



People | Planet | Prosperity

## Speaker Profiles

### Thematic Sessions

#### Ms Vinita Bali

*Chairperson, CII National Committee on Nutrition*



Vinita Bali is a business leader with extensive experience in leading large Companies both in India and overseas. She has worked with The Coca-Cola Company and Cadbury Schweppes PLC in a variety of Marketing, General Management and Chief Executive Officer roles in the UK, Nigeria, South Africa, Latin America and the USA, in addition to Britannia Industries Ltd., in India. Effective April 2014, Vinita moved from a full-time role as MD & CEO of Britannia to pursue her wide-ranging interests in the corporate and development sectors. Presently, she is a Non-Executive

Director on the Global Boards of Cognizant Technology Solutions and SATS Limited. She also served on the Global Boards of Syngenta International AG, Smith & Nephew plc, Bunge Limited and GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition). In India, Vinita currently serves as a Non-Executive Director on the Boards of CRISIL Ltd and Syngene International Limited and Chairs the CII National Committee on Nutrition. Vinita has an under-graduate degree in Economics from University of Delhi and a Master's in Management from University of Bombay. She also pursued post graduate studies in International Business from Michigan State University.

## Dr Vani Sethi

*Regional Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia*



Vani Sethi is a Ph.D. in Public Health Nutrition, with two decades of experience in advancing access to nutrition services for girls and women in marginalized and poor tribal, urban and rural Indian communities. She has worked USAID, Academia, Government of India and spent a decade working with UNICEF India Country Office as a nutrition specialist advancing adolescent and women's right to good quality food, better agency and nutrition services through health and social protection systems. In May, 2022 she joined Regional office, South Asia in Kathmandu in as the regional nutrition specialist, where she focuses on advancing rights to girls, women and mothers living in poorest and most difficult circumstances across South Asia have good quality food, better agency and nutrition services. Vani has 68 peer review publications, 10 book chapters to her credit (mostly related to women's nutrition) and has convened and edited two scientific journal supplements and a book on equity issues affecting the most marginalized tribal communities in India.

## Ms Arlene Mitchell

*Arlene Mitchell, Executive Director, GCNF*



Arlene was appointed Executive Director by the Board of Directors of Global Child Nutrition Foundation in April 2014. Prior to that, Arlene served for nearly six years at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she was Deputy Director for Access and Markets in the Agricultural Development Program.

Earlier in her career, she served as an executive in the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) where she led the global school feeding effort; managed international technical assistance and training activities for the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and was both a volunteer and staff member with the U.S. Peace Corps. Arlene's varied experience also includes running a restaurant and a snack machine business, invalid care, and a variety of other gambits.

## Mr Shunichi Nakada

*Senior Advisor on Agriculture, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)*



Shunichi NAKADA, senior advisor on Agriculture at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since 2016. He has been supporting areas including nutrition, food safety/quality management, food value chain. Before JICA, he worked for the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture for over 20 years in various fields including food safety, environment and agriculture, bioenergy, fruit farming promotion, trade policy. He was also dispatched to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), working on long

term prospect for bioenergy supply and demand, and to the Philippine Department of Agriculture as a policy advisor.

### **Dr Shantanu Sharma**

*Deputy Director, Deputy Director, MAMTA - HIMC*



Dr. Shantanu Sharma, MBBS, MD, DNB (Community Medicine), has been working in MAMTA (RMNCH+A Team) as Deputy Director and also pursuing Ph.D. in Lund University, Sweden. He has made contributions in various community-based projects in India with MAMTA, including maternal and child health, nutrition, mobile health, diabetes and hypertension, anemia, livelihood generation and financial literacy. He has also done a postgraduate diploma in health and family welfare management from the national institute of health and family welfare. He has worked as a medical officer in the Delhi government dispensary. He has many publications in peer-reviewed journals, including international journals. He has been involved in the development of modules and flipbooks, training and research in the projects.

### **Mr Pawan Agarwal**

*CEO, Food Future Foundation and Former CEO, FSSAI*



Pawan Agarwal is the visionary CEO of Food Future Foundation, driving food system change in India. As former CEO of FSSAI and Secretary to the Government of India, he led major reforms in the agri-food sector and pioneered the Eat Right movement. With 36 years of IAS experience, he advises international organizations and works with corporates, NGOs, and industry associations. His expertise spans higher education, skill development, and logistics. A system thinker and a dynamic leader, Pawan Agarwal is committed to driving positive change in the food and agriculture sector in India and globally.

### **Dr Sujatha Jayaraman**

*Head, R&D, Beverages and Nutrition R&D South Asia Unilever*



Sujatha Jayaraman has 20 years of experience in Unilever R&D in multiple capacity. She has worked across Foods & Refreshment and HPC categories with extensive experience in Beverages and Ice Cream categories. Her academic background is Chemistry, and her Ph.D. is in physical sciences from Indian Institute of Technology Chennai & Post Doctorate in Biophysics and Molecular Biology from University of California, San Francisco.

## Dr Bhavna Sharma

*Head of Nutrition Science & Lead, -CSR Food Division, ITC Ltd*



Bhavna Sharma (PhD) is the Head of Nutrition Science at ITC Foods. She is responsible for developing and executing the Nutritional Product & Policies pipeline, public-health based CSR & sustainability initiatives and R&D-Product strategies across all categories under/for the ITC-FBD division. She is also responsible for managing the internal employees and external stakeholder ecosystem related to nutrition, health & public-health. She is a member of many national & international (industry) nutrition & regulatory groups and works very closely with both the external scientific & regulatory groups.

## Dr Eduardo Nilson

*Researcher and Professor, Center for Epidemiological Research in Nutrition and Public Health, University of São Paulo*



Dr Nilson is a Biologist and Doctor in Global Health with over 25 years of experience in public health nutrition. Dr Nilson was Deputy Coordinator of Food and Nutrition at the Ministry of Health of Brazil for 15 years and coordinated the Food and Nutrition Surveillance activities for over 20 years. In parallel, he has worked on research on food policy evaluation, especially the double burden of malnutrition and diets and non-communicable diseases (including the epidemiological and economic modeling of sodium, sugars, trans fats and ultra-processed foods policies). Now, Dr Nilson is a full-time researcher and professor and still collaborates with the Ministry of Health as a scientific consultant on food reformulation and regulatory and fiscal policies.

## Dr SubbaRao M Gavaravarapu

*Scientist 'F' & Head Nutrition Information, Communication & Health Education (NICHE), National Institute of Nutrition, India*



Dr SubbaRao has a PhD in Health Communication from University of Hyderabad. He was ICMR International fellow at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore USA in 2013. Working in the broad area of health communication, he ventured into the largely uncharted territory of nutrition communication. His latest research studies have touched wide-ranging arenas including contextual factors shaping food environments; food labelling; front-of-pack labels; ICTs vis-à-vis diet/nutrition behaviours; food policy analysis; social media and food behaviours; and infodemiology. He was instrumental in employing qualitative research methods and mixed methods approaches in several interdisciplinary research projects in NIN. Currently he is spearheading the e-dialogue series in the 'Let'sFixOurFood' consortium which looks into the food environments of adolescents. He is



also a core-team member in developing Health Communication Programme for ICMR scientists. He sits on expert committees of FSSAI, Bureau of Indian Standards, and Codex Alimentarius Commission. Prior to joining NIN, he served in various capacities in TV, Press and Advertising.

### **Dr Nimish Shah**

*Managing Director, IAPMO India*



Dr. Nimish Shah is an accomplished global health & sustainable innovation, business leader. He also Chairs CII's Food Safety & Quality Committee and is focusing on shaping a new tech led food safety solutions for the country. He is Ex-Unilever senior leader with 25 years of multi-domain global R&D experience. Dr. Shah is a thought leader, partnerships builder & influencer. Previously as MD, Toilet Board Coalition, India, he led the building of a vibrant innovation led hygiene & sanitation economy in the country through entrepreneurship and private sector engagement. Dr. Shah holds a Ph.D. degree in Microbiology and has expertise across water sanitation & hygiene, food safety, life sciences, safety sciences & environmental impact assessments. He has significantly enhanced the impact and put IAPMO India on a growth trajectory. He has authored 15 patents and is a three times winner of the Unilever Global CEO Compass Awards (Sustainability). He is also the author of a book *Swachha Bharat for Swastha Bharat*.

### **Mr Vishwas Sharma**

*Deputy Manager, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)*



Vishwas Sharma is presently working as a Deputy Manager in the Social & Behavioural Change Division at FSSAI and is a member of the core team which looks after FSSAI's Eat Right India Initiative. He is an MBA in Marketing and holds an experience of over 10 years working in various multinationals before joining FSSAI.

## **Dr Sridhar Dharmapuri**

*Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific*



Sridhar Dharmapuri is Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand and Team Leader, Agriculture and Food Systems. He is leading FAO's work across more than 25 countries on transforming food systems; strengthening core elements of national food safety systems; and implementing SPS measures and Codex food standards. In his previous position, he supported the establishment of the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority over five years and building technical capacities in food control across Ministries. He has a doctorate in Life

Sciences from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, India and a Master of Business Administration from Kansas University, USA.

## **Dr Subhankar Mohapatra**

*ADM & Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation & CEO, Rourkela Smart City Ltd, Odisha*



Dr. Subhankar Mohapatra, CEO, Rourkela Smart City Ltd. (RSCL) and Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) is an IAS Officer of 2018 batch. He received president of India Gold medal for being the best officer trainee. He was an IRS Officer of 2016 batch. Hailing from Bhubaneswar, Odisha Dr. Mohapatra did his MBBS from SCB Medical college and hospital, Cuttack, Odisha and is a gold medallist physician. After getting IAS his first posting was as sub-Collector Baliguda and project administrator, ITDA under Govt of Odisha. Presently Dr. Mohapatra is serving as CEO, RSCL, Commissioner, RMC, ADM,

Rourkela and Secretary, Rourkela Development Authority

## **Mr Palawat Phutarak**

*Public Health Technical Officer, Bureau of Food and Water Sanitation, Department of Health, Thailand*



Mr Palawat Phutarak, Public Health Technical Officer, Bureau of Food and Water Sanitation, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. He has done his master's on Natural Resource Management, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand. Previously, Mr Phutarak was the public health inspector and food inspector in retail foodservice establishment. He was also the Lecturer on food hygiene, food safety and control in foodservice establishment for local officers, food handlers, students and public.

## Mr Bobby Krishna Thulasi

*Senior Food Safety Specialist, Food Safety Department, Dubai Municipality Corporation*



Bobby completed his bachelor's degree in agriculture sciences and started his career as a manager in the tea industry in India. He received his master's degree in Food Science and Technology from the University of New South Wales in Sydney in 2004 and has been working with Dubai Municipality since 2005. At Dubai Municipality, he was instrumental in the development of some of the key food projects that include the design and development of Foodwatch- Dubai's digital food safety management platform; risk-based food inspection program; two editions of the Food Code, foodborne illness surveillance and investigation system, and the food manager's

certification program popularly known as the PIC Program. Bobby has also organized and managed the fifteen editions of the annual Dubai International Food Safety Conference. Bobby is a recipient of the NSF International Food Safety Leadership Award as a Trendsetter (2013) and the Food Chain Leadership Award (2017). He has also received the President's award from the International Association for Food Protection (2012).

## Dr HG Koshia

*Commissioner, Food & Drugs Control Administration (FDCA), Gujarat*



Dr. H. G. Koshia is working as Commissioner at Food & Drugs Control Administration (FDCA), Gujarat, India since January 2009. He is Leading a cross-functional team of 1500 diverse regulatory experts to implement & enforce applicable regulation to regulate more than 4.55 lakhs Food Business Operators, more than 5200 drug manufacturers and more than 51,000 retail/wholesale pharmacies in Gujarat. He has played a pivotal role in transformation of Food Sector and Pharmaceutical Sector in Gujarat to emerge as a favourable investment destination with proactive & pragmatic approaches. Dr. Koshia pursued his graduation & post-

graduation in Pharmaceutical Sciences at L.M. College of Pharmacy, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, INDIA and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Saurashtra University, Gujarat, INDIA. He holds Diploma in Business Management from Rajendra Prasad Institute of Communication & Management, Mumbai. He played a vital role in the implementation of e-governance in the Food & Drugs Control Administration, Gujarat. Under his leadership Gujarat remained in the top position for four consecutive years in Food Safety Index and 24 out of 28 Districts/Cities remained in the top 75 in Eat Right Challenge-1 organized by FSSAI. Under his guidance, Gujarat remained in forefront in each and every initiative and implementation of new guidelines.

## Mr Uday Prakash

*VP-Finance & Associate Operations at Herbalife*



Uday Prakash is a Chartered Accountant by profession and has been instrumental in adopting technology to sustain high performance and deliver expanded customer experience driven by latest innovations—informed by leading practices. He has over 26 years of relevant experience in the field of Supply chain and Finance in Direct Selling, Retail and IT/ITES Sector. He has been with Herbalife for over a decade and prior to his current role he worked with Nilgiris, HCL, Genpact (Erstwhile GE Capital International Services). He firmly believes establishing a robust, transparent supply chain is essential to build a trusted brand. He institutionalizes responsible business practices keeping sustainability at the core of the business.

## Mr Avnish Tripathi

*Business Leader - B2C (Consumer Retail, Food Services & Bakery), Cargill Food Ingredients, South Asia.*



Avnish Tripathi is the B2C Business Lead for Cargill Food Ingredients, South Asia. In his role, Avnish leads the Consumer Business, Food services & Bakery Ingredients business. Under his leadership, the B2C vertical has widened its product portfolio, expanded its customer-access, instituted Sales-automation for sales processes & seeded customer-marketing programs for improved effectiveness. Avnish comes with 22years of Strong & diverse operating experience across multi-categories & multi-geographies in CPG. During his career, he has operated across Sales & Marketing functions in leading organizations like Mondelez, Britannia & Diageo. He is passionate about studying evolving business models, supporting & advising newer businesses & sharing his leadership experiences.

## Dr Mwate Mulenga

*Counsellor Agriculture & Regulatory Specialist, High Commission of Canada in India*



Dr. Mwate Mulenga is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Counsellor Agriculture & Regulatory Specialist at the High Commission of Canada to India in New Delhi. She arrived in July, 2021 and will be in the position for 3 years. She holds a Master of Veterinary Studies degree from the University of Queensland, Australia and a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine from Cairo University, Egypt. She also holds a post-graduate certificate with honours in Regulatory Affairs from Humber College, Toronto, Canada. Mwate joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2007 and has worked in Veterinary Biologics, Animal Biotechnology, Animal Health Program Delivery and Food Policy



and Programs. She worked extensively on the development of the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations as it relates to food grades and compositional standards. Mwate has international engagement experience as she was a Government Advisor on the Canadian Delegation to three Codex Committee on Food Additives sessions. Before moving to Delhi, Mwate was seconded to CFIA's Plant Import and Export Division for one year, providing her an opportunity to add plant health to her food safety and animal health experience.

## Mr B Rajagopal

*President of DSM India*



Mr. B Rajagopal (Raj) is the President of DSM India and is based out of Gurgaon. Royal DSM is a 120+ years old Dutch MNC, and a global leader in health and nutrition with the mission to create brighter lives for all. Raj is a Chemical Engineer from IIT Delhi and completed his MBA from IIM Calcutta. Prior to joining DSM, Raj spent a major part of his career with the British corporation ICI with whom he was associated for 25 years. Through this period, he was responsible for leading ICI's businesses in diverse areas such as Specialty Chemicals, Materials and Paints. He has worked across many cities in India, Singapore and in the Netherlands. Leading with a purpose, Raj is completely committed to the maxim of "Doing well by doing good".

## Mr Greg S Garrett

*Executive Director, Access to Nutrition Initiative (ATNI)*



Greg S Garrett is the Executive Director of the Access to Nutrition Initiative (ATNI) and is a member of ATNI's board. Over the past two decades, Greg has been working to establish private public partnerships that improve health and nutrition in emerging markets. Most recently, he served on the Global Executive Team of Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), as Director of Business Development and Partnerships – engaging over two dozen pharmaceutical companies. Prior to this, he led strategy and business development at ThinkWell, a global health organization. From 2011 until 2019, Greg held various roles at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), including Director of Policy & Financing and Director of Food Fortification. During this time, he oversaw a portfolio of micronutrient projects that reached approximately one billion people with nutritious foods and he led the establishment of a multimillion-dollar impact investment facility (N3F).

## Mr Ravinder Grover

*Regional Coordinator-Asia, Harvest Plus*



Ravinder Grover is a seasoned expert, serving as the Asia Regional Coordinator for Harvest Plus with over 16 years of experience in agriculture and food domain as a practitioner and advisor. He has a track record of leading major projects for public, private, and development sectors, improving supply chain optimization, policy advocacy, and digital transformation. Ravinder has been an author and reviewer for numerous knowledge reports and papers on nutrition and nutrition strategies. Having worked with top firms like Unilever, Spencer's Retail, Coromandel International, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Asian Development Bank, he has an in-depth understanding of the global agribusiness and food sector. Holding a Master's in Agribusiness, he also lectures and speaks at prominent agribusiness institutes and forums. At Harvest Plus, he drives commercialization strategies and business planning to maximize the impact of nutrient-enriched crops.

## Mr Penjani Mkambula

*Senior Cluster Lead for Food Fortification, GAIN*



Penjani Mkambula is Senior Cluster Lead for Food Fortification at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). He provides strategic leadership and manages the provision of technical assistance to GAIN supported programs, as well as supporting other partners globally on food fortification. Prior to GAIN, he worked in industry where he was involved in the production of fortified foods and specialized nutrition products. Penjani serves on the Executive Management Team of the Food Fortification Initiative, Board of Iodine Global Network, Member of OECD Advisory Group on Large Scale Food Fortification Regulation and the steering committee of the African Union's Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA).

## Dr Richa Singh Pandey

*Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF India*



Dr Richa Singh Pandey has recently joined UNICEF's India country office as Nutrition Specialist. At Delhi, she is leading UNICEF's nutrition work around governance, policies, partnerships, advocacy & leadership. Prior to joining Delhi office Dr Pandey was working with UNICEF's UP office for almost 14 years. In UP she was engaged in providing leadership for strategic planning, designing and managing implementation of government led nutrition programs. In her capacity as UNICEF staff, Dr Pandey has closely worked with the Health, Child Development and Education departments on supporting micronutrient programs on biannual vitamin A Supplementation, Weekly Iron Folic Acid

Supplementation and Universal Salt Iodisation. Dr Pandey is a medical doctor and holds a post graduate degree in Public Health Nutrition. She has extensively partnered with government Medical Colleges, NGOs, academic bodies and technical agencies for creating capacities, setting up external monitoring mechanisms and documenting progress of nutrition programs.

## **Mr Vikas Gupta**

*President and Global Head - R&D, Tata Consumer Products*



Vikas Gupta is President and Global Head- R&D for Tata Consumer Products across India and International business. Tata Consumer Products is an integrated Food & Beverage Company, amongst the top 10 Food & beverage companies in India with a vision to become a multi-category FMCG major. Along with R&D program, he holds responsibility of managing innovation strategy and year on year innovation delivery for the organisation. Bringing over a decade's experience in R&D and Innovation in TCPL, he has been instrumental to accelerate new product launches across the food and beverages categories across global markets. He is an active follower of consumer trends, particularly very passionate about health and wellness and has been effective in enabling launch of products with nutritional benefits, wellness focus, etc. Overall, Vikas has over 20 years of experience in new product development and innovation management across product categories. Prior to Tata Consumer Products, he has spent almost 10 years in GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Limited and close to 3 years with Unilever India Limited. Vikas earned a master's degree in Food Technology from the Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI) in 2001.

## **Ms Rohini Saran**

*Lead, Nutrition, Family Health, South Asia Hub, PATH*



Rohini Saran is a passionate and dedicated public health professional with over 15 years of experience in improving food and nutrition security. Her education in Foods and Nutrition, MBA in Marketing, and Professional Diploma in Clinical Research (PDCR) has equipped her to think innovatively and act creatively. Through strategic partnerships across the corporate, government, and development sector, she has made significant contributions to maternal-child health, nutrition outcomes, sustainability, and public health. She is motivated by the chance to create a positive real-world impact and help people lead healthier and happier lives.

## Mr Rajeev Ahal

*Director, Natural Resources Management group, GIZ*



Rajeev Ahal works in GIZ India as Director, Natural Resource Management and Agroecology in the Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resource Cluster, where he leads bilateral projects on Water Security and Climate Adaptation and Global Projects on 'Sustainable Soil Management'. He coordinates other projects in agroecology, rural development, social protection, sustainable farming systems, market led development approaches (including PPPs), Artificial Intelligence, value chain development, Farmer Producer Organisations etc with various government ministries and state governments. He graduated in engineering and holds a Diploma in Gestalt from International Programme for Organisational and Systems Development. He

has over 33 years of experience of working with international agencies, governments, civil society and the private sector in India and African countries. He loves to write when he can and has published fiction and non-fiction works.

## Mr Ajai Rana

*CEO & Managing Director, Savannah Seeds Pvt. Ltd.*



Ajai Rana holds a master's degree in agriculture and MBA, Marketing. Ajai has been engaged with Agriculture Input Industry; Chemicals, seed and biotech traits for over 28 years. He is currently CEO and Managing Director for Savannah Seeds Pvt. Ltd. based at Gurgaon, India. He has been associated with Monsanto India Ltd and spent nearly 30 years, earlier in sales, marketing, management, and strategy roles and then a Senior Management Position at Monsanto world Headquarters in USA. During his long stint at Monsanto, Ajai was instrumental for relaunch of rice herbicide 'Machete', launching

wheat herbicide 'Leader', introduction of Zero Tillage system in wheat, conversion from varietal to hybrid corn in Eastern and Western India, introduction of single cross corn hybrids, adoption of Bollgard (Bt) cotton technology. In January 2010, Ajai joined RiceTec Inc. as Director Business Development – Asia expansion. He returned to India in 2010 and incorporated Savannah Seeds Pvt Ltd. During last 10 years, under his leadership Savannah Seeds has become largest private sector rice seed company in South Asia region. Besides his active corporate life, Ajai is also a part time sugarcane & plantation farmer and enjoy weekends at his farm near Meerut in Western U.P.



## Mr Mohit Pande



Mohit Pande is the Chief Business Officer at Cropin, an Agtech pioneer that has developed Cropin Cloud, the world's first industry cloud for agriculture. Mohit has 25 years of experience driving strategic projects, building organizational capabilities, defining sales & marketing strategies, operations and business planning at some of the world's leading global technology companies. At Cropin, Mohit is responsible for accelerating the company's business operations and expanding its international presence in priority global markets across North America, LATAM, Europe, South-East Asia, and the Africa region, apart from India. He plays a vital role in shaping Cropin's business strategy, enabling its B2B customers to make smarter, data-driven decisions to enhance productivity & profitability. Before joining Cropin, Mohit led business operations for technology giants such as Google and Microsoft. He was Country Manager, India for Google Cloud and previously Country Manager, India & Asian Markets for Google for Work. Prior to this, Mohit spent 12 years at Microsoft where his last role was General Manager, Small & Midmarket Solutions & Partners. Most recently, he was Co-Founder of Linear Squared (now acquired by Algonomy). Mohit graduated from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Computer Science and has a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies. Mohit lives in Gurugram, India.

## Dr Han Ulaş Demirag

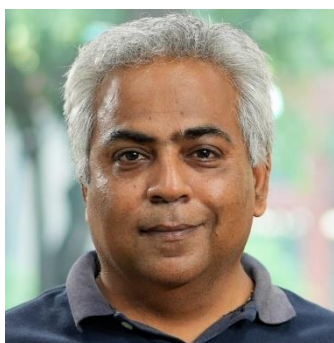
*India Country Director and Head of South Asia Hub, IFAD*



Ulaş Demirag has over 20 years of experience working in the area of rural and agricultural development. His professional expertise includes community-driven development, rural finance, agricultural value chain, private sector development, and natural resources management. He joined IFAD in 2002 and managed the country programmes in Equatorial Guinea and Chad (2006-2007), Guinea (2008-2009) and Ghana (2010 – 2015), Ethiopia, Eritrea and South Sudan (2016-2020) before moving to his current role as Country Director of India and Head of South Asia Hub. He holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Heidelberg, Germany (2002). His academic background is coupled with extensive experience in leading interdisciplinary research in West Africa, with several publications in the fields of climate change, development economics, centred on agro-pastoral and small-holder farmers' livelihoods.

## Mr Murli Dhar

*Director, Sustainable Agriculture Program*



With 25 years of experience working for corporations, national organizations, and international organizations, Murli is the director of the WWF's sustainable agriculture program in India. From a junior researcher to a management position during the course of his career, he developed experience in sustainable agricultural and natural resource management. He had the chance to work hard in the field of innovation, change the agriculture supply chain, and represent WWF in numerous UNFCCC and BCI international working groups. Murli is a graduate of a prestigious national and

international university where he majored in agriculture and minored in strategic management of natural resources.

### **Ms Sushama Srikandath**

*Managing Director, AVT McCormick Ingredients P Ltd Mobile*



Sushama Srikandath is the Managing Director of AVT McCormick Ingredients P Ltd., a Rs.600 Crore Joint Venture between McCormick & Company, Inc. USA & A.V. Thomas Group, India. As the MD of the company, she provides strategic direction and operational guidance to the 395 strong team. Based on her passion and drive of improving the quality of life of farmer communities and promoting sustainable agriculture, Sushama envisioned for AVT McCormick, a simple, yet powerful value proposition: Helping Nature and Communities. She was part of the CII Alliance for Sustainable

Agriculture group, leading the subgroup Market Smart. She served as Board Member of American Spice Trade Association (2015-18). She served as Member, Spices Board, Gov. of India (2010-13) and Member, Food & Agriculture Department Bureau of Indian Standards - Spices (2014-2018). She is a prolific presenter at spice, and food industry forums such as the World Spice Congress, European Spice Association, American Spice Trade Association, and International Pepper Community Conference. She has a dual Master's Degree in International Affairs and Business Administration from Ohio University, USA.

### **Dr Ruchika Singh**

*Director - Sustainable Landscapes and Restoration, World Resources Institute (WRI) India*



Dr. Ruchika Singh has over two decades of experience working on environmental and developmental issues, providing leadership, and developing programs. Ruchika leads WRI India's food and forest work through a program called Sustainable Landscapes and Restoration. Ruchika's current research focuses on complex systemic issues related to food systems, land use, landscape restoration, food loss and waste, and sustainable and regenerative agriculture. Before WRI, Ruchika worked with the World Bank, University of Massachusetts (UMass), Amherst, TERI School of Advanced Studies, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Development and Research Service (DRS), and Foundation for Ecological Security (FES). Ruchika holds a Ph.D. in Development Studies (magna cum laude)

from the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn. She also has a double Master's in Politics from UMass, Amherst, and a Master's in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague part of the Erasmus University Rotterdam.



### **Mr Tejpreet S. Chopra**

*Founder & CEO, BLP Group New Delhi*



Tejpreet S. Chopra is the Founder & CEO of Bharat Light & Power Group (BLP). Tejpreet's 22 years of global management and finance experience was gained in various business roles held in France, England, Hong Kong, India and USA, of which over 14 years were at General Electric. Until 2010, Tejpreet was the President & CEO of General Electric in India, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh, and was responsible for directing GE's strategies for growth in these countries. Prior to that, Tejpreet served as President & CEO of GE Commercial Finance in India. Since joining

GE in 1996, he has held positions in marketing, structured finance and risk management, in Stamford and Hong Kong for GE Capital Aviation Services (GECAS). In 2005, he moved from the unit's headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut, to open GECAS's office in Delhi. At present, he is an Independent Director on the board of SRF Limited, the Anand Group (top 5 Automotive Component Groups in India), IEX (Indian Energy Exchange) and Chairman of the board of APM Terminals Pipavav port (A.P. Møller - Maersk A/S group). He graduated from The Lawrence School, Sanawar. Tejpreet holds an MBA degree from Cornell University, a B.A. Honors degree in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University and attended an executive program at the Harvard Kennedy School. He enjoys sports and music – and was a national level swimmer.

### **Mr Boaz Blackie Keizire**

*Head of Policy and Advocacy and Food Systems, AGRA*

Boaz Blackie Keizire is the Head of Policy and Advocacy and Food Systems at AGRA. He also Heads the Africa Food Prize Secretariat. Boaz holds Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics from Makerere University, Uganda, a BSc in Economics from the same university and a Diploma in Fisheries Policy, Planning and Management from United Nations University, Iceland. Boaz has over 15 years working in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resource Policy, Planning and Analysis and Rural Development. He is a Food Systems Champion and a 2017 Fellow for the Aspen New Voices Fellowship. Boaz Keizire, a Ugandan national, is an expert in agriculture and natural resource policy issues, planning, analyses as well as rural development. He has a deep understanding of what it takes to strengthen and support African-led institutions by sustaining a bold agenda for agriculture. Boaz used his extensive national and regional networks and experiences to translate and influence positive actions at continental level by raising the profile of the African Union Commission to mobilize the global community and African Member States towards agricultural transformation through CAADP. Specifically, Boaz has been instrumental in using country specific models and examples to change the quality of leadership of CAADP provided by the African Union Commission.

## Ms Shuva Raha

*Head, New Initiatives Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)*



Ms Shuva Raha leads CEEW's strategic initiatives on energy-development-climate intersections and geopolitics amidst economic transformation – energy access, security and transition; industrial decarbonisation; sustainable production and consumption; and circular economy. Shuva manages CEEW's advisory to India's G20 Presidency and its UN Energy Compacts initiative via partnerships with several Union Ministries; is a Global Solutions Initiative (GSI) Fellow, and an UNFCCC CoP Observer since 2016. Shuva has ~23 years of experience in public policy, project management, corporate operations, and branding.

Previously, as Head – New Initiatives, Energy & Infrastructure at CII, she led key assignments such as CII's work with the International Solar Alliance. Shuva was COO of CMYK Multimedia, the infotech subsidiary of Pioneer Newsgroup, New Delhi. She is a Postgraduate in Advertising & Communications Management from NMIMS, Mumbai and is a graduate in BSc Honours in Life Sciences and Biochemistry from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.

## Mr Owen Calvert

*Project leader, CSISA MEA, CIMMYT*



Over thirty years of experience in agriculture food security, food aid, and rural development covering 25 countries in Asia, Africa, and the Pacific. Has a sound understanding of vulnerability assessment methodologies, emergency food security monitoring/analysis and incorporating findings into relief and development interventions. More than twenty years managing large scale agricultural projects, including overseeing socio economic baseline studies and national market impact assessments. Has worked with NGOs, United Nations, and US Government contractors in both technical and managerial roles. Holds a Master of Science from Reading University and is currently leading the USAID funded CSISA-MEA project in Bangladesh.

## Dr Chetan Sharma

*Head, Milk Procurement & Dairy Development, Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi*





Dr. Chetan Sharma is head of Milk Procurement & Dairy Development at Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. He is a proficient dairy professional with over 22 years of experience in Indian Dairy Industry with stints in Nestle India Ltd. and Glaxo SmithKline Consumer Healthcare prior to his current assignment with Mother Dairy. A Veterinarian, skilled in creating end to end Dairy value chain, executing Dairy Development plans, sourcing agri commodities, managing logistics and supply chain, supplier development, and operations management.

### **Mr Rajesh Srivastava**

*Chairman, Prowess Advisors*



Rajesh Srivastava is the Chairman of Prowess Advisors, based in New Delhi. He has been into corporate finance/investment banking for almost 43 years and worked in Indian/international banks in India and abroad. Rajesh is one of the founding members of Rabobank in India. Joining Rabo India in 1998, he was Managing Director, Corporate & Commercial Banking of Rabobank India for 3 years and before that Regional Head, Food and Agribusiness, Asia in Singapore for 5 years. In 2008, he partnered Rabobank in a unique food and agri private equity platform with 2 Funds, to invest in India's food and agri companies. Rajesh has advised the Government of India with respect to many subjects within food and agribusiness sector. In addition, he earlier advised Markfed, NDDB/ Mother Dairy and several State Governments on their strategies for the sector. He has recently founded Prowess Advisors which is a specialized consulting and investment banking firm in food, agribusiness and sustainability. Today, Rajesh is a "go-to" authority in food and agribusiness and chairs a number of CII Committees and conferences focused on the sector. Rajesh is an economics and law graduate from Lucknow University.

### **Prof Vikram Adve**

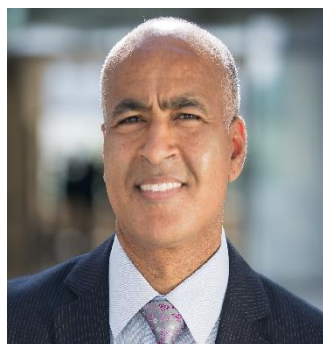


Vikram Adve received his B.Tech degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Bombay and his MS and PhD degrees in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At present, he is the Donald B. Gillies Professor of Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Adve's research interests lie in developing and using compiler techniques to improve the performance, programmability and energy-efficiency of computer systems. The primary areas of Adve's current research are compiler and system support for heterogeneous edge computing, approximate computing, and programmability for edge applications. Adve and his Ph.D. student, Chris Lattner, co-designed the LLVM Compiler Infrastructure, which is widely used in industry today, including most mobile and desktop apps

for Apple devices, and is also a popular system for compiler research. Adve is a Co-founder and Co-Director of the Center for Digital Agriculture at Illinois, and leads AIFARMS, a national AI Institute that is developing and using novel AI techniques to address important challenges faced by world agriculture. Adve's research in CDA and AIFARMS focuses on enabling high-performance and energy-efficient machine learning at the edge for agricultural applications.

## **Dr Zitouni Ould-Dada**

*Deputy Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO*



Dr Ould-Dada is leading FAO's coordination of climate change and Energy workstream. He is currently member of the "UN COP27 Task Team" established by the UN Secretary General to offer "One UN" support the COP27 Egyptian Presidency. Before joining FAO, he was Head of Technology Unit at UNEP for five years. He was member of the UN Inter-Agency Task Team developing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its Annual Science Technology and Innovation Forum to help achieve the SDGs. He worked for the British Government for 15 years providing policy and technical advice on environmental and energy policy. He was the Lead Negotiator on International Climate Change and Technology for the UK and France. Dr. Ould-Dada, a national of Morocco and UK, holds a PhD in Environmental/Radiation Protection from Imperial College, London, UK; a Master's degree in Environmental Management and Planning, Université de Rennes, France; and a BSc in Environmental Engineering from Institut Universitaire de Technologie, Perpignan, France.

## **Dr Praveen Malik**

*CEO, Agrinnovate India Limited (A Govt of India Enterprise), New Delhi*



Dr Praveen Malik, a Veterinary Microbiologist presently working as Principal Scientist, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and CEO, Agrinnovate India Limited, has more than 28 years of research and management experience on animal diseases. He had worked on surveillance of diseases in free-ranging wildlife and livestock and steered development of many diagnostics and vaccine candidates under his leadership. He has previously worked as In-charge, National Centre for Veterinary Type Culture, Director, CCS National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), and Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Government of India. He has rich experience as chairman/expert member in various national and international bodies besides heading various critical disease control programmes at National. His research interests include infectious diseases of livestock and wild animals, including the diseases of zoonotic importance as well as advocacy and implementation of one-health. He is recipient of fellowships of reputed National Academy of Veterinary Science (India) (FNAVSI), IAVMI, ISVIB and Indian Veterinary Association as well as Honorary

Fellowship, Metrology Society of India. He has also been conferred with Life Time Achievement Award by the Indian Veterinary Association.

### **Mr Saif Naik**

*Chief Technology Officer ITC MAARS*



Saif Naik is Technology Officer at ITC MAARS. He has have 17 years of product engineering experience. I head engineering at ITCMAARS and my focus area is providing our farmer community technological value unlocks that improve their livelihoods in a meaningful way. Prior to ITC MAARS, I was heading engineering at Animall – a managed market place that allows dairy farmers to buy and sell cattle online (a platform with over 10 million farmers). I am an engineer and have done by exec MBA from IIM Bangalore.

### **Mr Anand Pandravada**

*Research Director, Corteva Agriscience*



Mr Anand Pandravada has 18 plus years of seed industry and product development experience spread across Corteva Agriscience and Monsanto in USA and Asia Pacific. Currently he is leading Plant Breeding R&D for Corteva Agriscience for Asia Pacific and is directly accountable to develop products for commercialization across Asia for four crops – Corn, Rice, Millet and Canola Mustard. His expertise is in germplasm expansion, technology deployment, Phenotyping and trait strategies across the Asia Pacific region. He is part of Global Plant Breeding Leadership team, APAC Regional Leadership team and extended leadership team of Global Corteva R&D. Currently he leads a team of about 200 full time employees and 14 research stations in Asia Pacific. He has built industry leading infrastructure and team in APAC that has contributed to developing a robust product pipeline positioning Corteva Agriscience as a dominant seed business in APAC countries with Pioneer seed brand. Deployed breeding technologies across crops while promoting the core values of – diversity, inclusion, safety and minimizing environmental impact. Has multiple peer reviewed publications of high impact.

### **Mr Akhil Choudhary**

*Trade Commissioner, Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, High Commission of Canada, New Delhi*



Based in High Commission, New Delhi, Mr. Choudhary looks after Agriculture and Agrifood portfolio for the Canadian Government in India. He actively helps Canadian companies to navigate the complexities of Indian market in Agriculture and Agrifood domain, advising them on business entry strategies, strategic partnerships and collaborations in India. Mr. Choudhary is a bilateral trade professional with 10 years of experience in International Business Development, Stakeholder Engagement, Consulting, Investment Attraction and Client Relationship Management. In his previous role, he has served Israeli embassy in New Delhi representing their Infrastructure and Agriculture sector.

### **Mr S Sivakumar**

*Group Head, Agri and IT Businesses, ITC Limited*



Mr. S. Sivakumar is the Group Head of Agri and IT Businesses of ITC Limited, and a Member of the company's Corporate Management Committee. He also oversees ITC's Sustainability initiatives as well as the company's Social Investments. ITC is one of India's foremost private sector companies and a diversified conglomerate with revenues of over US\$11 Billion. ITC's portfolio of businesses includes branded packaged foods with deep backward linkages along more than twenty value chains through its agribusinesses. A global exemplar in sustainability, ITC is the only enterprise in the world of comparable dimensions to be

carbon-positive, water-positive and solid waste recycling positive for nearly two decades now. ITC's inclusive value chains support over 6 million sustainable livelihoods. Sivakumar was a past Chairman of CII's National Agri Council, besides being a Director on several Boards and member of various Government Committees.

### **Mr Rajeev Chawla**

*Chief Knowledge Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*



An IAS officer of 1987 batch, Mr Rajeev Chawla serves as the Chief Knowledge Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare for Government of India. Mr Chawla has held various positions in Government of Karnataka, including Principal Secretary, Department of Horticulture and Sericulture. Having served as Additional Chief Secretary eGovernance for Government of Karnataka, he has driven key projects such as Kutumba, FRUITS, e-Sahamati and Bhoomi, which have contributed to Karnataka's growth. He received the Prime Minister's award for excellence in civil services in 2007 for the



project Bhoomi which has helped digitize the land record systems in Karnataka. Mr. Chawla received his B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1984.

### **Mr Davis Adieno**

*Senior Director of Programs, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data*



Mr. Davis Adieno is the Senior Director of Programs at the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (the Global Partnership), based in Nairobi, Kenya. He translates the Global Partnership's vision and strategic objectives into actionable data initiatives. Davis nurtures sustainable and trusting data partnerships between governments and non-state actors that deliver development outcomes and impact in diverse sectors. His engagements inspire regional and country investments, innovations and collaboration that strengthens data ecosystems in Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and elsewhere. Davis previously worked as the Global Partnership's

Director of Programs and Regional Director for Africa. Prior to this, he worked for CIVICUS World Alliance as Senior Advisor of Data, Accountability, and Sustainable Development, and for Development Initiatives as Senior Manager of Strategic Partnerships, and Data Use.

### **Mr Kiringai Kamau**

*Executive Director, GODAN*



Kiringai Kamau is the County Government Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in the County Government of Murang'a. He is also the Acting CEO of Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN). He founded the GODAN's Programme for Capacity Development in Africa (P4CDA) in 2018. He is an Agricultural Economist and Lecturer in Agribusiness and Agricultural Policy. He is the brainchild of the GODAN Programme on the Earth Observation Data Cube supporting GODAN Programmes with universities in Africa and the South-South to create Centers for

Agriculture and Nutrition, Data Analytics and Innovation for Policy Impact (CANDAI). Kiringai was the Agricultural Transformation Office (ATO) advisor in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development in Kenya, where he promoted the adoption of the GODAN Agenda on Data Sourcing and Agribusiness Development. He is the convener of the Data Think-Tank Initiative (DTTI) for the Kenya Government's data use cases for the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS). He has many years of mentoring the youth to practice and become agribusiness owners. He is a collaborative researcher on the impacts of farmer owned agribusinesses for wealth creation combining both macro and micro integration of development in sustainable agricultural thinking through food systems driven ICTs.

### **Mr Purushottam Kaushik**

*Head, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network (INDIA), World Economic Forum*



Purushottam Kaushik (Puru) joined World Economic Forum in March 2020 and has twenty five years of experience in Telecom and IT in sales leadership and management consulting roles before joining Forum. He has a BE in Production Engineering from Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh, India, and an MBA from Faculty of Management Studies, BHU, Varanasi. Puru started his career in 1995 and has worked in various Telecom companies including Alcatel Systems, Lucent Technologies, and Nortel Network till 2009 in sales leadership roles. From 2009 to 2016, he was at Cisco systems, India and performed as Managing Director Sales from 2014-16. He was head of Telecom business (2011-2014) and Head of Services business (2009-2011). Subsequently he has worked as Senior Advisor-McKinsey from Dec 2016 to June 2018 and in April 2018, he joined as Head – Strategy and Mega Business for Larsen and Toubro Ltd. He is also currently Board of Director for Bhopal Smart City and on has been Board of Governors for Punjab Engineering College (Deemed University) from 2017-2020.

### **Mr Muchiri Nyaggah**

*Co-founder and Executive Director, Local Development Research Institute (LDRI)*



Muchiri is a co-founder and Executive Director of the Local Development Research Institute (LDRI), an action-oriented think tank supporting efforts of African Union member states to take practical evidence-informed actions to end extreme poverty, end hunger and reduce inequalities. Muchiri has worked in technology and innovation consulting for more than twenty-four years, fourteen of which have been spent focusing on mission driven governance, improved availability of data for decision making and open government in Africa as key drivers for improving development outcomes. In this context he has led research and implementation teams working in food security, nutrition, technology adoption and good governance in 5 African countries. Muchiri is also a Senior Fellow at the Results for Development Institute where he provides support on data for decision-making projects, particularly the work by R4D's Health and Nutrition practices.

### **Mr Ranveer Chandra**

*Managing Director, Research for Industry and CTO Agri-Food, Microsoft Research*



Ranveer Chandra is the Managing Director for Research for Industry, and the CTO of Agri-Food at Microsoft. He also leads the Networking Research Group at Microsoft Research, Redmond. Previously, Ranveer was the Chief Scientist of Microsoft Azure Global. His research has shipped as part of multiple Microsoft products. He started Project FarmBeats at Microsoft in 2015. He also led the battery research project, and the white space networking project at Microsoft Research. He was invited to the USDA to present his research to the US Secretary of Agriculture, and this work was featured by Bill Gates in GatesNotes, and was selected by Satya Nadella as one of 10 projects that inspired him in 2017. As part of his doctoral dissertation, Ranveer developed VirtualWiFi, which has over a million downloads and was among the top 5 downloaded software released by Microsoft Research. It is shipping as a feature in Windows since 2009. Ranveer has published more than 100 papers and holds over 150 patents granted by the USPTO. He was recently recognized by the Newsweek magazine as America's 50 most Disruptive Innovators (2021). Ranveer has an undergraduate degree from IIT Kharagpur, India and a PhD from Cornell University.

### **Mr Taranjeet Singh Bhamra**

*CEO and founder of AgNext Technologies*



Taranjeet Singh Bhamra, CEO and founder of AgNext Technologies, an award-winning venture-capital backed company which envisions a new world of agriculture and food value chain with the latest applications in technology and data sciences that can transform the way we grow, procure, trade, store and consume food, benefiting all stakeholders of the agribusiness industry. AgNext has built a world class platform for instant quality assessment and traceability linkages removing subjectivity and bringing transparency across food value chains. Taranjeet is an alumnus of the prestigious IIT Kharagpur and MBA from IIM Calcutta. Prior to MBA, Taranjeet worked in the agriculture sector in India understanding deep-rooted issues building up his strong base for technological interventions. Post MBA, Taranjeet worked globally across Europe, Middle East and Asian markets in Investment Banking, Business Intelligence and Strategy Consulting. Taranjeet currently represents the following industry and educational bodies such as Council Member of CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) North India, National Agriculture Committee of FICCI and Advisory Council of Agribusiness Incubator at IIT Kharagpur.

### **Mr Vasudevan Chinnathambi**

*Co-Founder, Ninjacart*



Vasudevan Chinnathambi is the Co-founder of Ninjacart - India's leading agri-startup that leverages technology and data to organize the Indian agriculture ecosystem. On seeing a gap in the food distribution market and opportunity to add value through technology, Vasu co-founded Ninjacart in 2015 as a B2C hyper-local grocery delivery platform with Thirukumaran Nagarajan, Kartheeswaran KK and Sharath Loganathan, who he met in his previous employment at Taxi4Sure. However, they soon realized that while there was a high demand for an online market for fruits and vegetables, the traditional supply chain for perishable products was inefficient, and hence pivoted towards a B2B Supply Chain platform. Under Vasu's able leadership, Ninjacart's B2B model has thrived, and the company has grown multi-dimensionally. He has managed to lead Ninjacart efficiently and his vast experience in the industry has helped the organisation to make faster and smarter business decisions. Vasu did his MBA in Business Leadership from the prestigious School of Inspired Leadership. Prior to Ninjacart, he worked in various capacities for Taxi4Sure, Firefly e-ventures Ltd, and Infosys Technology Ltd.

## Dr Rupa Chanda

*Director of the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP*



Rupa Chanda is Director of the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and Professor of Economics (on leave) at IIM Bangalore. Previously, she has worked as an Economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and briefly served as Head of UNESCAP's Sub-regional Office for South and South-West Asia in New Delhi. Prof. Chanda received her Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University and her Bachelors from Harvard University. She teaches macroeconomics and international trade, and her research interests include the World Trade Organization (WTO), trade in services, regional integration, and migration. She has undertaken research and professional assignments for international and Indian organisations, and has been published extensively in books, journal articles, book chapters, and reports. She is also a research guide, reviewer, and member of several expert committees. She was member of the WHO's Review Committee on the functioning of International Health Regulations (2015-16), and the WHO's Expert Advisory Group, International Recruitment of Health Personnel (2019-20).



### **Ms Marta Perez Cuso**



Marta Pérez Cusó leads ESCAP's programme on inclusive technology and innovation policies to promote technologies and innovations that leave no one behind. She also leads ESCAP's work on promoting enabling policy environments for inclusive business. She has 20 years' work experience with the United Nations providing policy advice on science, technology and innovation (STI) and information and communication technology policies to governments across Asia and Latin America. Before joining ESCAP, Ms. Pérez Cusó worked with UNCTAD and Oxfam GB. She holds an MSc in Development Management, Open University UK and is fluent in Spanish, English, French and Catalan.

### **Mr Krishnan Pallassan**

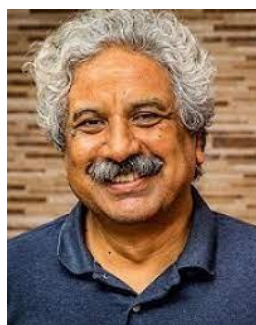
*Country Director, India Digital Green*



Krishnan joins Digital Green with more than 25 years of experience in sustainable development sectors ranging from climate resilience to women's empowerment. He served as COO for Population Foundation India, India Director for The Climate Group, and Country Director in Afghanistan for ActionAid International. Krishnan has often joined organizations at times when they are making a strategic pivot and enabled them to scale and deepen their impact by forging new partnerships and securing new resources to execute. Krishnan holds an MBA in marketing and BSc in physics degrees and enjoys traveling and spending time with rural communities to hear their wisdom and pragmatic approach to life. He's also a voracious reader and loves listening to music, especially Indian classical.

### **Mr Rangu Rao**

*Chief Executive Officer Safe Harvest*



Rangu Rao is the Chief Executive Officer at Safe Harvest Pvt, which is a Food & Beverage company.

## Ms UVL Ananda

*Head Corporate Communications & Public Affairs, East-West Seed India*



UVL Ananda is Head, Corporate Communications and Public Affairs leading the Communications & Public Affairs, Advocacy function of East-West Seed, a global leader in tropical vegetable seeds, and a member of India Leadership Team. He has 25 years of experience spanning communications strategy, brand & reputation building, corporate responsibility, public affairs, high-profile media management, corporate thought leadership and positioning, internal communications, and engagement. He has outstanding relationship-building capabilities with an extensive network of industry and media contacts. He has been recognized in the communications industry as a Leader with a passion for agriculture, sustainable development, and technology.

## Mr Ramendra Verma

*Partner and National Sector Leader (Government) Grant Thornton Bharat LLP*



Ramendra Verma is currently Head of Government Sector in Grant Thornton Bharat. He has around 28 years of wide-ranging experience with around 20+ years in Government Consulting. He has a very diverse experience of working across various Ministries and Department spanning areas such as Citizen Services, Revenue and tax compliance, Social Welfare and Infrastructure development in Centre and State Governments. He has worked on various Policy and implementation of marquee projects like “Digital India”, “Swachh Bharat”, “Skill India”, “Ease of Doing Business”, “Startup India”, “Adopt a Heritage”, “Make In India”, “Smart City” and “Standup India”. He has extensively worked on assignments for Government of India with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, NSDC, Department of Income Tax, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Board of Excise and Customs. He has also worked extensively with various State Governments. Before joining Grant Thornton Bharat in December 2022, he was the CEO of a JV providing Advisory Services in Egypt and based out of Cairo. Apart from Egypt he has worked on various international assignments in Sri Lanka, Oman, Thailand, UAE, UK, France and Ireland.

## Dr Hemalatha R

*Director, ICMR-NIN*



Dr. Hemalatha R is Director at National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). Her research interests encompass maternal, child health and nutrition. She has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers, book chapters and regulatory reports. Dr. Hemalatha led the seminal work on Nutrient requirements- the RDAs and EARs for Indians; for the first time the Nutrient recommendations include the Estimated Average Requirements (EAR) and also the Tolerable Upper Limits (TUL) of

nutrients alongside RDAs. Fortification strategies, food labelling, supplementation programs are based on these recommendations. She also spearheaded 'My Plate for the Day' which provides food-based guidelines to prevent undernutrition and NCDs. As part of the Poshan Abhiyan initiative, she has developed 14 E-learning modules aimed at empowering adolescents, young adults and Anganwadi teachers. Dr.Hemalatha graduated (MBBS) and obtained an MD from Gandhi Medical College, Hyderabad, Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, Andhra Pradesh.

### **Dr. Jagmeet Madan**

*Principal and Professor, Department of Food, Nutrition and Dietetics, SVT College SNDT University*



Dr Jagmeet Madan is an eminent Nutritionist, National President, Indian Dietetic Association, Principal, Professor- Department of Food Nutrition and Dietetics, Director SVT Research Collaboration and Consultancy Centre at Sir Vithaldas Thackersey College of Home Science (Autonomous), SNDT Women's University, Mumbai. She is a gold medalist and recipient of 'Young Scientist Award' and 'Dr. Ramanathan Award' by the Nutrition Society of India, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. She is a recipient of the prestigious International Research Grant award - PNPG Grant (Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group – 2017) from American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, USA. She was an Expert on the FSSAI Scientific panels on Labelling and Claims/Advertisement and Scientific Panel of Nutrition and Fortification from 1st January 2020 to 31st March 2023. Presently she is on the Expert Committee of FOPNL of FSSAI, Govt of India and National Task Force of International Year of Millets 2023. She has more than 50 publications in International and National Peer reviewed Journals and Books.

## Plenary Sessions

### Mr Sanjiv Puri



Sanjiv Puri is the Chairman & Managing Director of ITC Limited and also the Chairman of ITC Infotech India Limited and its wholly owned subsidiaries in the UK and USA. Puri is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and Wharton School of Business. Puri's emphasis on purposeful and cutting-edge innovation has driven the creation of sharp focused R&D platforms in areas aligned to market opportunities, that has led to the launch of several first-to-market products addressing dynamic and evolving consumer preferences. A passionate champion of Sustainability, he has given shape to ITC's

Sustainability 2.0 vision that has set bold and ambitious goals to address critical areas of global significance. Giving new wings to ITC's sustainability journey, he has led focussed programmes that contribute to inclusive growth, combat climate change and address national priorities. Puri has served as the Chairman of the Expert Group constituted by the Fifteenth Finance Commission of the Government of India to promote agri-exports and as a Member of the technology discussion group 'Farm to Table-driving India's agriculture sector digitally' constituted by the NITI Aayog. Currently, Puri is the Vice President of CII and the Chairman of the Advisory Council of the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development.

### Mr Stefanos Fotiou

*Director, FAO Office of Sustainable Development Goals and Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub*



Mr. Stefanos Fotiou is an accomplished expert on sustainable development currently serving as Director, Office of SDGs in FAO; under this capacity he is also serving as Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub. Prior to joining FAO, Stefanos served 16 years in the UN Secretariat, including 6 years as Director in the Environment and Development Division of the UNESCAP as well as 10 years in the UNEP. Before joining the UN, he had worked for the private sector and academia on issues of regional sustainable development.

Throughout his career, Stefanos has taken leading roles in serving international UN fora and platforms, has conceptualised and led the development of regional and national strategies on sustainable development and his work has been published and referenced. He holds a PhD in Natural Resource Economics, a Master of Science in Forestry and Natural Environment and a Master of Science in Information Systems.



## Mr Brent Loken

*Global Food Lead Scientist, WWF*



Brent Loken is the Global Food Lead Scientist for WWF. In his role, Brent provides thought leadership through forward-looking research, science direction for goal setting, scientific analysis in support of strategy development, and the management of internal and external science talent to support the Global Food Practice team in advancing an ambitious agenda. His research includes a variety of publications ranging from subjects on food and health to orangutan terrestriality and tropical forest governance. Previously, Brent worked for EAT, the science-based global platform for food system transformation. He was a lead author on the EAT-Lancet report on Food, Planet, Health.

## Mr Adam Gerstenmier

*Executive Director, Food Action Alliance*



Adam Gerstenmier serves as Executive Director of the Food Action Alliance, a multi-stakeholder platform initiated by the World Economic Forum, IFAD, and Rabobank to support a transition to more sustainable, inclusive, nutritious, and resilient food systems. He works with institutions, companies, and countries around the world to mobilize partnerships and investments that advance food systems action and impact at scale towards national food systems agendas. Gerstenmier previously served as Chief of Staff in the 2021 UN Food Systems

Summit Secretariat, Chief of Staff to the President of AGRA, and a Chief of Staff in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

## Dr Howarth Bouis

*Founding Director, HarvestPlus*



Howarth Bouis, a recipient in 2016 of the World Food Prize, pioneered the concept of biofortification in the early 1990s and founded HarvestPlus in 2003. He has devoted his career to turning this idea into a global movement that currently reaches more than 50 million people in smallholder farming families in low-income countries. He continues to actively champion biofortification and the work of HarvestPlus in the international agriculture and nutrition communities. Bouis received a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University and a master's degree and PhD from Stanford University's Food Research Institute. After receiving his PhD, Bouis

was offered a postdoctoral position in 1982 in the Food Consumption and Nutrition Division of IFPRI to undertake a two-year research project on the Philippines. He subsequently worked as a Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow in the same division. His research concentrated on understanding how economic factors affect food demand and nutrition

outcomes, particularly in Asia. Insights gained during this research led him to propose the concept of biofortification. Bouis currently resides in the Philippines.

### **Ms Patrizia Fracassi**

*Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO*



Patrizia Fracassi is Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer at FAO's Food and Nutrition Division, leading the work on governance, policies, programmes and investments. Previously, she was a Senior Nutrition Analyst and Strategy Adviser at the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat, focusing on Government-led multi-sectoral approaches. Patrizia has worked in Ethiopia with UNICEF on Nutrition Information System and for the World Bank on Linkages between the Productive Safety Net Programme and the National Nutrition Programme. She also worked for UNICEF Uganda as a Nutrition Specialist and for CESVI and Oxfam Italia in Viet Nam as Country Director. Patrizia holds a Doctorate in Health Research, a M.Sc. in Development Management and an M.A. in Human Sciences.

### **Dr Shubnum Singh**



Dr Shubnum Singh is an alumnus of Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi and has Four decades of rich experience in healthcare spanning across roles as a practicing Clinician, & Administrator. Her strength lies in skilling & capability building, education, understanding of physician behaviour and nuances of operationalising healthcare delivery systems in resource constrained environments. Nationally an active member of CII, NABH and contributor to task forces on AI, Digital, Medical Technology, Health Insurance & Costing of Services, Public Health, Policy & Governance. Leveraging technology and understanding of digital health is an area of keen interest. Active engagement in community focused intervention has further strengthened her endeavour and contribution towards the cause of accessible healthcare. Founder Member and currently Advisor & Governing Board member of the Health Sector Skills council(HSSC)and Life Sciences Sector Skills council(LSSDC) ; founder Chair of the Health Management Program at the Max Institute of Healthcare Management Indian School of Business (ISB) , at the back of 4 decades of advisory and execution experience in various facets of public and private healthcare related delivery, has a wide and deep network of trust-based relationship with stakeholders across Indian healthcare ecosystem.

## **Ms Meghana Narayan**

*Co-founder, Wholsum Foods Pvt Ltd*



Meghana is the co-founder of Wholsum Foods Pvt Ltd. She grew up in the southern Indian city of Bangalore and studied Computer Science Engineering at Bangalore University. She then went on to receive a Rhodes Scholarship to study Computation at Oxford University, after which she completed her MBA from Harvard Business School. Meghana has always been passionate about children's nutrition and health and is on a mission to have a positive impact on India's childhood nutrition statistics. Before starting Wholsum Foods, Meghana led the Public Health practice at McKinsey & Company. She has also been a national-level swimmer who represented India in the Asian Games and won over 400 national gold medals.

## **Mr Atanu Haldar**

*Sr. Director- Product Operations*



Atanu Haldar, is the Senior Director- Product Operations for Herbalife International India Pvt Ltd. He comes with over 24 years of work experience in different Indian and multinational companies with a wide range of product experience in the Food and Nutrition industry. Before joining Herbalife, Atanu led the R & D and Quality of Mother Dairy as Chief R&D Officer. He was heading New Product Development for Abbott Nutrition as Associate Director. Atanu heads the Herbalife India Product operations and is leading the India Product operations team- this includes Manufacturing, Quality assurance, Quality Control, Strategic Sourcing, Research and Development, Regulatory Affairs, and Project Management. He works with Sales & marketing and the planning team to ensure the availability of our products for our distributors with the highest standards of quality. He, therefore, acts as an integral support for our distributors for their business continuity. He, along with the marketing, R & D team, and our distributors, supports the Indian business in developing new innovative products.

## **Mr Madhusudan Chauhan**

*CEO, Jiva Ayurveda*



Madhusudan Chauhan is the CEO of Jiva Ayurveda and has played a key role over the last 15 years transforming Jiva as one of the leading full-service players in Ayurveda Treatment and Well-being sector. Under his leadership, Jiva has made a number of industry leading innovations such as creating a Practice Management Information System, Doctors' Knowledge Sharing portal, Gamified Doctor Learning and Engagement Platform, algorithmic-decision based Ayurveda practice protocols and Clinical Decision Support System using machine learning techniques. He has co-authored the

world's first Big Data analytics-based research paper on Ayurveda published in a European Journal. He has also created the first Digital Health Management System in Ayurveda - Dhanvantari and tied up with leading telecom players to offer India's 1st Ayurveda doctor-on-call service. Under his leadership, telemedicine consultations have scaled many folds in the last decade, and paved the way for creation of Ayurveda's 1st machine learning-based Doctor Decision Support System - Ayunique®, launched by the Secretary of the Ministry of AYUSH. He was awarded with the Jagran Achievers Award in 2022 for exceptional contribution to Ayurveda and the BW Well-being 40U40 award by Business World in 2023 as the Top 40 leaders in the well-being industry under 40.

## Mr Salil Singhal

*Chairman CII Taskforce on Agro Chemicals and Chairman Emeritus, PI Industries*



Mr. Salil Singhal is the Chairman Emeritus on Board of PI Industries. He has been spearheading the Company on its growth path since 1979. He is credited with Company's early adoption of a global outlook and ingraining a strong value system within the Company. He has been involved in shaping many agriculture-related policy issues and has addressed many Seminars and Conferences both in India and abroad. He also serves on the Boards of Wolkem India Ltd., Historic Resorts Hotels Pvt. Ltd., The Lake Palace Hotels and Motels Pvt. Ltd., Secure Meters Ltd., Somany Ceramics Ltd., PILL Finance and Investment Ltd., Usha Martin Ltd. and Mahindra World City (Jaipur) Ltd. Highly reputed and a renowned name in the Agro Chemical Industry, he is Co-Chairman of CII's National Council on Agriculture besides being a member of its National Council for the past 8 years. Mr. Singhal was the Chairman of the Pesticides Association of India (rechristened Crop Care Federation of India) for 20 years and is its Chairman Emeritus. In the past, he has been a member of the Executive Committee of FICCI and also the Chairman of its Environment Committee for 5 years, the Chairman of the Northern Region of CII and the Chairman of the National Council for MSMEs.

## Ms Diane Holdorf

*Executive Vice President, WBCSD*



Diane B. Holdorf is Executive Vice President (EVP) and a member of the Senior Management Team (SMT) at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), based in Geneva, Switzerland. Diane joined WBCSD in December 2018 as Managing Director of Food and Nature where she led business efforts to accelerate the system transformation in the areas of food, nature and water. In October 2021, Diane took the role of EVP for Pathways. Before joining WBCSD, Diane was Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer at Kellogg. Prior to joining Kellogg, Diane served as Vice President for Delta Consultants (now Antea), a global environment, health and safety and sustainability consulting firm. In 2022 Diane was selected as one of the 25 Badass Women shaping climate action by GreenBiz. In 2015, Diane was recognized as a Maize and Wheat Super Woman by CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center) as part of the United Nation's



International Women's Day. She is also recognized as an Oxfam Sisters on the Planet Ambassador. Diane received a Bachelor's degrees in Public Communications and in German from Syracuse University. She also completed the Executive MBA Program at the University of St Thomas.

### **Mr Martin Hoppe**

*Head of Division, Food and Nutrition Security, Global Food Policy, Fisheries at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*



Martin Hoppe is the Head of Division Food and Nutrition Security, Global Food Policy, Fisheries at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In 1998 he became legal counsel at the German Patent and Trademark Office 2002 at the BMZ. In BMZ, he held positions as a policy advisor on environmental protection in China, on principles and procedures, as a chief speechwriter and as Head of Division for Peace and Security, Disaster Risk Management. Postings abroad were to the German Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and the Head of Economic

Cooperation and Development at the German Embassy, Hanoi.

### **Mr Anirban Ghosh**

*Chief Sustainability Officer Mahindra Farm*



Anirban Ghosh has been with the Mahindra Group since 1999 where he Heads the Centre for Sustainability at the Mahindra University. He was the Group's Chief Sustainability Officer prior to this assignment. Having shaped Mahindra's sustainability framework, he guided the Group to make ambitious climate commitments and enabled accelerated achievement of goals. Anirban has been recognized as a "Thought Leader" a "Global C-Suite Sustainability Champion" and a "Top 50 Global Sustainability Leader". Anirban has held roles in

Sales, Marketing and Strategy in the Farm Business of Mahindra. He has served as the President of Mahindra USA and has been on the Board of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers in the US. Anirban has delivered guest lectures at many business schools such as Harvard, INSEAD, and IIMs at Ahmedabad, Indore, and Kozhikode.

## Mr Edward Davey

*Policy and International Engagement Director, Food and Land Use Coalition; Co-Director, WRI UK*



Edward Davey has two jobs at WRI. The first is Policy and International Engagement Director of the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU). Here, he advocates for global policy change on food and land use systems, working with national governments, international institutions and FOLU's Ambassadors. In this role, he served as an adviser to the UK government during its Presidency of COP26 and was involved in the preparation of the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use. The second is as Co-Director of WRI UK. In this role, Edward is responsible for the care of WRI UK's 50 staff, its relationship with the UK government, UK-based Board members and other key partners, as well as with WRI's royal patron, the former Prince of Wales, now King Charles III.

## Ms Anuja Kadian

*APAC Government & Industry Affairs Director Corteva Agriscience*



Anuja has 17+ years of experience in non-market strategy to structure and capitalize on growth opportunities, policy advocacy & government affairs, risk & crisis management, sustainability, market access and governance across highly regulated sectors such as telecom, digital & internet, healthcare, aerospace & defence. As Government & Industry Affairs Leader at Corteva Agrisciences, Anuja spearheads the planning and execution of strategic programs and initiatives across Asia Pacific through product and policy advocacy. During her professional journey, she worked with organizations like Rolls-Royce, AstraZeneca and consulted several Fortune 500 companies. Social investment and outreach are fundamental to policy advocacy specific to her experience. Her last assignment was with Rolls-Royce where she worked closely with policymakers and shapers in expanding Rolls-Royce footprint within South Asia's burgeoning aerospace, energy, defence, and manufacturing sector. Anuja is an Electronics Engineer and holds MBA from MIT-Sloan School of Management. She is an amateur photographer and painter. In free time, she loves solving puzzles with her 8yr old son.

## Mr Jatin Singh

*Managing Director, Skymet Weather Services Pvt Ltd*



Mr. Jatin Singh is the Founder & Managing Director at Skymet Weather Services Pvt Ltd, a pioneer in weather forecast and agri-tech segment, taking Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Remote Sensing technologies to ground that helps managing financial risk of small holder farmers. In his present role, Mr. Singh oversees the overall growth strategy of the company, technology innovation, operations and business dimensions. Founded in 2004, Skymet Weather is India's largest private sector weather forecasting, monitoring & agriculture risk Solutions Company, experts in measuring, predicting & limiting climate risk. It has the capability to create hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal & long-term forecasts including monsoon; employs its own team of operational meteorology, numeric weather prediction modeling (NWP), remote sensing, statistical data analysis, software computing. He is also the Founder of Gramcover, a technology backed insurance distribution business in rural India.

## Mr Roopak Bhat

*Director, Cocoa Operations (India), Mondelēz*



Roopak Bhat is responsible for Cocoa Sourcing and Development of Cocoa in India and handles global agriculture projects for Mondelēz. Roopak is a Supply Chain professional with key strength in Procurement and Sustainability space. He has over 33 years of experience in Procurement of Raw materials mainly in Cocoa beans and products. He has also spent significant time in Plantation Management with hands on management experience in handling perennial crops such as Rubber, Tea, Cocoa, Spices and Nuts. Since 2000, Roopak has been with Mondelēz International (including legal Cadbury Plc business) and worked in India, West Africa, and Singapore. His key strengths are in Strategic sourcing, development of agriculture crops from farm to factory, market forecasting, supplier relationship management & agriculture research programs. Roopak has a background in Agriculture and Management.

## Mr Pankaj Mehta

*Managing Director, Carrier Transicold, India & South Asia*



Mr. Pankaj Mehta is the Managing Director of Carrier Transicold India and South Asia including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives. Carrier Transicold is a business unit of Carrier Corporation, the world leader in high technology heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration solutions and part of United Technologies Corporation. Carrier Transicold has a leadership position in refrigeration solution for trucks & trailers, rail refrigeration and sea going refrigerated containers. Mr. Mehta joined Carrier India in 2000 and has held

various progressively expanding roles. In his current role, he is responsible for the overall leadership, strategic direction, and operating performance of the truck refrigeration business in the region. Mr. Mehta is a speaker at several Cold Chain conferences. He is an active member of National Cold Chain Task Force set up by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) in association with the Ministries of Agriculture and Food Processing to stimulate the cold chain infrastructure development and is also a member of the National Center of Cold Chain Development (NCCD). He was also awarded the ICE award 2011 by the Global Cold Chain Alliance. Mr. Mehta has over 26 years of rich work experience and is a highly-qualified engineer with a Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering, Bachelor of Science and a Master's in Marketing Management from Mumbai University. Prior to entering the corporate business world Mr. Mehta has served in the Indian Navy for 9 years as an Officer and is an alumni of the prestigious National Defense Academy (NDA) Khadakvasla-Pune.

### **Ms Reema Nanavaty**

*Director, SEWA*



Reema Nanavaty has been working with the SEWA since over 36 years expanding its membership to over 2.5 million members, making it the single largest union of informal sector women workers. Reema facilitated rebuilding lives and livelihoods of 60000 earthquake affected rural women and 40000 riot-affected members. She also leads the rehabilitation programs in Afghanistan and Srilanka. She oversees 4813 SHGs, 160 co-operatives and 15 economic federations, in 18 states of India, and also in 7 South-Asian countries, focusing on women's economic empowerment. She was honored with Padma Shri for her distinguished contribution in area of Social Services in 2013. She is currently the member of the Advisory Council on Gender of the World Bank Group.

### **Mr Marco van der Ree**

*Interim Executive Director and founding Board Member, Conexsus*



Marco van der Ree is the Conexsus interim Executive Director and founding Board Member. He is a strategic, passionate and innovative executive leader and social entrepreneur with 25+ years of global sustainable development experience with a focus on building partnerships, fundraising, advocacy, volunteerism, and biodiversity and climate action. He started his career in Brazil in 1996 with ISPN, a socio-environmental NGO. Subsequently, he spent 17 years with the United Nations - UNCDF, UNDP, UNOPS and UN Volunteers. As UNV Chief Partnerships he led the global Volunteer Action Counts campaign for Rio+20, with 64 million volunteer actions counted. Since 2015, he founded Brokering Solidarity (consultancy), and a volunteer action start-up and worked in executive management roles with EIT Climate-KIC, the Global Reporting Initiative, and TNC Latin America. In 2019, he was the senior international evaluator for the 10-year Amazon Fund evaluation. Marco chairs the OLBIOS International Advisory Board, and Green Light District



Foundation Board in Amsterdam, and is advisory board member with KCIC Consulting in Kenya and the Global Forest Bond in Brazil. Marco holds a Master's in International Relations from the University of Amsterdam with a focus on international environmental policy. He has worked globally and speaks Dutch, English, German, Spanish and Portuguese.

### **Mr Avinash Kasinathan**

*CTO, Waycool and CEO, Censa Waycool Enterprise*



Avinash leads business excellence and drives business planning initiatives, strategic projects, digital business development, and process optimisation. With a background in Engineering and Management Consulting, Avinash was previously with McKinsey where he built transformative new-age delivery models and digital/analytics based ventures within traditional businesses. A man of many tastes, Avinash effortlessly balances his love for the outdoors, watching test cricket and staying abreast of current affairs. Avinash is an alumnus of IIT Madras and IIM Calcutta.

### **Mr Rohit Dhanda**

*AVP, Capital Markets and Strategic Initiatives, Samunnati*



Rohit is the Assistant Vice President at Capital Markets and Strategic Initiatives at Samunnati, He is tasked with relation management with international Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) for India's largest agri-enterprise. In his current capacity, Rohit is responsible for creating a diversified bouquet of international debt investors for raising various pools of capital (including debt and portfolio guarantees). He has also worked on building many key strategic alliances as well as internal independent departments like Business and Market Intelligence Unit (BMIU) and Policy Advocacy Group (PAG) at Samunnati. Prior to Samunnati, Rohit had stints in various capacities at Rabobank, the Dutch Food & Agri bank; BTG Pactual, Brazil's largest investment bank and COFCO, a multinational agri-commodity trade giant. His last assignment was with Rabobank's global Food & Agribusiness Research team, Rohit is an agri-graduate from CCS Haryana Agricultural University and also holds a Master's degree in Plant Sciences from University of Saskatchewan, Canada, as well as PGDM in International Business from Welingkar's Institute of Management Development & Research, Mumbai. He is currently developing Sustainable Finance expertise at Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Germany.

## Mr Praveen Pardeshi

*Member of Administration, Capacity Building Commission, Gol*



With 29 years of experience in the Indian Administrative Services (IAS), Mr. Pardeshi has served in various senior executive roles. He managed the entire public health structure of Mumbai and led the task force for COVID19 containment as the Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai. He has also served as the Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. In addition to his administrative roles, Mr. Pardeshi has held several senior leadership positions in the United Nations. He was the Global Head of UNDP Geneva and Senior Coordinator of UNISDR. Most recently, he worked for the Defeat-NCD Partnership under UNITAR as the Global Programme Coordinator. Mr. Pardeshi holds an MSc degree in Social Policy, Participatory Planning and Economic Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Prior to getting a Masters Degree in Development Economics from DSE, he was an Economics graduate from DU.