

PANEL 2



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION: AGRICULTURE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Agriculture faces major challenges globally on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, from the farm level through the supply chain. We have assembled a panel of three speakers to address diverse issues that are unique to developing world agriculture. They will bring a combination of personal experience and data-driven research to the panel discussion. We will consider issues in different regions and countries. We will discuss current programs and potential solutions. Finally, we will finally opportunities for new business models, technologies, and policies to drive change, with a view on how entrepreneurial thinking and entrepreneurial companies can address persistent challenges.

Panelists:

Agnes Quisumbing, IFPRI/CGIAR

Usha Barwale Zehr, Grow Indigo Private Limited /Mahyco Private Limited

Jan Low, CIP/CGIAR

Moderator:

Neal Gutterson, Radicle Growth

Key questions:

1. What are the key challenges you see for women and underrepresented minorities from farming through the ag / food supply chain?
Please be as specific as possible.
2. What issues or situations have you directly experienced working in the developing world that best represent the most critical challenges?
In particular, as a woman working in ag, what have you directly experienced and what have you observed with customers or stakeholders you serve
3. What solutions have you seen tested or are you developing?
4. What progress have you found in the past 5-10 years?
5. What new solutions are suggested by your work on ag in the developing world?

PANELISTS: AGNES QUISUMBING



AGNES QUISUMBING

- Senior Research Fellow at IFPRI
- Staff Member at CGIAR

Agnes Quisumbing, a senior research fellow, co-leads a research program that examines how closing the gap between men's and women's ownership and control of assets may lead to better development outcomes. Her past work at IFPRI analyzed the factors that enable individuals, households, and communities to move out of poverty over the long term, and on how resource allocation within households and families affects the design and outcome of development policies. Her research interests include poverty, gender, property rights, and economic mobility. She led a study on intrahousehold allocation and development policy in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guatemala, and South Africa. She has also worked on women's land rights in Ghana, the Philippines, and Sumatra. She has been involved in longitudinal studies in Bangladesh, Guatemala, and the Philippines, and is currently engaged in impact evaluations of agricultural development programs, focusing on their impacts on gender asset inequality, in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

A citizen of the Philippines, Quisumbing joined IFPRI in 1995. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. in economics from the University of the Philippines, Quezon City, and her A.B. in economics from De La Salle University in Manila. Before joining IFPRI, Quisumbing worked at the University of the Philippines, Diliman and Los Baños; the World Bank; Yale University; and the International Rice Research Institute.

PANELISTS: USHA BARWALE ZEHR



USHA BARWALE ZEHR

- Chairman & Exec. Director at Grow Indigo Private
- CTO & Director at Mahyco Private Limited

Usha Barwale Zehr is the Chairman and Executive Director at GROW INDIGO PRIVATE LIMITED and also serves as CTO and Director at Mahyco Private Limited (MAHYCO), India. Indian Agriculture is all about small holder farmers and given the challenges around Climate change, water availability and degraded soils, it is no surprise that farmers are not able to improve their livelihoods, despite an overall growing economy. With the objective of improving farmer incomes sustainably, we have launched a Carbon marketplace centered around the small holder farming systems to enable a “Carbon crop” that can be harvested and traded. Dr. Zehr’s focus is on empowering the farmers in a sustainable manner and the Carbon initiative is one such innovation. Digital platforms also create opportunities around access to inputs, markets and information in general.

“The smallholder farmers who we serve want to improve their livelihoods sustainably, and one way we can help them do that is to provide solutions which perform better, yield more, new crop in Carbon with a reduced carbon footprint and positive environmental outcomes”

PANELISTS: JAN LOW



JAN LOW

- Principal Scientist at International Potato Center (CIP)
- Adjunct Professor at Cornell Global Development
- 2016 World Food Prize Laureate
- Staff Member at CGIAR

Jan W. Low is an adjunct professor in Cornell Global Development and a principal scientist with the International Potato Center (CIP), based in Nairobi, Kenya. During the past decade, she managed the Sweetpotato Action for Security and Health in Africa (SASHA) research project and co-led the Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative (SPHI). The SPHI was a multi-partner, multi-donor initiative that reached 6.8 million African households in 15 target countries with improved varieties of sweetpotato, promoting their diversified use. Dr. Low obtained her doctorate in agricultural economics at Cornell University, minoring in nutrition. Having worked over 25 years in sub-Saharan Africa, she has focused with her team on developing and promoting biofortified orange-fleshed sweetpotato to combat vitamin A deficiency. In 2016, along with two CIP sweetpotato breeders (Maria Andrade and Robert Mwanga) and Howarth Bouis of HarvestPlus, Dr. Low was awarded the World Food Prize for her work on biofortification.

“Engaging with the world’s biggest challenges can only be done through a multidisciplinary approach that fuses science with direct action. I am thrilled to join Global Development and my Cornell colleagues to tackle food system transformation, climate change and the myriad of challenges facing the world.”