

#IFADiNNovationTalk no. 4



Digital agriculture and the rural poor: Challenges and opportunities in delivering results

SPEAKER PROFILES

MICHAEL KREMER

Co-Founder and Board Member, Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD). 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics. University of Chicago



Michael Kremer is the 2019 co-recipient of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. Currently, Michael is director of the new Development Innovation Lab as well as University Professor of the Economics and Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago.

He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and a Presidential Faculty Fellowship, and was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. Kremer's recent research examines education, health, water, and agriculture in developing countries. He has been named as one of Scientific American's 50 researchers of the year, and has won awards for his work on health economics, agricultural economics, and on Latin America. He helped develop the advance market commitment (AMC) for vaccines to stimulate private investment in vaccine research and the distribution of vaccines for diseases in the developing world. In the fall of 2010 he became the founding Scientific Director of Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) at USAID. In 2015 he co-founded Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD) to pioneer digital agriculture at scale and advance innovation and research in the sector, and he continues to serve on its board of directors. Kremer received his PhD in Economics from Harvard University, where he previously held the position of Gates Professor of Developing Societies in the Department of Economics.

MEIKE VAN GINNEKEN

Associate Vice-President of the Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD



Meike van Ginneken is the Associate Vice-President of the Strategy and Knowledge Department at IFAD. Prior to joining IFAD in October 2020, van Ginneken was Chief Executive Officer of the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, a leading development organisation with 1,400 specialized staff working on agriculture, energy and water in 28 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Previously, she held various leadership positions in the water, agriculture and energy sectors during sixteen years at the World Bank in Washington D.C. and in field offices. Among others, she managed the World Bank's South Asia water program of over US\$5 billion and the World Bank's US\$4 billion energy program in West- and Central Africa. She holds a MSc in change management from HEC Paris Business School in France and a MSc in water management from Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands.

DONAL BROWN

Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department, IFAD



Donal Brown is Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department, at IFAD. He is responsible for developing and managing the operations that IFAD supports through its loans and grants. He oversees the programme of work of the department, which is undertaken by five Regional Divisions and the Operational Policy and Results Division.

Brown previously worked at the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) in a number of senior positions, lastly as the Africa Director, managing 550 staff across the continent. In 2014-2015, he led the UK's task force to Sierra Leone in support of the government's efforts to fight Ebola. Brown worked at DFID headquarters and in field offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America, covering all of DFID's areas of interest.

Brown holds a Master's degree in Tropical Animal Health and Production from the University of Edinburgh, a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Leadership and Management from the University of Warwick and a Bachelor's in Veterinary Science from the University of Bristol, as well as an Honorary Doctorate in Social Justice from the University of Winchester.

VIVIAN HOFFMAN

Seniro Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, IFPRI. Associate Editor, American Journal of Agricultural Economics.



Vivian Hoffmann is a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute and an Associate Editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics. She holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University and was formerly on the faculty of the University of Maryland, College Park. Hoffmann's research focuses on agricultural technology adoption in low-resource settings. Her published work includes studies on the adoption and impact of access to training and post-harvest technologies to improve maize quality and safety Kenya and Ghana. Through an ongoing randomized trial with Precision Agriculture for Development, TechnoServe, and Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung, she is evaluating impacts of in-person and phone-based training on coffee knowledge, agronomy practices, and yield in two regions of Uganda.

OWEN BARDER

CEO, PAD



Owen Barder is PAD's Chief Executive Officer. He is also a Visiting Professor of Practice at the London School of Economics, an adviser to the House of Commons International Development Committee and a Non-Executive Director of Social Finance, a UK non-profit. Previously, Barder served as Vice President and Senior Fellow at the Centre for Global Development (CGD) in Washington DC, before establishing CGD Europe and building it into an influential European think tank. Prior to his work in civil society, Barder was a British civil servant in HM Treasury, the office of the Prime Minister, and the UK Department for International Development. He served as private secretary to the Prime Minister and to two Chancellors of the Exchequer.

UZOAMAKA UGOCHUKWU

Country Launch Manager, Nigeria, PAD



Uzoamaka Ugochukwu is PAD's Country Launch Manager for Nigeria. PAD's services in Nigeria are funded via a new IFAD-funded project to respond to the COVID-19 crisis through the Rural Poverty Stimulus Facility (RPSF). Ugochukwu holds an MA in Global Human Development from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

PATRICK HABAMENSHI

Country Director, o.i.c., Nigeria, IFAD



Patrick Habamenshi is currently the Officer in Charge of IFAD's Country Office in Nigeria. Habamenshi has worked with IFAD for the last 15 years as an Expert in the areas of institutional capacity building, development of medium, small, and micro-enterprises, rural programme development and programme management. He has led designs, overseen implementation of IFAD operations, and provided strategic policy and programme implementation support across the African continent. Countries he has worked in include Burundi, Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Comoros, Congo, Congo DRC, Chad, Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Malawi, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Ghana, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome e Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Prior to joining IFAD, Habamenshi held two key government positions in his native Rwanda: Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce, in charge of Tourism, Cooperatives and Investments and Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources.

He holds a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar and a Masters of Art of Economics from the University of Toronto.

ZAHOOR UL HASSAN

Project Director, Digital Extension, Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab, Pakistan



Zahoor Ul Hassan is Project Director for Digital Extension at the Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab, Pakistan. He has over twenty 26 years of extensive & diversified experience in project development, implementation and monitoring up to grassroots level in the agriculture sector. He is an expert in social sector qualitative and quantitative research.

NIGEL BRETT

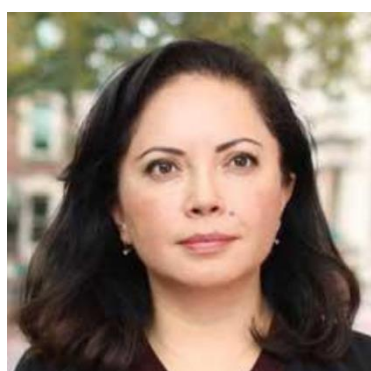
Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific Division, IFAD



Nigel Brett is the Director for the Asia and the Pacific Division at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Prior to this position, Brett worked as Lead Portfolio Advisor in the Asia and Pacific Division. He also worked as an IFAD Country Programme Manager for 16 years where he managed many diverse country programmes including IFAD's largest programme in India. Before joining the fund, Brett worked as an environmental specialist for Mott MacDonald, a global engineering, management and development company. Brett has extensive field experience in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Colombia, Guyana, India, Lesotho, Mali, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda, Suriname, Tajikistan and Vietnam. Brett holds an M. Phil degree in Environment and Development from Cambridge University and a B. Sc. degree in Environmental Science from the University of East Anglia.

GLADYS H. MORALES

Senior Innovation Adviser, Change, Delivery and Innovation Unit (CDI), IFAD



Gladys H. Morales is Senior Innovation Adviser at the Change Delivery and Innovation Unit at IFAD. She has led the digital transformation of Government and UN agencies' projects in Latin America, Asia and Europe. She is also familiar with the startup eco-system having worked in a management position for a digital advertising startup while she was living in Indonesia and founding her own startup in Italy. Before joining IFAD, Morales was an Advisor at 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. Morales of the Regional Ambassador in Italy of the Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC). She is a graduate from the Executive Programme on Digital Business Leadership at Columbia Business School, Columbia University in New York, has a Master 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.