

## NATIONAL INDEX ON AGRI-FOOD PERFORMANCE: WEBINAR SPEAKERS' BIOS

### Lauren Baker, Director of Programs, Global Alliance for the Future of Food



Lauren Baker, PhD, has more than 20 years of experience leading cross-sectoral research, policy and advocacy for sustainable food systems in non-profit, academic, business, policy and philanthropic contexts. Lauren is currently Director of Programs with the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, an alliance of philanthropic foundations working to transform global food systems. At the Global Alliance, Lauren's work is focused on the intersections between food systems and health, climate change, agroecology and true cost accounting. Previously, Lauren led the Toronto Food Policy Council, a citizen advisory group embedded within the City of Toronto's Public Health Division. She was the Founding Director of Sustain Ontario — the Alliance for Healthy Food and Farming. Lauren lectures and teaches in the Global Food Equity program at the University of Toronto and at Ryerson University.

### David Bennell, North American Lead, Food and Nature, World Business Council for Sustainable Development



David Bennell is the North American lead for the Food and Nature for the World Business Council for Sustainable Development where he focuses on scaling positive agriculture, natural climate solutions, and global food systems reform.

Previously, he was Director of Food and Capital Markets for the investor network Ceres. He's worked for Microsoft, REI and LL Bean in leadership development, product development and sourcing positions. His career also includes working as a funder focused on sustainable forestry, the co-creation of the for-profit social enterprise company CottonConnect, co-creation of an impact investing fund focused on food and agriculture investments and leading the apparel industry NGO Textile Exchange focused on standards development for responsible sourcing. David created the world's most-watched sustainability series on Linked In Learning called *Sustainability Strategies*, as well as previously held a five-year adjunct faculty position at MIT where he taught sustainable design and development.

### Keith Currie, Vice-President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture & President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture



Keith Currie, a Collingwood Ontario-area farmer, was re-elected as President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) at the 2019 Annual General Meeting for his fourth one-year term leading OFA's 38,000 farm family members. He is the organization's 31st President. Currie has more than 25 years of experience with OFA and agricultural advocacy, which began with an appointment to the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture, where he held numerous positions including President from 2004-2006. He has served on and chaired many local and provincial agriculture organizations as well as many conservation initiatives during his career.

Currie's career in advocacy has led to numerous appointments to provincial government advisory panels such as 2019, Ontario Advisory Panel on Climate Change, 2015, 4-Plan Review Panel: a review of significant land use plans in Ontario, and to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Minister's Advisory Panel.

In February of 2019, Currie was elected as the First Vice President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) at the CFA annual meeting in Ottawa.

With a diploma in Agriculture Production Management from Ridgeway College, Currie returned home to the Collingwood Ontario family operation, to manage an eighth-generation dairy and cash crop farm in Simcoe County with his wife Janice and four children. The dairy herd was dispersed in 2003 and the operation now focuses on production of grains and oilseed, forages for dry hay, along with a sweet corn and gladiolus flower production.

### **Erin Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action**



Erin Fitzgerald serves as CEO of the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action® (USFRA®), a non-profit that believes farmers and ranchers uniquely contribute to prosperous communities, nourishing people and a resilient and restorative planet. USFRA is dedicated to unprecedented leadership and action by convening farmers and ranchers with food and agricultural leaders to create and lead a common vision to further our sustainable food systems. Fitzgerald's thought leadership in the sustainability space convenes food and agriculture stakeholders in an inclusive dialogue on the sustainable food systems of the 21st century. Prior to USFRA, Erin Fitzgerald served as Senior Vice President, Global Sustainability for the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, where she conducted an environmental impact assessment that led to an industry-wide voluntary carbon reduction goal of 25 percent by 2020. Erin has been recognized in Chicago's 40 under 40 and is an avid voice for sustainability and social responsibility (White House Champion of Change for Sustainable and Climate-Smart Agriculture, Aspen Institute First Movers Fellow).

### **Luis Carazo Jimenez, Head of Unit, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission**



Luis is an Agriculture Engineer (Polytechnic University of Madrid) who joined the European Commission public service at the late 1990s. He has spent most of his professional career on the management of agriculture markets (i.e., olive oil, grains, sugar, animal products). In 2019, he was appointed Head of the Unit in the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development in charge of international relations with the American continent.

**Margarita Lysenkova, Manager, Standards, GRI (Global Reporting Initiative)**



Margarita Lysenkova joined GRI Standards Division in the beginning of 2019 to work on the GRI Sector Program. Margarita leads projects and expert groups, representing business enterprises, investment institutions, labor unions, civil society organizations, and mediating institutions (consultants, academia, or multilateral organizations, including UN agencies). The first pilot project Margarita worked on was Sector Standard: Oil and Gas. Currently, Margarita is leading the second pilot project – GRI Sector Standards Agriculture and Fishing.

Margarita has an international work experience across four countries, spanning socioeconomic research and human rights. From 2013 to 2016 Margarita worked in the International Labour Standards department of the International Labour Organization in Geneva. Margarita holds degrees in economics and in business management.

**David McInnes, Coordinator, National Index on Agri-Food Performance**



David is the Principal of DMci Strategies and a strategic advisor, speaker and facilitator on change and opportunity facing the global food system. He is currently leading a diverse coalition of industry, government, academic, NGO and innovation organizations to develop a national index on agri-food performance. David has also been a Senior Fellow at Canada 2020 (an Ottawa-based think tank) where, last year, he led another national conversation about protecting Canada's trusted food brand.

David is a Governance Committee Member of the Canadian Agri-Food Sustainability Initiative, an Affiliate of McGill University's Institute for Global Food Security, a Global Advisor for Nova Scotia Business Inc. and has recently been a Contributing Editor of The Economist Intelligence Unit. Previously, David was President & CEO of the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute and has worked for a global life sciences company, a chartered bank, a financial services association and a Royal Commission. He is the former Chair of WaterAid Canada and Trustee of London-based WaterAid International, an NGO dedicated to improving water, sanitation and hygiene across the global south. He is a graduate of the London School of Economics and Dalhousie University.

**Michelle Nutting, Global Lead of Agriculture & Environmental Sustainability , Nutrien**



Michelle has a B.Sc. in Agriculture with a major in Soil Science from the University of Manitoba. Michelle joined one of Nutrien's predecessor companies in 1990. Her experience includes roles in agriculture research, extension, fertilizer regulatory management, sales and distribution. In her current role, Michelle is responsible for guiding the development of programs for agriculture and environmental sustainability within the company, and also with the broader external stakeholder community, to make positive contributions to productive and sustainable agriculture.

**John Uhren, Head, Sustainable Finance, Products and Strategy, BMO Financial Group**



John leads product development and strategic initiatives across the enterprise, including raising capital and providing sustainable finance opportunities to clients. John is also a member of the CSA Group's Transition and Sustainable Finance Technical Committee.

Prior to joining the Sustainable Finance team, John was Senior Counsel and Director in Capital Markets Legal at BMO. In this role he led Invest for Infinity, an enterprise-wide team supporting the development of ESG-themed investment products. John was also co-head of BMO's Pro Bono Committee, and in 2017 won Lexpert's Rising Star Award as a top Canadian lawyer under 40.

John founded Feet Forward Organization in 2013, a Canadian registered charity that partners with NGO agencies in South Africa to assist refugees, asylum-seekers and newly landed immigrants. He is currently a board member of Dress for Success Toronto.

**Steven R. Webb, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Institute for Food Security**



Steven Webb, PhD, is the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS). Steven joined GIFS in 2019, following a 23-year career with Corteva Agriscience (formerly Dow AgroSciences) in Indianapolis, Indiana, United States. His most recent role at Corteva was Research and Development Director of External Technology, where he led many research collaborations with private sector companies, research institutes and universities around the globe. He also developed and deployed Corteva's external innovation partnership process for driving new products and technologies to accelerate innovation across the seed, crop protection and digital platforms.

Previously, Steven served as a member of the research and development leadership team and the Seeds Global Business team of Dow AgroSciences, with responsibility for external technology, intellectual property development and early stage commercial assessment activities. He was also actively engaged in the regulatory and approval process for the Dow:DuPont merger and subsequent establishment of Corteva Agriscience. Steven has over two decades of expertise in developing and managing multidisciplinary enterprises and new business opportunities. He earned a PhD in immunochemistry (1998), a Master's degree in biochemistry (1992) and a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology (1990) from the University of Guelph, Ontario.