



# Launch Event: Global Climate Change, Farming and Food: How Ireland Can Help Address the Challenges



sharing knowledge | enhancing research | informing policy | enabling collaboration



Cover image: Malidadi Chilonga grows rice on her land in a remote part of northern Malawi. Gorta-Self Help Africa. 2015.

# Launch of the Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development (IFIAD)

## Global Climate Change, Farming and Food: How Ireland Can Help Address the Challenges

13 October 2016, RDS, Minerva Suite 09.00-13.45

### Agenda

<b>Official launch</b> Chaired by Fergal Keane – RTE	
08.30–09.00	Registration
09.00–09.15	<i>Welcome and Introductory Remarks</i> Forum Chair, Lance O'Brien, Head of Strategy and International Relations, Teagasc
09.15–10.00:	<i>Facilitating Evidence Based Agricultural Sector Policy Planning and Implementation for Improved Growth and Food Security Outcomes in Africa</i> Ousmane Badiane, Co-Chair of the Montpellier-Malabo Panel of Experts and Africa Director for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
10.00–10.20	<i>Launch of the Forum</i> Mr Joe McHugh TD, Minister of State for the Diaspora and Overseas Development Aid
10.20–10.30	<i>IFAD's Rural Development Report 2016</i> Paul Winters, Director, Research and Impact Assessment Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
10.30–10.40	<i>The Experience of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)</i> Boaz Keizire, Head of Policy, AGRA
10.40–10.50	Observations from the Floor and Q&A
10.50–11.10	Coffee Break

<b>Workshop – roundtable format</b> Chaired by Olive Moore – Trocaire	
11.10–11.20	Information on Working Group Discussion
11.20–12.10	Working Groups Discussion on Thematic Priorities for the Forum
12.10–12.40	Reports of Roundtables to Plenary
12.40–13.00	<i>Sector Perspectives:</i> NGOs (Isabella Rae, Head of Policy and Research, Gorta-Self Help Africa), Private Sector (Hazel Chu, Head of Corporate and Trade Communications, DIAGEO), Teagasc (Prof Gerry Boyle, Director), Academia (Prof. Charles Spillane, Plant & AgriBiosciences Research Centre, NUI Galway)
13.00–13.15	<i>Commentary by Irish Aid</i> , Nicola Brennan (Head of Policy)
13.15–13.30	<i>Strengthening Household Resilience: An Eritrean-Irish Model of Partnership</i> Ghebremeskel Tewolde Ghebreselassie, Director of Agricultural Infrastructure and Project Coordinator of Climate Change Adaptation, Ministry of local government, Anseba Regional Administration and Wenghelawit Asrat Tefera, Project Officer and Green Zone Coordinator, Vita Eritrea.
13.30–13.40	Observations from the Floor and Q&A
13.40–13.45	Close and Way Forward: Forum Chair

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# Working Groups

## Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)

**Lead: Charles Spillane (NUI Galway)**

### Area of Interest

Climate smart agriculture (CSA) approaches aim to sustainably increase productivity, enhance resilience (adaptation), reduce/remove GHGs (mitigation) while enhancing food security and development goals. To meet the climate change challenges facing agriculture and food systems, CSA will require a swathe of improvements and innovations in agricultural productivity, adaptation and mitigation to be rapidly developed and adopted at scale by the world's farmers and agri-food value chains.

Different farming and livelihood systems will require different portfolios of CSA practices and approaches, that; (a) support commercially and socially viable agriculture-based production systems; (b) ensure ecosystem services for sustainability, and (c) strengthen resilience of farming systems and vulnerable households against the impact of climate-change related shocks. While some development stakeholders are promoting CSA for mitigation and/or adaptation (including resilience) goals, others emphasise social justice, gender and empowerment dimensions of CSA activities. Recognising that CSA practices in one context may not be climate smart in another context, participatory approaches involving farmers and rural communities will be necessary to generate evidence of which CSA portfolios are most transformative for different agro-ecosystems and livelihood systems. The climate change challenges facing agriculture, rural livelihoods and value-chains will necessitate the development and deployment of evidence-based incremental and transformational approaches to both adaptation and mitigation in agri-food systems, particularly those of smallholder farmers and rural communities in developing countries.

### Relevance to IFIAD

A range of IFIAD members are engaged in development, testing, deployment, capacity building, policy and planning in relation to climate smart agriculture in developing countries (and also in developed countries e.g. Ireland). Recognising that there may be both differences and complementarities between the approach of different IFIAD members to CSA, there is potential

for improved CSA impact- and outcome- pathways to be developed and achieved through multi-stakeholder partnerships involving IFIAD members and partners in developing countries.

### Purpose of the Working Group

The IFIAD CSA WG aims to develop and resource-mobilise for multi-stakeholder partnership implementation, research and capacity building activities on climate smart agriculture with partner organisations in developing countries, particularly in Irish Aid partner countries. With partners in developing countries, the IFIAD CSA WG will develop workpackages/workplans that focus on:

1. Supporting and strengthening existing national CSA planning, CSA portfolio assessment and CSA cost-benefit analyses for scale up/out.
2. Strengthening CSA research, extension and innovation systems linkages.
3. Generating robust in-country evidence of CSA practices that deliver both adaptation/mitigation and development outcomes.
4. Development, identification, testing and deployment of CSA innovations to deliver incremental or transformational adaptation and/or mitigation benefits that strengthen rural livelihoods and food security.
5. Capacity building (education and training) partnerships with individuals and institutions in partner developing countries.
6. Identification and dissemination of policy and institutional options for generating more impactful CSA practices and innovations.
7. Critical analysis of CSA narratives, options and evidence for improved resource-allocation by CSA implementers and funding agencies.
8. Fostering mutual learning and understanding between IFIAD members of differing positions, interests, needs and value systems of different development stakeholders regarding CSA activities focused on smallholder farming systems and livelihoods.
9. Resource mobilisation for evidence-based CSA multi-partner projects and programmes with partners in developing countries.
10. Identify good practices, innovations and research findings on CSA in Ireland that may be applicable in developing countries.
11. Provide inputs to the development and review of national and international policies and plans related to CSA.
12. Bring case studies of CSA into focus in Ireland and present examples of successful CSA

approaches from developing countries that may be applicable in Ireland.

13. Identify how CSA practices, policies and plans in Irish agriculture and agrifood systems relate to CSA in other countries, particularly in relation to poverty reduction and livelihood resilience in developing countries.
14. Provide evidence-based talks and materials on CSA to Irish academic institutions, development organisations, government departments, farming organisations, the private sector and schools
15. Provide pre-service and in-service training and briefings on CSA for the staff of government, academic, private sector, farming bodies and non-government organisations.

### **Membership**

Open to all IFIAD members, developing country partners and international agencies engaged in CSA research, capacity building and/or development activities.

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### **Inclusion - Context Analysis for Pro-poor and Empowering Agricultural Development**

**Lead: Kate Brady (Irish Aid)**

#### **Area of Interest**

Agricultural development has the potential to benefit the millions of marginalized and vulnerable people who depend on the sector for their livelihoods. However, such benefits are far from guaranteed. Policies and programmes often fail to account for the complex connections between agriculture, poverty, and exclusion and, as a result, do not support sustainable and equitable advances in agriculture and food security.

The intention of this working group is to discuss the kinds of contextual analysis that can be undertaken, and are being undertaken, to provide the information that is needed for inclusive agricultural development, with a view to ensuring these are accessible and widely-used by all IFIAD members.

#### **Relevance to IFIAD**

The analytic tools discussed, and the improved understanding of agriculture-dependent livelihoods these yield, will be useful to the members of the Forum in different ways.

In general terms, by shedding light on how disparate groups engage in agriculture and agri-business, this work provides valuable information on how agricultural development impacts different people in different ways. This kind of analysis can provide useful insight and contextual information on rural markets, consumption and production, uptake of innovative technologies, and use of inputs. It can also provide useful data on other agriculture-related areas including social protection.

A thorough understanding of these issues, and of the complex connections between agriculture development and inclusion, will be of benefit to all those who are working in the agricultural sector, be it in the private sector or on research, in programme planning or policy formulation and influencing.

### **Purpose of the Working Group**

The working group will be a space for Forum members to:

- Share and improve their understanding of the connections between agriculture and exclusion in developing countries, specifically links between agriculture and gender, poverty, ethnicity, age, asset ownership, and political exclusion;
- Discuss the analysis and research that Forum members currently undertake on agriculture;
- Share evidence-based examples of 'inclusion' in the agriculture sector;
- Outline further information/analysis that we feel we need for our work - on research, extension work, development activities or commercial projects;
- Disseminate and discuss methodologies, findings and implications of agriculture-specific analysis;
- Source and share data and analysis of the agriculture sector in developing countries.

### **Membership**

Pro-poor and inclusive agricultural development is relevant for all Forum members as it links the expertise of the Forum's academics and researchers, the interests of its private sector members, the mandates of member NGOs, and the objectives of advisory services in the agricultural sector. Given this, the working group is open to all members of the Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development. It will be of particular interest to NGOs and those working in academia, the private sector, or those engaged in knowledge transfer in developing country contexts.

## Knowledge Transfer and Innovation in Agricultural Development

**Lead: Larry O'Loughlin (Teagasc/Vita)**

### Area of Interest

Agricultural development is central to the realisation of Agenda 2030 and the sustainable development goals. The implementation of good farming practices based on knowledge as a result of agricultural research in sub-Saharan Africa has real potential to significantly increase agricultural output across the region in Africa generally, in South America and in parts of Asia.

Agricultural development aims at improving the livelihood of farm families in rural areas across the developing world. The implementation of effective extension services can and will make a major contribution to these efforts.

While people and organisations will have different views of extension – ranging from a vehicle for transferring modern technology from research to farmers to a strategy for broad based participatory farm and community development, the real object is to support farming families in making the best possible use of the resources at their disposal.

The Irish Potato Coalition is an excellent example of a programme involving many Irish NGO'S (see below)



Sunday Esrah and Flora Nyirangaba. Kamwenge District, Uganda. Gorta-Self Help Africa. 2015.

aimed at improving the livelihoods, food and nutrition security of one million rural poor households in sub Saharan Africa through increased productivity and sustainability of potato value chains, with a particular focus on small holders, women and vulnerable groups. One of its main aims is to improve the quality of knowledge transfer within the programme.

### Relevance to IFIAD

The topic Knowledge Transfer is relevant to the work of the forum as it addresses all the challenges raised in:

- **VISION**  
transforming livelihoods of the poor in the developing world - by supporting sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security
- **MISSION**  
share experience, knowledge and innovation in agriculture for development
- **OBJECTIVES**  
particular emphasis on small holder farmers and promote impact oriented and needs driven application on farms”

For example, there is good technical expertise on potatoes in Ireland which has been applied in Africa through the engagement of Teagasc in research and development projects in Ethiopia, Kenya and Eritrea. There is also existing engagement on potatoes (The Potato Coalition) by key Irish organisations in private, public and NGO sector: Teagasc, UCD, Concern Worldwide, Gorta-SHA, Vita, Irish Potato Marketing, Irish Potato Federation, Bord Bia and others.

### Purpose of the Working Group

To examine and agree key action points with a view to implementing cost effective extension services involving relevant organisations within the Irish Forum (IFIAD) and in partnership with existing organisations and structures at national and regional level in sub Saharan Africa.

### Membership

Initially, membership of this working group would consist of interested organisations and individuals who are already affiliated to IFIAD. In particular, organisations with a track record of running/assisting extension programmes either in Ireland or in sub Saharan Africa such as Teagasc, VITA, Gorta Self Help, Concern, Trocaire and Irish Aid. The Department of Agriculture, Sustainable Food Systems, Third Level Institutions, Private Organisations and individuals may also wish to be involved.

## Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages

**Lead: Nick Chisholm (UCC)**

### Area of Interest

The extent of global hunger and under-nutrition remains a major development challenge: almost 800 million people worldwide go hungry and about 2 billion are micronutrient-deficient. It is obvious that agriculture needs to play a major role in addressing this challenge; however, until recently agricultural programmes have paid little direct attention to nutrition. This situation is starting to change: the need for nutrition-sensitive agricultural programmes is becoming more widely recognised, and it is notable that SDG2 combines these key issues into a single over-arching goal, to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”. However there is still relatively little evidence and practical experience on how to implement integrated agriculture-nutrition programmes.

### Relevance to IFIAD

The Forum brings together key Irish institutions and individuals involved in agriculture for development. It is important that agriculture’s role in addressing the challenges of hunger and malnutrition is well understood, and that this can be translated into appropriate policies and programmes for implementation in developing countries. Although the primary focus initially is likely to be on under-nutrition, many developing countries are experiencing the “nutrition transition” where over-nutrition is becoming a problem for some sections of the population. This is partly linked to the growing commercialisation of food systems in developing countries. Forum members have wide-ranging experience and expertise in these areas and the working group will create a space to bring together such expertise to focus on agriculture-nutrition linkages.

### Purpose of the Working Group

The Working Group will provide a space for Forum members to:

- Share and improve Forum members’ understanding of the linkages between agriculture and nutrition in developing country contexts
- Identify existing best practice in agriculture-nutrition policies and programmes
- Share information on members’ activities and plans in this area
- Develop guidance for members on integrating

- nutritional goals into agricultural programmes
- Facilitate capacity-building opportunities for Forum members and developing country partners in the area of agriculture-nutrition linkages.

### Membership

Membership will be open to all Forum members as this is a core issue in current thinking and action on agricultural development. It may be of particular interest to those with a direct involvement in design and implementation of agricultural and agri-food activities in developing countries, and also to nutritionists involved in multi-sectoral programmes which include agriculture.



Betty, Bohopa village, Central Uganda.  
Gorta-Self Help Africa. 2015.

## Whole Value Chain Development

**Lead: David Butler (Sustainable Food Systems Ireland)**

### Area of Interest

A common refrain we have been hearing from governments, donors, researchers, institutions and NGOs in relation to agriculture and food in emerging economies in recent years is a need to focus on “whole value chain development” approaches. This is perhaps a reaction to underperformance or uneven development – it is not hard to think of cases where isolated pockets of success in aspects of the value chain have been diminished in impact and benefit because they are disconnected from upstream or downstream participants. It is also perhaps inevitable if one accepts that the private sector has a very important role in development, as it treats all or most stages of the value chain as commercial actors, and so investment by the private sector eventually demands development of the whole chain.

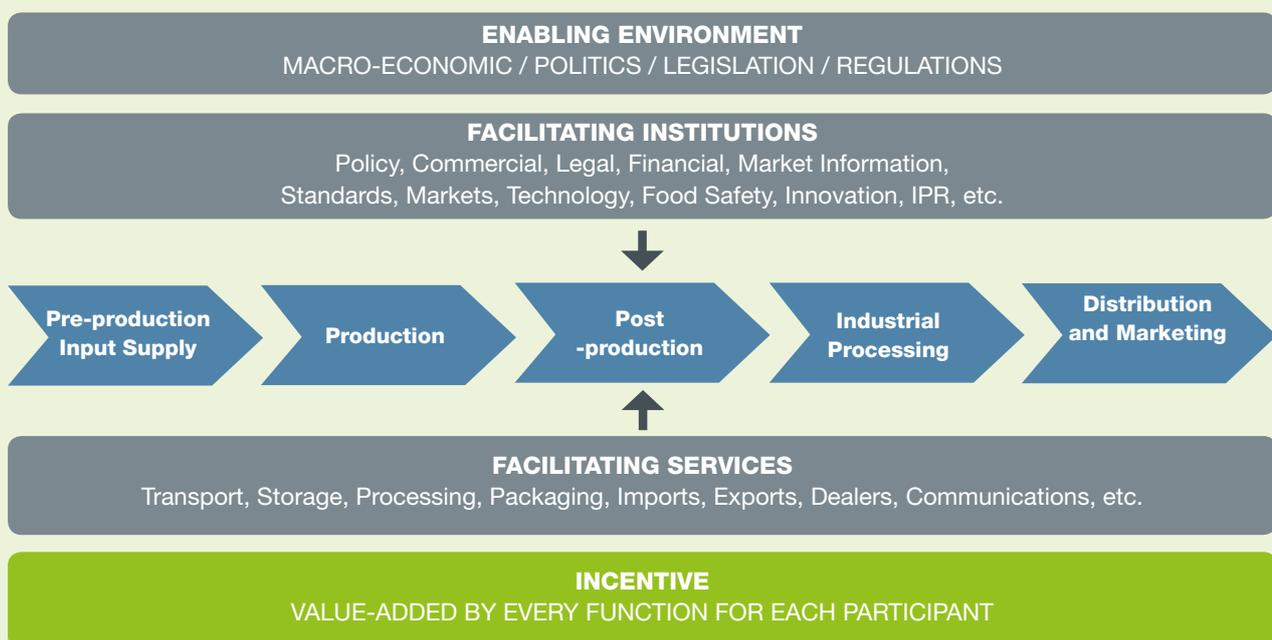
Even in cases of economic transformation, a renewed emphasis on the value chain is being promoted. For instance, Vietnam has become a lower middle-income country in the space of 30 years, with strong improvements in social indicators, reduction in poverty and better average incomes. Much of this success is

attributable to export-led industrialisation, including in agri-food. Vietnam is now the world’s second-largest exporter of coffee and rice. However, growth in these commodities has been achieved while many of the smallholder producers remain with very low incomes; environmental degradation, emissions and pollution put future prosperity at risk; and much of the emphasis has been on the production of large volume but mid- to low-quality product, increasingly at variance with consumer demand.

Influencers and IFIs like African Development Bank are also prioritising value chain development under their Feed Africa Strategy. This has identified 18 value chains, ranging from rice to livestock (with different emphases depending on the agro-ecology), and they expect member countries to prioritise a number of VCs from the list depending on their circumstances, probably 4-6 per country. A key benefit of the approach from the point of view of the Bank is that it makes it easier to leverage private sector co-financing. This is also the view of other proponents like Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) as they see a clear path to engaging private sector participation in inputs, off-take and financing roles. Whole value chain development has much to recommend it, but a number of questions also need to be answered – perhaps most importantly, is the approach sufficiently subtle and flexible to

## Annex - What’s the Value Chain?

Classic view



deliver sustainable growth, and how should the risks of inappropriate growth and over-reliance on individual product chains be mitigated?

### Relevance to IFIAD

If donors and governments in Africa and Asia are speaking of the need for whole value chain development, it is inevitably going to feature in any considerations of the design and effectiveness of technical assistance and development initiatives. Secondly, it could be argued that one of Ireland's key strengths in agri-food is in making diverse stakeholders and participants at different stages of the value chain work towards common goals. This, rather than scale, is a powerful tool and a key reason why anyone else should regard Ireland as an example to follow.

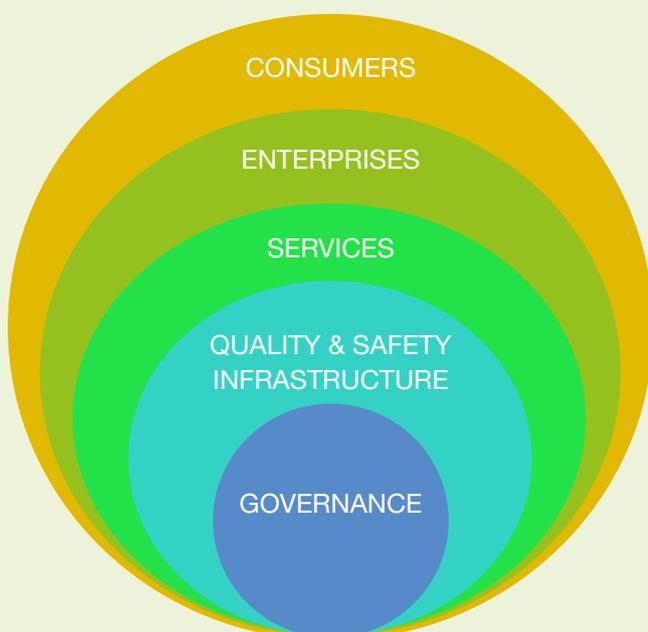
### Purpose of the Working Group

To consider what Ireland can offer in respect of approaches and experience of whole value chain development. To ask the question, can we influence by identifying some of the best principles of whole value chain development so that it is sustainable. Are there process models that be made repeatable regardless of the product area?

### Membership

Relevant to all members of IFIAD – in particular we need more private sector voices on this topic.

Alternative view



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## Speakers



**Prof. Charles Spillane**  
**NUI Galway**  
**IFIAD Vice Chair**

Prof. Charles Spillane is Established Professor (Chair) of Plant Science and Head of the multi-disciplinary Plant & AgriBiosciences Research Centre (PABC) at the National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland. Prof. Spillane holds a degree from Dublin City University and a PhD in crop genetics from Trinity College Dublin. Following his PhD, Prof Spillane subsequently worked on genetics of potatoes, tobacco and crop viruses in the Sainsbury Laboratory at the John Innes Center, Norwich, UK. Prof Spillane has over 30 years of experience

in the agricultural research for development arena, having worked at the at the scientific/technical level and also at the international policy level. During the 1990s, Prof Spillane was based in Rome working on agricultural research for development for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and also for members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR: IPGRI & CIAT). During this period Prof. Spillane worked extensively on provision of technical and policy advice for the inter-governmental political negotiations leading to the 2001 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. From 1998 onwards Prof Spillane worked on crop genetics in leading-edge crop and agricultural research centres globally such as Cold Spring Harbor Labs (CSHL), New York; The Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel, Switzerland and the Institute of Plant Biology, University of Zurich, Switzerland. Prof Spillane returned to Ireland (to University College Cork) in 2003 as

an SFI Principal Investigator, and moved his research team to NUI Galway in 2010. In NUI Galway, Prof. Spillane has spearheaded the establishment of the multi-disciplinary Plant & AgriBiosciences Research Centre (PABC) which has over 30 inter-disciplinary research teams comprising over 100 full time researchers and PhD students conducting advanced agri-research. The inter-disciplinary PABC collaborates closely with a range of CGIAR institutes (e.g. CIAT, ICRISAT, IITA, CIP etc) and other development partners with research on crops, livestock, nutrition, soils, climate change, gender and policy analysis underway in a range of developing countries. Prof. Spillane is the Director of the MSc in Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (MScCCAFS) program established by the NUI Galway PABC in close collaboration with the CGIAR's global CCAFS program. Prof. Spillane is the Vice-Chair of the Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development (IFIAD). Website: [plantagbiosciences.org](http://plantagbiosciences.org)



**Prof. Gerry Boyle**  
**Teagasc**

Professor Gerry Boyle was appointed Director of Teagasc – the agricultural and food development authority for Ireland – on 1st October 2007. Teagasc conducts research on agriculture and food; provides extension services to Irish agriculture; and is the sole provider

of vocational education programmes to the sector and is also a provider of courses in higher education. Gerry is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the National University of Ireland (NUI), Maynooth and former Head of its Economic Department. He also holds an Adjunct Professorship at the University of Missouri, Columbia. He was previously a Senior Research Officer with the Agricultural Institute and an Economist with the Central Bank of Ireland. From 1995-1997 he served as Economic Adviser to the Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister), Mr John Bruton T.D. Prior to his position at Teagasc he was a Senior Associate with Farrell Grant Sparks Consulting and a Senior International Consultant, specialising

in agricultural policy, with the World Bank on a number of their projects in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Tajikistan. Professor Boyle is a past President of the Irish Economic Association and of the Agricultural Economics Society of Ireland. He has also served as Editor of the Economic and Social Review, the European Review of Agricultural Economics and the Irish Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. Professor Boyle has published an extensive range of papers and reports on public policy issues in national and EU media. He is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy (M.R.I.A.).



**Boaz Keizire  
AGRA**

Boaz Blackie Keizire is the Head of Policy and Advocacy at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He holds an MSc 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.

Prior to joining AGRA he was working as a Head, Division of Agriculture and Food Security and Team Leader of a Pan African Agricultural Reform Program, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) at the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Earlier to this, Boaz was a Senior Advisor on CAADP at the AUC and before as a Head of Agriculture and Natural Resource Planning, at the National Planning Authority in Uganda and previously a Principal Economist and a CAADP Lead Person in Uganda.

Boaz has used the national skills and experiences to translate and influence actions at continental level. His work has raised the

profile of the African Union Commission in placing the institution as a leader in advancing political and policy agenda to mobilize the global community and African Member States towards Agricultural transformation through CAADP. Specifically, Boaz has been instrument and using country specific models and examples to change the quality of leadership of CAADP provided by the African Union Commission.

Boaz has written and published papers for ACODE, UNEP, FAO and UNDP among others. He is a Research Associate with Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)-an Environment and Policy Research Think Tank in Uganda- and also was a part time Lecturer of Fisheries Economics in the Zoology Department, Makerere University.



**Dr. Lance O'Brien  
Teagasc  
IFIAD Chair**

Lance O'Brien joined Teagasc (The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority) from the Irish Ministry of Finance in 1980, having previously worked as a researcher in the Irish Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI).

Since joining Teagasc, he has worked in the areas of corporate and strategic planning, programme

and project planning, foresight development and research management. He is a member of the Teagasc Senior Management Team with specific responsibility for foresight and strategy development and working with the management team to drive innovation in Teagasc and to support Teagasc's mission of driving innovation in the agri-food sector and wider bioeconomy, as well as managing Teagasc's Postgraduate Fellowship Programme (The Walsh Fellowships Programme).

He has contributed to national research policy initiatives in Ireland and to a number of Irish agricultural and food policy developments, including the two recent industry-led strategies – Food Harvest 2020 (2010) and Food Wise 2025 (2015). He led the two major Foresight projects undertaken by

Teagasc, namely Teagasc 2030 (2008) and Teagasc Technology Foresight 2035 (2016). He was also a member of the Third EU SCAR Foresight Expert Group, whose report-Sustainable Food Consumption and Production in a Resource-Constrained World, was published in 2011. He was a member of an International Expert Panel which developed a long-term science agenda for agriculture in Africa-Connecting Science-A Science Agenda for Transforming Agriculture in Africa (2014).

Lance has a particular interest in and commitment to agricultural research for development and the use of foresight in this context. In this regard, he is responsible for coordinating all of Teagasc's overseas development activities and contributing to various international organisations.



**Joe McHugh TD**  
**Minister of State for the**  
**Diaspora and Overseas**  
**Development Aid**

Joe McHugh TD was appointed Minister of State for Diaspora and International Development at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 19th May 2016.

He was previously appointed by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny as Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources with Special Responsibility for Gaeltacht Affairs and Natural Resources in July 2014. He was also Co-Chairperson of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly in July 2011. In July 2012

Deputy McHugh was elected as Chairperson of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. Deputy McHugh was re-elected to Dáil Éireann as a Fine Gael TD for Donegal North-East in February 2011.

Joe McHugh became a Fine Gael public representative in June 1999 when he was elected to represent the Milford electoral area as a Member of Donegal County Council. Cllr McHugh proposed the establishment of Donegal Youth Council, which led to the first democratically-elected youth forum in Ireland. Cllr McHugh was also appointed as Chairperson of ERNACT (European Region Network for the Application of Communications Technology), where he placed emphasis on broadband provision in border areas.

He was elected to Seanad Éireann in 2002 and served as Fine Gael Seanad Spokesperson on Community, Rural, Gaeltacht and Marine Affairs from 2002-2007. He was selected by Fine Gael as the Party's Donegal North-East candidate for the 2007 general

election. He amassed 22.6% to top the poll in the 2007 general election, and was elected to Dáil Éireann, re-establishing a Fine Gael Dáil presence in Donegal North-East after 10 years without Fine Gael Dáil representation in the constituency.

He was appointed as Fine Gael Spokesperson on North-South Cooperation followed in October 2007 and authored 'The Fine Gael Border Forum Report' in July 2010. This 16-page policy document set out the Party's plans for North-South economic synergies and for job creation in the Border region. Proposals set out in the Report are being implemented as part of the Fine Gael-Lab 2011-2016 Programme for Government. He established the Fine Gael Border Forum in February 2010.

Before being elected, Joe was a geography and maths teacher at Loreto Convent in Letterkenny from 1993-95 and taught A-level economics in Dubai in 1995-96. He worked as a Community Youth Worker in Glenwood, Letterkenny from 1996-1999.



**Dr. Paul Winters**  
**IFAD**

Office in Charge, Strategy and Knowledge Department (SKD) and Director, Research and Impact Assessment Division (RIA), IFAD.

He holds a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California at Berkeley,

an MA in Economics from the University of California at San Diego and a BA in Non-Western Studies from the University of San Diego.

From 2004-2015, he was a Professor in the Department of Economics at American University in Washington, DC where he taught courses on impact evaluation, development economics and environmental economics.

Before American University, he worked at the International Potato Center in Lima, Peru, the University of New England in Australia, and the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC. In 2002, he was a visiting researcher here

in Rome in the Economic and Social Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization.

He has published numerous journal articles and working papers in the areas of impact evaluation, migration, cash transfer programmes, rural development and smallholder agriculture.

He has conducted field work and managed surveys in Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Ethiopia and Kenya. From 2008 to 2015 he provided technical support to the Office of Strategic Planning and Development Effectiveness at the Inter-American Development Bank helping design impact evaluations for IDB-funded projects.



**Dr. Isabella Rae**  
**Gorta-Self Help Africa**  
**IFIAD Secretariat**

Isabella Rae holds a Ph.D. in International Law and an LLM in International Human Rights Law. She is Head of Policy and Research with Gorta-Self Help Africa (GSHA). Prior to GSHA, she worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Bioversity International, and the World Food Programme (WFP). She has experience in the design and management of technical cooperation programmes, with emphasis on Eastern and Western Africa, and with policy analysis and development. She is Peer Reviewer with the Interdisciplinary Journal of Human Rights Law, New York, and is a visiting lecturer in International Human Rights Law. She has designed and delivered training courses in food security and international law for parliamentarians and the judiciary in Uganda, Mali, Senegal and Togo. She has published in areas of women’s rights, food security and the right to food.



**Dr. Ousmane Badiane**  
**IFPRI**

Dr. Ousmane Badiane is the Africa Director for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). He coordinates IFPRI’s work program in the areas of food policy research, capacity strengthening, and policy communications in Africa. Dr. Badiane was instrumental in developing and guiding the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Before his current tenure at IFPRI, Dr. Badiane, a national of Senegal, was Lead Specialist for Food and Agricultural Policy for the Africa Region at the World Bank and adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies. Dr. Badiane received a PhD in agricultural economics from the University of Kiel in Germany. His awards include a Doctoral Degree Honoris Causa from the University of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa and induction as Distinguished Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economics. Dr. Badiane is the 2015 laureate of the African Food Prize.



**Nicola Brennan**  
**Irish Aid**

Nicola Brennan is the newly-appointed Director of Policy in Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Irish Aid’s Policy Unit is responsible for providing overall policy direction and technical support in line with Irish policies and interests as set out in Ireland’s policy for international development, One World One Future, and in The Global Island; Ireland’s Foreign Policy for a Changing World. The Unit works to ensure quality programming in Ireland’s overseas development work based on international best practice. Nicola holds a BA in Economics from Trinity College Dublin and a Masters in International Development from the University of Manchester. She has spent over 15 years in a number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia overseeing the implementation of large-scale development programmes covering a broad range of areas, including rural development, livelihoods, essential services and governance, human rights and equality.





**Ghebremeskel  
Tewolde  
Ghebreselassie  
Anseba Regional  
Administration**

Ghebremeskel is Director of Agricultural Infrastructure & Project Coordinator of Climate Change Adaptation, Ministry of local government- Anseba Regional Administration. He has a leading role in coordinating a UNDP project Climate Change Adaptation in Water and Agriculture in Anseba Region, Eritrea. As a Ministry of Agriculture representative, he has provided Vita with technical support to implement dam construction, irrigation, catchment rehabilitation, food security, and agriculture projects. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Soil and Water Conservation and has more than 20 years experience in community development across Eritrea.



**Olive Moore  
Trócaire**

Olive Moore is Head of Programmes at the development agency Trócaire. Olive's post graduate qualifications are in human rights and democratisation. In her current role she provides technical support to Trócaire's work across 16 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia on resource rights and use, women's empowerment, gender based violence, and governance and human rights. Olive has lived and worked in East Africa. Previously she has worked with the World Bank in Washington DC, Amnesty International and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.



**Wenghelawit  
Asrat Tefera  
Vita Eritrea**

Wenghelawit is Project Officer and Green Zone Coordinator, Vita Eritrea which she joined in 2014. She coordinates the Green Zone projects, which intergrate improved cook stove construction, water point repairs and the distribution of solar lights, as part of the minimum household package concept. Her role involves community engagement and technical consultation with home economists in order to align with Gold Standard protocols. She has a Masters in English Education.



**Hazel Chu  
DIAGEO**

Hazel Chu-Head of Corporate and Trade Communications in Diageo Ireland. Hazel qualified as a barrister and previously worked in the non profit sector, music and also technology. After voluntary teaching in China for a period she worked in Sydney and New York. She currently oversees communications for all of Diageo Ireland inclusive of brand, crisis, sustainability and CSR.

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## Contact

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## Notes

