



Webinar on
**Challenges to Agriculture
and their Solutions
in the Global South**

September 09, 2020
at 03:00 p.m. (GMT +5)



In the framework of the 2030 Global Development Agenda Sustainable Development Goal: 2 on “Zero Hunger” aims at ending all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030. However according to the United Nations the world is not on track to achieve zero hunger by 2030 because number of people facing food deprivation is increasing and food insecurity is growing. This is largely due to climate change because agriculture is most exposed and vulnerable to impacts of climate change.

Climate change is increasing severity and frequency of extreme weather events. Crops and livestock are sensitive to temperature and precipitation. Global warming, variability in rainfall patterns, frequent natural disasters and growing diseases and pests are hurting agricultural production, disrupting food supply chains and stressing people’s ability to access affordable food.

Agriculture-driven economic growth, food security and poverty reduction efforts are at risk. Estimates show that number of hungry and undernourished people will further increase in the Global South. Competing uses of scarce natural resources such as water and land are potentially threatening social stability in many countries in the Global South.

Additionally, agriculture is one of the major contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions. It accounts for more than two-third of freshwater water use and generates unsustainable levels of pollution and waste due to unsustainable agricultural practices including use of synthesized fertilizer and pesticides.

To discuss the important challenges facing the food system in the Global South and the obstacles that stand in the way of overcoming them, COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) is organizing a webinar on “Challenges to Agriculture and their solutions in the Global South” on Wednesday, 9th September, 2020 @ 3pm (GMT+5). The purpose of holding this webinar is to gather scientists, experts and academicians from different geographic regions to exchange their experiences and knowledge to achieve better results for the food system and to identify potential solutions facing agriculture in the Global South.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Eduardo Posada

Dr. Eduardo Posada, Physicist, presently serving as Director of Centro Internacional de Fisica (CIF) in Bogota, Colombia and President of the Colombian Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Posada is former chairperson of COMSATS Coordinating Council.



Dr. Mamma Sawaneh

Dr. Mama Sawaneh is a professor at School of Agriculture and Environmental Science, University of The Gambia. **(to be confirmed)**



Dr. Edward YEBOAH

Dr. Edward YEBOAH is serving as principal research scientist and Deputy Director at Council for Scientific and Industrial Research- Soil Research Institute, Ghana. His research interest focused on Managing soil with in the Nexus of Water, Energy, and Food Security in order to achieve Sustainable Development. He has also interest in unraveling the mechanism underlying nutrient and soil organic matter dynamics in tropical agro ecosystems.

Dr YEBOAH is also member of Several international research committees i.e Global Research Alliance, Coordination for International Research Cooperation on Soil- carbon Sequestration, and Soil Organic Carbon in Agriculture- International research Consortium. He is also author of 30 high impact factor research publications.



Dr. Masnat Al Hiary

Dr. Masnat Al Hiary is macroeconomic expert and currently serving as Director of Socio-Economic Research Directorate at National Agricultural Research Council of Jordan. Dr. Al Hiary is also coordinator of sub project "Jordan Valley Water Sustainability and Agribusiness Competitiveness" funded by UNFCCC.

Dr. Al Hiary earned her Ph.D on the topic Competitiveness of Jordanian Exports, of Selected Fruits and Vegetables in Arab Gulf Countries from University of Jordan in 2007. She has 22 years of research experience in the area of Agricultural Economics



Dr. Muhammad Abid

Dr. Muhammad Abid is agricultural economist and human geographer and work as Assistant Professor at COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan. His research focuses on human-environmental interactions, climate-smart agriculture, DRR, water resource management and governance. He is the principal investigator for two international projects, "Identification and Up-Scaling of Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices in Himalaya" funded by APN-GCR and "Sustainable Bioenergy in emerging economies" funded by PSF and NSFC, China.

Dr. Abid earned his Ph.D. from University of Hamburg, Germany with focus on vulnerability and adaptive capacity of farming communities in Pakistan. He authored more than 37 peer-reviewed publications and served as reviewer for several scientific journals.



Dr. Ranjith Premalal De Silva

Dr. Ranjith Premalal De Silva is a Sri Lankan Professor of Agricultural Engineering and former Vice Chancellor of the Uva Wellassa University. Presently, he is serving as Director and CEO of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Sri Lanka with several additional positions i.e. Co-Chairperson, Presidential Task Force Core Group on Vocational and Professional Education Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovations, Competent Authority/ Vice Chancellor, University of Vocational Technology and Chairman Board of Study in Agricultural Engineering Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Dr. De Silva received his doctorate degree in Agricultural Engineering from Cranfield University, United Kingdom. He is a foundation member of Geo-Informatics Society of Sri Lanka.



Moderator

Dr. Ghulam Haider

Assistant Professor
Department of Plant Biotechnology,
National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86928189346?pwd=WGJWRUcyZWJON0Z5SDY5TkdkPc1BZdz09>

Meeting ID: 869 2818 9346 Passcode: 217407

for Information Please Contact

Mr. Saifullah Dilazak
Email: saif.ccs@comsats.org

3:00-3:05 - Welcome Remarks

Ambassador Shahid Kamal, Head CCCS

03:05-03:20 - CIF's activities for mitigating the impact of climate change on agriculture in Colombia

Dr. Eduardo Posada, Director of Centro Internacional de Fisica (CIF), Bogota, Colombia.

03:20-03:35 - (to be confirmed)

Dr. Mamma Sawaneh, Professor, School of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, University of The Gambia

03:35-03:50 - Unconventional Farming Methods Could Help Smallholders Fight Back Against Climate Change

Dr. Edward YEBOAH, Principal Research Scientist and Deputy Director, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research- Soil Research Institute, Ghana.

03:50-04:05 - The Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus: Challenges and Opportunities for Food Security in Jordan

Dr. Masnat Al-Hiary, Director of Socio-Economic Research Directorate at National Agricultural Research Council of Jordan

04:05-04:20 - Climate Change, Agriculture and Migration: Curtailing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience

Dr. Muhammad Abid, Assistant Professor Centre for Climate Research and Development, COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan

04:20-04:35 - Policy Adjustments in Agriculture and Food Security in the New Normal: Sri Lankan Response

Senior Professor Ranjith Premalal De Silva, CEO of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian and Research Institute, Sri Lanka

04:35-04:55 - Session 3: Panel Discussion & Q/A:

Moderator: Dr. Ghulam Haider, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Biotechnology, National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan

04:55-5:00 - Session 4: Closing Remarks

Dr. Saeed A. Asad, Assistant Professor, Centre for Climate Research and Development, COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan