative long-term relationships between industry, academia and the public sector, fostering an ecosystem of enterprise and innovation.

Previously, H.E. Hussain served as the Director General of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a Member of the UAE Chamber Federation, and GCC Chambers for 8 years. He was responsible for the overall management and operations of the Chamber including the provision of services to its members. In this role, he launched several strategic economic initiatives for Sharjah such as the SME Act, Sharjah Export Centre, Sharjah Commercial Arbitration Centre, and the Sharjah Business Forum.

H.E. Hussain has held leadership roles at leading regional and international companies such as the Royal Dutch Shell Group, Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC), and several Dubai Holding entities. He currently serves as honorary board member of both, the Tatweer Forum and of Maastricht University in the Netherlands, and as chairman of the Emirates Business Council for Sustainable Development. He also serves as a board member of the Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center (Sheraa).

H.E. Hussain possesses an MBA from the American University of Sharjah and a BA in Economics and Communications from Seattle Pacific University in the US.

**Professor Andrew
Lowe**

**Director of Food Innovation;
Chair of Plant Conservation,
University of Adelaide,
Australia**



Prof Andy Lowe is a British-Australian scientist. He works to solve some of the most pressing global resource and landscape sustainability challenges through the application of technology innovations delivered in a responsible and economically realistic framework.

He has discovered new species and lost forests, championed to eliminate illegally logged timber in global supply chains, served the UN's Office of Drugs and Crime, and is a lead author of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. He has been responsible for securing multi-million dollar research funding, is an experienced and respected executive leader, as well as mid-career mentor, and is host of the podcast series Food Futurists and the University of Adelaide's Discovery Pod.

He has lead a number of International and regional research programs, including the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) for which he was Associate Science Director and served as acting director of the South Australian Museum.

Katja Seidenschnur
Sustainability Director –
Nestlé Europe Middle East
and North Africa, Switzerland



Katja Seidenschnur is the Sustainability Director for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa at Nestlé, a post she took on in July 2020. Her career with Nestlé began at the company's global headquarters in Switzerland in 2006, when she joined the Innovation Acceleration Team as Program Director. She has since held various directorial and managerial positions across different markets and departments. In 2010, Katja assumed the role of Global Business Development Director for the confectionery category, identifying growth opportunities and implementing new business models, before managing Business Development of ice cream products in Europe. She later became Business Operations Manager for Nescafé Dolce Gusto for two years, during which she was responsible for the brand's growth in Europe. In 2014, she also assumed the role of Business Executive Officer Confectionary (Managing Director) for the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Prior to joining Nestlé, Katja worked as a Business Unit Manager at Henkel Norden AB, heading the company's body, oral, and haircare brands across Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Prior to that she worked in the Strategic Business Unit in marketing at the Henkel Head office in Germany. With over 20 years of business management experience in FMCG, Katja is a passionate leader with strong strategic and operational skills in global, regional and national business management, marketing, innovation, and sales. Katja holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Kiel in Germany, is married, and has two children.

Meiny Prins
CEO, Priva, Netherlands



Ms. Meiny Prins has been appointed as Dutch EXPO-Ambassador/Champion by the Netherlands' Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, H.E. Ms. Sigrid Kaag. She is supporting the Dutch participation to EXPO Dubai, and represents the important food and horticulture sector in the Netherlands.

Meiny Prins is CEO and co-owner of Priva. She devotes a great part of her life to promoting sustainability, innovation and internationalization. Meiny is a much sought-after authority in this field. With her clear, inspirational message on sustainability, she bridges the gap between companies, governments and sectors. She has held various national positions within the horticulture, water and energy sectors.

Today Meiny Prins is a member of the Committee for Entrepreneurship and Finance in the Netherlands.

In her position of CEO, she was proclaimed Business Woman of the Year. In 2009, Priva was awarded with the first CleanTech Star of WWF (World Wildlife Fund).

Meiny is an honored alumnus of the Erasmus University and she was acknowledged as an Influential Leader for sustainability by AACSB International in 2015.

Meiny also founded the Sustainable Urban Delta Foundation. She emphasizes that an integrated approach is the key to creating a Sustainable Urban Delta: megacities that embrace food production within their urban areas, producing healthy, fresh and nutritious food for their citizens.

**Willem Van Walt
Meijer**
CEO, Al Ain Farms, UAE



Willem is a Dutch national. Following several positions in Marketing and Sales at Unilever in the Netherlands, Willem and his family lived in Indonesia, Ireland and Russia where he held a series of director positions in Unilever operating companies. At Unilever Head Office, Willem led the Frozen Foods business in Europe and was Strategy Member of one of the four global food divisions in the company.

After 21 years working in the world of Unilever, Willem headed to new challenges. He was CEO of the Greenery, a co-operative of fresh produce growers, and then headed the Classic Dairy & Cheese division of Friesland Foods, a co-operative of dairy farmers.

In 2008, Willem embarked on the position of CEO of MidOceanBrands, a wholesale promotional products company. This was followed by a board position at Polyconcept Ltd (US) and a role as the Hong Kong-based Managing Director of the company's international division.

In 2016, he returned to the food industry as Managing Director of Nedspice Vietnam. There he focused on developing his management and operational teams. His key achievements were expanding the backward integration of sustainable pepper farming and growing Nedspice sales in East Asia. In just four years, the business doubled in sales.

Since 2010, Willem has been a Non-Executive Board member & Head of the Audit Committee of Milkiland N.V. a Ukrainian-Russian Dairy company listed at the Warsaw Stock Exchange. Willem was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Al Ain Farms in early 2020. He is leading Al Ain Farms on its continued journey towards becoming a major player in the UAE food industry, guided by the UAE leadership's strategic initiatives to ensure the food security of the country.

An enthusiastic sailor, Willem stills competes in international sailing races. During the 1980s, he represented his country twice at the Olympic Games..

Brandy Scott

**Host of The Business
Breakfast, Dubai Eye 103.8,
ARN, UAE**



Brandy Scott has worked as a journalist for over two decades. Her career has seen her run the features desk of a national newspaper, help put together Radio New Zealand's flagship breakfast show, appear as a regular television pundit and interview numerous politicians and newsmakers. Brandy has co-presented Dubai Eye's award-winning Business Breakfast every weekday morning since 2006, except for a brief sabbatical studying for a Masters in creative writing – a move which secured a publishing and TV deal for her first novel, Not Bad People.

Bilay Want

**Director and Owner, Sumpura
Foods, UK**



Bilay Want is an activist, possesses an ambition to be a philanthropist for education and awareness in wellness. Raised under the Ayurveda principals she firmly believes in putting the environment and sustainability first. Bilay maintains that the conservation of nature should be the primary objective for the current civilization and all future generations. She aspires to open a school to teach Holistic Healing Nutrition to the youth of tomorrow. Bilay Want resonates with the belief that our journey is now to align our personalities with our souls. Bilay Is qualified in Traditional Chinese Medicine Nutrition and Longevity diet.



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