Policies for Agroecology Event
15 July 2021

Speaker cards, titles and bios
Etienne Hainzelin
Advisor to the President of CIRAD

As an agronomist by training and with a PhD in plant science, Etienne Hainzelin has worked in a wide array of contexts and countries including long-term positions in the Ivory Coast, Réunion Island, Canada, Brazil and France. His first scientific works were centered mainly on corn and sugarcane but over time, he became interested in the links between the social sciences and agronomy, with a special focus on the interactions between social dynamics, governance models and global transformations in rural settings. At the French Agricultural Research Center for International Development (CIRAD), Etienne Hainzelin has played an active role in recasting and redirecting the research issues and scientific strategies of some of the major French, European and international centres and institutes in this field; he has also helped design new methods of impact assessment for research on development.
Fergus Sinclair leads ICRAF’s research into the contribution that trees can make to the productivity of farming systems and the lives of rural communities. This work has two main areas of focus: soil and water productivity; the work considers how these factors affect farmer decisions about which trees they incorporate on their farms and how they manage them. He also co-ordinates the Smallholder Production Systems and Markets component of the CGIAR Research Programme on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) involving the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bioversity and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).
Frank Place
Director of the Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM) CGIAR Research Program

Frank Place has been the director of the Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM) CGIAR Research Program since August, 2018. Between 2014 and 2018, he was a senior research fellow with PIM where he led its impact assessment research in addition to providing oversight to the program. Previously, he worked for the World Agroforestry Center in Nairobi, Kenya for more than 20 years on issues related to property rights, soil fertility and adoption and impact of agroforestry practices. He has a PhD in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Paulo Niederle
Professor of agrifood studies and economic sociology at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)

Paulo Niederle is a professor of agri-food studies at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), department of graduate studies in Sociology and Rural Development. He is a member of the Public Policies and Rural Development in Latin America Network (PP-AL) and the Research Group in Agriculture, Food and Development (Gepad). He is also vice-president of the Latin American Rural Sociology Association (ALASRU) and Latin American representative at the Research Committee, Sociology of Agriculture and Food, at the International Sociological Association (ISA RC-40). Most of his recent publications are related to markets and public policies for agroecology. He has a PhD in social sciences.
Arlène Alpha
Senior researcher at CIRAD

Arlène Alpha is senior researcher at the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) with specific expertise in policy-making in the field of food and nutrition security, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. After completing her PhD in political economy, she worked for 12 years with various NGOs as an agricultural and food-security expert. Since 2012, she has worked at CIRAD where she develops her research on policy-making processes for nutrition-sensitive agricultural policies and, more recently, for organic agriculture and agroecology policies for sustainable food systems. Based in Burkina Faso for the past several years, she has focused her research on nutrition policy agenda setting and inter-sectoral coordination issues. She is now involved in the animation of one of the six priority research topics for CIRAD on food systems.
Stéphane Guéneau is senior researcher fellow at the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), Montpellier Interdisciplinary Center on Sustainable Agri-food systems (MOISA). He holds a PhD in environmental sciences from Agroparistech-Paris and an MSc in Economics from Montpellier University, France. In October 2020, he travelled to Lao PDR to work in partnership with the Faculty of Agriculture of the National University of Laos. In the past, he has been a visiting professor at the Centre for Sustainable Development of the University of Brasilia (UnB-CDS) (2013-2018) and at the Federal University of Maranhão (2018-2020), Brazil. His research topics encompass both quality in food supply chains (sustainability certification) and agri-food policies analysis.
Vincent Gitz is the director of FTA and ex-officio member of the Independent Steering Committee. Engineer of Ecole Polytechnique (1994), France, he holds a PhD from AgroParisTech on land-use and global climate policies that was awarded the Le Monde Prize for academic research. He previously worked for CIRAD, the International Research Center on Environment and Development (CIRED) and with the Energy Planning Program of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He served as adviser for environment, sustainable development and research to the French minister of agriculture and fisheries, Michel Barnier, from 2007-2009, and just prior to joining CIFOR, he was assistant director for food policy at the French Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forests. From 2010 to 2015, Vincent was coordinator of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), the science-policy interface of United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
Saliou Ngom
Director of the Plant Protection Directorate (DPV) and President of the National Federation for Organic Agriculture (FENAB), Sénégal

Currently the director of the Plant Protection Directorate (DPV) and President of the National Federation for Organic Ecological Agriculture (FENAB) in Sénégal, Dr. Saliou Ngom is a senior researcher with 20 years of experience studying agriculture and the agri-food industry. He has also acted as an adviser to producers on the sustainable intensification of production systems. A biologist by training, he holds a master’s degree in science. In his research, he focuses on the potential for organic matter to improve the quality of soils. Among his many previous positions, he has coordinated several national and regional-level projects on the implementation of development projects related to agroecology and has invested in the sustainable intensification of production systems for food and national security.
Bernard Hubert, member of the French Académie d'Agriculture, is an emeritus senior scientist at the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and professor at the Advanced School for the Social Sciences (EHESS). Trained as an ecologist, his work has broadened as he has questioned the role of human activities in nature; he seeks to understand the contribution of the social sciences to issues in the life sciences. He has written about 80 papers in scientific journals, as well as 100 book chapters. In addition, he has edited or co-edited 25 books and supervised 26 PhD theses.
Cláudia Oliveira has a degree in Veterinary Medicine from the Federal University of Bahia and an MBA in Sustainable Regional Development from the University of Brasília (2009). From 2004 to 2009, she worked at the Banco do Brasil with credit analysis for the PRONAF (Brazilian National Program for Strengthening Family Farming). Since 2009, Cláudia has worked at Banco do Brasil Foundation, where she has acted as a strategic advisor for projects that support the diffusion of social technologies with an agroecological base. As Senior Advisor, in 2014 she participated in the formulation and implementation of the Ecoforte Program. Currently, she is responsible for managing the Environment and Income Program of Banco do Brasil Foundation, which aims to preserve the environment and assure people’s resilience to climate change.
Fernanda Rocha
Senior Regional Technical Specialist in Rural Institutions for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, IFAD

Fernanda Thomaz da Rocha is the Senior Regional Technical Specialist in Rural Institutions for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Before joining IFAD she was a senior manager at the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) with 15 years of experience in development projects. As manager of the Social Fund for BNDES, she has led the design and supervision of several projects to combat rural poverty and increase the productivity, resilience and income of family farmers in Brazil. Since joining IFAD, she has been working to strengthen farmers’ organizations and rural institutions, farmer-centred advisory services, agroecology, and territorial development approaches. Fernanda has a background in Social Sciences and holds a Master in Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley.
Les Levidow
Senior research fellow at the Open University, UK

Les Levidow is a senior research fellow at the Open University, UK. There, he has studied agri-food-environmental issues — especially technofixes, public controversy and alternative agendas. He has researched agroecology as an avenue toward solidarity economies and food sovereignty, initially within Europe, and more recently within the context of South America. He coordinates two projects related to these topics that are funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).
Sébastien Treyer has been the executive director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) think tank since January 2019; he first joined the institute in 2010 as director of programmes. He is also Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and member of the Lead Faculty of the Earth System Governance Network. A graduate from École Polytechnique, chief engineer of the Corps of Bridges, Water and Forests and PhD in environmental management, he was in charge of foresight studies at the French Ministry of the Environment. He also played an active role in leading the interface between science, policy and scientific programming at the European Commission, the French National Research Agency, and territorial actors such as the Seine Normandy Water Agency. Sébastien Treyer speaks French, English, German, Spanish and Arabic.
Natalia Estrada
Associate Scientist – Landscape ecologist, Multifunctional Landscapes Initiative, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

Natalia Estrada-Carmona is an associate scientist with the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). She co-leads the flagship program, “Enhancing sustainability across agricultural systems,” and leads the project, “Flipping the coin: managing agro-landscapes to tackle multiple global challenges through a landscape approach,” of the CGIAR research program on Water, Land, and Ecosystems (WLE). Her research focuses on estimating agrobiodiversity’s contribution to multifunctional and sustainable farms and landscapes. She believes that agriculture can play a pivotal role in achieving sustainability goals, but this potential can be tapped only through multidisciplinary and systems-level research. Natalia has contributed to projects in Latin America and the Caribbean (Costa Rica, Cuba, and Colombia), Africa (Zambia and Burkina Faso), and Asia (Vietnam). She has a PhD in natural resources management from the University of Idaho, US, and CATIE and holds an MSc in environmental socio economics from CATIE, Costa Rica.
Emma Siliprandi
FAO lead focal point

Emma Siliprandi, PhD, is the Lead Focal Point at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative, which was launched jointly in 2018 by FAO and its partners. She has coordinated FAO regional projects on food-security policies in Latin America and Caribbean for the last 10 years. She is also a professor and researcher for master’s courses on agroecology in Spain and Brazil. Her publications include: Women’s perspective on Agroecology (SOCLA/CLACSO, 2018); Gender, Agroecology and Food Sovereignty (Icaria, 2014); Women and Agroecology (UFRJ, 2015), and many other articles.
Paulo Petersen
AS-PTA Executive Coordinator

Agronomist from the Universidade Federal de Viçosa (Brazil), master in Agroecology and Rural Development from the Universidad Internacional de Andalusia (Spain) and doctor from the Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Spain). Executive Coordinator of the Brazilian NGO AS-PTA, board member of theAssociação Brasileira de Agroecologia (ABA-Agroecologia) and member of the Executive Board of the Articulação Nacional de Agroecologia (ANA). Chief editor of Agriculturas: experiências em agroecologia and member of the editorial board of Agroecology and Sustaible Food Systems.
Ernest Aubee
Head of Agriculture Division at the ECOWAS Commission

Ernest Aubee is a citizen of Gambia and currently works as the Head of the Agriculture Division at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission. He is responsible for the management of food and nutrition programmes and formulation of policies and regulations in the ECOWAS region. He represents the ECOWAS Commission in a number of steering committees, boards and task forces related to agriculture at the regional and continental levels. By training, he is a seeds specialist and has obtained undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in agriculture, seed technology, rural policy, project planning and SME Strategies. He has received both national and international awards.
Guy Faure
Senior policy officer, European Commission (DG INTPA)

Guy Faure is posted at the European Commission (DG INTPA) as an expert supporting numerous European Union (EU) research and innovation programs such as the DeSIRA initiative. Previously, he worked at the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) as director of the research unit for innovation and development, where he led research on advisory services, innovation support services and impact of research with the perspective to contribute to the agroecological transition of food systems.
Maria Tekülve grew up on a family farm in Westaflia, Germany. These experiences shaped her later interest in studying geography, sociology and tropical agriculture at the University of Göttingen. Her master’s thesis, based on field research in Southern India, dealt with the Green Revolution in rice growing areas of Tamil Nadu. Later on, she became a lecturer and researcher at the Free University of Berlin, department of geography, where she completed her PhD on structural adjustment and peasant farming in the North-Western Province of Zambia. After graduation, she worked for many years with GTZ and BMZ where she gained experience in bilateral, EU and multilateral development cooperation and politics. At present, she is a deputy division head and focal point at BMZ for rural development and agroecology, based in Berlin.