

Foods from the past, foods of the future - Investing in neglected and under-utilized species for resilient and healthy food systems

BIOGRAPHIES

Jyotsna Puri

Jyotsna Puri (or Jo) is the Director of the Environment, Climate Gender, Youth, Nutrition and Social Inclusion Division (ECG) at IFAD. She leads the team that is responsible for evidence-informed advice on programme designs and implementation, contributing to resource mobilization, and supporting IFAD's global remit in providing state-of-the-art policy advice related to these topics. ECG is also responsible for ensuring that IFAD's programmes build in social, environmental and climate safeguards while ensuring that IFAD's investments generate benefits in these areas.

Puri has worked previously at the Green Climate Fund, 3ie, UNEP, the World Bank and UNDP. She is also adjunct associate professor at Columbia University, New York where she was also a research scientist. She has published in many academic journals and written for newspapers and provided advice as a board member to several development organizations. She holds a PhD and MSc in Agriculture and Resource Economics and an MA in Development Economics. She is a national of India.

Irish Baguilat

Based in the Philippines. Currently the Coordinator for UN Decade of Family Farming and Women Farmers' Agenda at Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA). Worked with the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction for a decade as its Applied Learning Manager and Food and Nutrition Security Program Manager where she was involved in scaling up an integrated school food and nutrition program that promotes conservation and use of indigenous crops. Studied agriculture and community development.

Cristina Bowerman

Born in Puglia, in the south of Italy, Chef Cristina Bowerman is not the typical Italian woman, nor the typical Italian chef. Instead of hewing to merely traditional Italian dishes, she found it much more interesting to innovate her native cuisine using outside influences. A visit to the United States sparked this desire. After studying foreign languages and then graduating with a law degree, she moved to San Francisco, where she worked at Higher Grounds coffee shop. The multitude of ethnicities in the city—and their flavorful cuisines—all served to

inspire her to pursue a culinary career. As a hobby, while working as a graphic designer, she opened a catering company called The Two Skinny Ladies.

After reading about Elena Arzak's success, and realizing that women did have a place in the professional kitchen, Bowerman moved to Austin, Texas, where she attended Le Cordon Bleu. She then worked at several restaurants, including the prestigious Driskill Grill. But the lure of home drew Bowerman back to Italy, where she first worked at Convivio Troiani and then later opened Glass Hostaria in Rome. Because of her constantly curious approach to cooking—to seek inspiration anywhere, be it the grocery store, the street, or another restaurant—has led to a constantly evolving menu. And her innovative take on regional Italian fare garnered her two forks from the Gambero Rosso guide and a Michelin star.

Carlo Fadda

Carlo Fadda joined Bioversity International in 2004 in Vietnam, where he spent almost three years as part of a project to manage agrobiodiversity *in situ*. Carlo has managed projects in China, Ecuador, Morocco, Kenya, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, Uganda, and Tanzania, among others. In 2015, Carlo moved to Ethiopia to establish Bioversity's office in the country. From 2016, he represented all Bioversity's country offices on the Senior Management Team. For the last six years, he led the 'Seeds for Needs' research team, which matches genetic diversity to farmers' needs and brings material from genebanks back into production systems. His work centres on the understanding that conservation and use of genetic resources cannot be decoupled from rural development, livelihoods, and economics. He has a PhD in evolutionary biology and zoology from the Sapienza University of Rome. Carlo is also an adjunct researcher at Scuola S. Anna Pisa in Italy. He is based in Nairobi.

Alessandro Meschinelli

Alessandro Meschinelli holds a degree in Political Science completed by a Master in Environment-Population-Development, with further training in Eco-Pedagogy . After working for a private firm and the Italian Foreign Trade promotion institution, he joined the UN system in 1992 as evaluator of projects and then research officer at IFAD. He managed a multimillion grants portfolio enhancing the participation of smallholders farmers to knowledge generation as a means to empower them and increase the adoption of innovations jointly developed with scientists and technicians. Alessandro joined GFAR in 2017 to Coordinate the area of « Empowering farmers at the Center of Innovation » contributing to shaping its Collective Actions according to co-innovation and co-research principles applied to the governance of research.

John Mulumba Wasswa

Currently the head of the Plant Genetic Resources Centre of National Agricultural Research Organization in Uganda. With 30 years' experience in research and research management at

different levels, he pioneered the establishment of the Uganda National Genebank and the chain of Community Seedbanks across the country; facilities conserving Uganda's agro-biodiversity for sustainable utilization. John contributed significantly in developing several national policies and strategies. He has served in different capacities at the national, regional and international level. John was the founding chairperson of the Eastern Africa Plant Genetic Resources Network (EAPGREN) which supported the development of genebanks in all countries of eastern Africa. Member of the East African Seed Committee (EASCOM) which developed seed standards on which current regional seed policy framework is based. Internationally, John is Country Delegate for the negotiation of several international instruments including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Convention on Biological Diversity and Nagoya Protocol. Currently, John is the National focal point for the ITPGRFA; Vice-Chair for the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources; Africa region representative on several FAO technical working groups.

Maureen Muketha

Maureen is a Kenyan Nutritionist who is passionate about achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2. She is a Nutrition Youth leader, member of AT 1 leadership team and founder of a social enterprise called Tule Vyema. Maureen's transformative work through Tule Vyema has been recognized by local and global organizations such as UNESCO MGIEP, Food Tank, Croplife International, Oxfam and Global Changemakers.

Stephen Potter

Stephen Potter is an experienced international development specialist at Global Affairs Canada. He is currently Director of Agriculture and Food Systems, where he oversees Canada's efforts to support global food security. In his twenty-five years with the Canadian Government, Stephen has served in Peru, Honduras, Tanzania, and Ukraine. In Ukraine, he led Canada's efforts to scale up development assistance for reforms following the 2014 'Revolution of Dignity.' More recently, Stephen coordinated the creation of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy. Stephen has an MSc in International Rural Development Planning from the University of Guelph, and a BA in International Development from the same institution. He has three grown children and has recently taken up beekeeping.

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