



#IFADiNNOvationTalk No.15

# Digital Public Infrastructures for Better Climate Action and Food Security

Date: Thursday 09 May 2024

Time: 14.00 - 15.00 CEST

Register here:

[https://ifad.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZzBAViT9TLSCrUQQR0xJnw](https://ifad.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZzBAViT9TLSCrUQQR0xJnw)



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# ABOUT THE SESSION

Discover the transformative power of Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs) in enhancing climate action and food security! By leveraging the power of open, interoperable and scalable systems, digital public infrastructures (DPIs) have emerged as a comprehensive framework that leverages technology to empower citizens and drive digital inclusion.

DPI comprises technology building blocks powered by interoperable open standards and transparent governance designed to drive innovation at scale. This talk will explore the pivotal roles Governments and the private sector play in deploying DPI to advance agricultural practices. Attendees will learn how DPI benefits smallholder farmers by enhancing market access and financial services. It will demonstrate how DPI support inclusiveness and can facilitate the design and monitoring of agricultural policies and support disaster prevention and response. Finally, from a trade perspective, we will explain how a strong agriculture-based DPI can minimize operational costs for the private sector along the value chains by easily reaching underserved communities and fostering trust in transactions.

Participants will leave with a comprehensive understanding of the role of DPI in modernizing agriculture, making operations, data, and project management more efficient (targeting, M&E etc.), and opening up new avenues (environment protection, preservation, conservation monitoring, and increased access to market and revenues). This session is designed for policymakers, agricultural professionals, and stakeholders interested in the intersection of technology, agriculture, and economic development.

The event will aim to answer the following questions:

- What are Digital Public Infrastructures, and why are they crucial for modern agriculture?
- How can Digital Public Goods (DPGs) support the development of DPIs?
- How do DPIs enhance food security and agricultural sustainability?
- How can governments facilitate the implementation of DPIs to maximize their impact across agricultural food systems?
- Why should International Financial Institutions, Development Partners, and governments invest in operational DPIs?
- What opportunities could DPIs offer for new revenue sources for farmers, including carbon credits?

## SPEAKERS' PROFILES



**STEPHANIE KING-CHUNG HUNG**  
**Director-General Information  
and Technology Department**  
**ADB**

Stephanie is a seasoned IT leader with extensive experience in the private and public sectors. Currently, she serves as the Chief Information Officer and Director General Information Technology Department at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), leading digital strategies and transformation initiatives across the organization. Prior to ADB, Stephanie held leadership positions at IBM, HP, Microsoft, and other companies, accumulating deep knowledge in business IT alignment and digital transformation. Stephanie is passionate about leveraging technology for positive impact, and in her role at ADB, she focuses on using digital tools to drive climate action, economic growth, and sustainability in developing member countries. Stephanie is actively involved in industry organizations and holds prestigious recognitions for her achievements in IT and digital governance.



**MARA BALESTRINI**  
Digital Transformation  
Lead Specialist  
IDB Lab

Mara Balestrini is a Human Computer Interaction (HCI) researcher and practitioner with 15 years of experience in planning and executing digital transformation and innovation projects. She currently works at the Inter-American Development Bank Innovation Laboratory, IDB Lab, where she coordinates the implementation of the digital transformation program and advises on the use of disruptive technologies in operations. Within the IDB, she is part of the fAIr LAC+ initiative, aimed to foster the development and adoption of responsible AI in LAC. Prior to IDB LAB, Mara was a cabinet advisor to the Secretary of State for Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence of the Government of Spain and CEO of the innovation consultancy Ideas for Change. She is also a co-founder of SalusCoop, the first Spanish cooperative for citizens' health data.

Mara holds a PhD in Computer Science from University College London (UCL) and a MSc in Cognitive Systems and Interactive Media from Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) and a BA in Audiovisual Communications. She is a member of the board of trustees of the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC) and research fellow at ESADE's Center for Public Governance (EsadeGov). Her work has been awarded in ACM CHI, ACM CSCW, Ars Electronica, among others, and presented in international media such as the BBC, The Guardian, The Financial Times and El País.



**JÉRÉMI JOSLIN**  
Executive Director  
OpenSPP

Jérémie is the Chief Technology Officer of Newlogic and Executive Director of OpenSPP. He is a recognized technologist and thought leader in the field of digital public infrastructure and digital public goods, using open-source technologies to foster resilient digital ecosystems and inclusive societies. Jérémie's recent award-winning initiatives contribute to building stronger digital social protection systems for vulnerable groups, extend the benefits of agricultural services, and help individuals and communities to overcome shocks and crises. Over the last 20 years, Jeremi has founded various startups, including Collabspot, a SaaS company acquired by Accel-KKR.



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**DR. PHOMMY INTICHACK**  
Deputy Director-General of the  
Department of Planning and  
Cooperation at the Ministry of  
Agriculture and Forestry in Laos

Dr. Phommy Intichack serves as the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Planning and Cooperation at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Laos. He plays a pivotal role in the ministry's efforts related to planning and international cooperation, contributing to national initiatives on sustainable food systems and innovation. His work often involves engaging with various stakeholders to implement Laos' national strategies. Dr. Phommynis a thought leader in project design and monitoring and has a long experience in international development.



**MICHEL MOUCHIROUD**  
Director for Public and  
Corporate Affairs  
OpenSPP

An Executive Partner at Newlogic and at OpenSPP, Michel is the Director for Public and Corporate Affairs, leading engagement and partnerships in technology innovations, digital public goods, and strategic policy outreach for public and private institutions. Previously and for 20 years, he was a European Union (EU) official, converting trade, foreign policy, and sustainability objectives into agreements and cooperation between the EU and countries in South America, North Africa, and Asia & the Pacific.



**GLADYS H. MORALES**  
Global Head of  
Innovation  
IFAD

Gladys Morales is Global Head of Innovation in IFAD's Innovation Unit, where she leads the design and implementation of corporate innovation initiatives and partnerships aiming to support testing, learning and scaling up of innovative solutions to help the rural poor.

She is also currently the Regional Ambassador in Italy of the Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC).

Prior to joining IFAD, Gladys led the digital transformation of a range of governmental and United Nations agencies' projects in Latin America, Asia and Europe; and worked for the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) where she led the design of digital platforms and established partnerships and knowledge networks for the Global Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth (GPIG) Portal. She is also familiar with the startup eco-system having been part of the management team for a digital advertising startup in Indonesia and founding her own startup in Italy.

Gladys is a graduate from the Executive Programme on Digital Business Leadership at Columbia Business School, Columbia University in New York; and from the Executive Programme in Artificial Intelligence at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, United States. Gladys also has a Master's in Development Economics and International Cooperation from University of Rome, Tor Vergata and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and International Economics from Georgetown University.



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## Hosting organization

IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency based in Rome, the UN's food and agriculture hub. Since 1978, the Fund has provided US\$23.2 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached an estimated 518 million people. At the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) we invest in rural people, empowering them to increase their food security, improve the nutrition of their families and increase their incomes. We help them build resilience, expand their businesses and take charge of their own development.

## About Open SPP

OpenSPP was created by Newlogic, a software company that has worked with governments and humanitarian agencies to develop digital information systems for social protection for more than 7 years. These systems are currently in use in more than 40 countries.

Newlogic created OpenSPP to support the improvement and growth of effective social protection programs using open-source technologies. Their goal is to make it easier and more cost-effective for governments and humanitarian agencies to digitalize their social protection systems. Their mission is to develop robust and effective digital information systems which improve the coverage, efficiency, and effectiveness of social protection and humanitarian programs in low- and middle-income countries.

Their vision extends beyond technology. They are committed to developing purpose-driven digital solutions which contribute to more inclusive and equitable societies.

Newlogic believes that open standards and open-source technologies are critical for collaboration, resource optimization, innovation, and usability in the digitalization of social protection systems, and beyond, as countries develop their Digital Public Infrastructure.

For more information, visit OpenSPP website: <https://openspp.org/about-us/>.



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## Background to IFAD Innovation Talk no. 15

Founded in 1977, IFAD has a unique role as both a specialised UN agency and an international financial institution, seeking to eradicate rural poverty by strengthening food security and resilience. In 2021, IFAD ranked as number one by the Quality of Official Development Assistance Report, which evaluated the capacity of 49 countries and multilateral agencies to deliver impactful long-term assistance to countries in need.

In March 2022, IFAD adopted a new definition of and approach to innovation. IFAD now defines innovation as a new process, product or approach that adds value and delivers a sustainable, equitable, inclusive and/or new contextual solution to rural development challenges.

For IFAD, the most important innovations are those that impact poor rural people directly.

IFAD aims to catalyse the generation, testing and scaling up of solutions that have the potential to contribute to deliver equitable, better and greater impact for the rural poor by leveraging on learning, strategic partnerships, digitalization and the implementation of sustainable tools and guidelines.

### About the IFAD INNOVATION TALKS

IFAD Innovation Talks are a series of learning and knowledge sharing sessions, lasting one hour. They feature innovative approaches, tools, products and services developed by IFAD, its partners and the members of the IFAD Innovation Network in order to further the aims of the network. The Talks follow various formats: from interviews and panel discussions to TEDx talks and demonstrations of new technological tools.

Watch the IFAD Innovation Talk series here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHLkfcOqwa-xfcOsMqgSQte8K7yQ8zru5>

### About the IFAD INNOVATION NETWORK

The IFAD Innovation Network is an informal, democratic, non-hierarchical space to share ideas, good practices, tools and lessons learned on how members can use innovation to improve performance and better address the needs and challenges of our target groups and beneficiaries.

This group is open to IFAD staff, representatives of IFAD's members, fellow United Nations and Development Finance Institutions colleagues, representatives of academia, research centres, think tanks and the private sector, and those who wish to contribute to advancing innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Don't hesitate to get involved and share your ideas with us!

If you're not a member yet, apply to join us here: <https://ifad.dgroups.io/g/IFADInnovation>