

Innovation in Water & Climate Seminar

Water & Agriculture

22 AUGUST 2023
11:00 CET



What do we mean by innovation?

Programme

INTRODUCTION - DEFINING JUST AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL TRANSITIONS

DR VEENA SRINIVASAN, DIRECTOR, WELL LABS

KEYNOTE - WHAT IS THE CLIMATE IN WATER AND AGRICULTURE?

DR INGA JACOBS-MATA, IWMI SOUTH AFRICA

PART I: CASE STUDIES DEMONSTRATING INNOVATION IN WATER AND CLIMATE FOR AGRICULTURE

- **HANAN HASAN - REMOTE-CONTROLLED IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO ADDRESS WATER SCARCITY IN LEBANON**
- **WELL LABS - JALTOL: DEVISING FUTURE READY SOLUTIONS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**
- **ACRE AFRICA - PROVIDING INNOVATIVE RISK MITIGATING SOLUTIONS TO FARMERS IN AFRICA**

PART II: PANEL DISCUSSION ON SCALING INNOVATIONS - VEENA SRINIVASAN

PANELLISTS

- **DR ZAKIR HUSSAIN, RYSS, GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**
- **DR NICOLE LEFORE, DAUGHERTY INSTITUTE, WATER FOR FOOD UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA**
- **ALOK TALEKAR, GOOGLE**
- **INDIA CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE**

KEY QUESTION

- **WHICH ARE THE IMPORTANT LEVERS TO TAKE REGIONAL OR LOCAL LEVEL INNOVATIONS TO BE ADOPTED AT SCALE AND BENEFIT THE MARGINALIZED?**

WHAT ARE THE BIG TRENDS IN INNOVATION FOR WATER AND AGRICULTURE

COP28 LEADER

PART III: SUMMARIZING THE 3 INNOVATION IN WATER AND CLIMATE SEMINAR SESSIONS AND THE PATH TO COP28

- **DR VEENA SRINIVASAN, WELL LABS**
- **AMANDA GCANGA, WRI**
- **AMANDA LOEFFEN, HR2W**



Dr Veena Srinivasan is a water expert with 20 years of experience. She specialises in inter-sectoral water allocation, impacts of multiple stressors on water resources, ground and surface water linkages and sustainable water management policy and practice. In 2023, she set up Water, Environment, Land and Livelihoods (WELL) Labs, a research and innovation centre. It works with governments, businesses, multilateral institutions and civil society groups to co-create science-backed solutions that simultaneously create livelihoods and conserve the environment. Veena received her PhD from Stanford University and is an alumna of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. She has won several awards for her work, including the 2015 Jim Dooge Award from the European Geophysical Union, the 2012 Water Resources Research Editor's Choice Award from the American Geophysical Union. She chairs the Strategic Advisory Group for the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for UN SDG6 and was the Prins Claus Chair at Utrecht University, Netherlands from 2018 to 2020



Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata has over 15 years of experience successfully managing transdisciplinary teams in water security and multi-level environmental governance. Since joining IWMI in 2019 as Country Representative for South Africa and Regional Representative for Southern Africa, she leads IWMI's portfolio in Southern Africa, CGIAR's Ukama Ustawi Regional Integrated Initiative for East and Southern Africa, the Accelerating impacts of CGIAR climate research in Africa (AICCRA) Zambia project, IWMI's involvement in Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative (AID-I) and is also CGIAR Country Convenor for South Africa. As of 1 June 2023, Inga has been appointed as IWMI/CGIAR Water Systems Director for Growth and Inclusion and will continue her work in East and Southern Africa. Prior to joining IWMI she was the research group leader of the integrated water solutions group at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the Executive Manager for Business Development, Marketing and Communications at the Water Research Commission in South Africa. Inga earned her PhD in International Relations from St-Andrews University, Scotland and her Masters in International Relations and Political Science from Stellenbosch University (South Africa).



Hanan Hassan is a Geoscience and Environmental Engineer experienced in community-based agricultural projects in the Shouf Biosphere Reserve. Driven by her passion in water and environment, her goal is to seek the most convenient natural-based solutions for climatic resilience, to promote sustainability in agriculture and water resources, and to motivate the people in the community to participate in environmental protection and improvement. Along with her job as an agronomist and MEAL officer on "Saving Water, Growing Crops" project, she is a committee member in the Ecosystem Service Partnership- Lebanese National Network and a researcher on Water Harvesting for Sustainable Crop Production in Lebanon.



Dr Zakir Hussain is a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Programme) fellow, with a PhD from Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. An agriculture researcher with more than 25 years of experience, working on agricultural research and development initiatives in India and other countries. Having different experience in doing formal research with farmers in India on climate resilience, water, and natural farming practices. Established evidence and published many peer-reviewed papers through networking with numerous national and international research organizations, universities, and government agencies to act as an agricultural advisor in Andhra Pradesh and at the national level. His experience is mostly focused on creating evidence, conducting research, and establishing innovative models of sustainable agricultural practices, crop management innovations, and climate change adaptations in agriculture. Furthermore, having worked with ICTs in agricultural development as part of the GIZ CCKN-IA project, His areas of competence include project conceptualization, project development, stakeholder engagement, and stakeholder management. Extensive engagement in large-scale development initiatives, coordinating with state ministries, non-governmental organizations, private sector partners, and civil society organizations.



Dr Nicole Lefore has over 30 years in research for development, policy advocacy and project implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa. She has worked with policy think tanks, the International Water Management Institute (Ghana and South Africa), and led the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Small Scale Irrigation. She is currently the Associate Director for Sustainable Agriculture Water Management at the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska. Dr Lefore's focus is on water and land institutions and governance, small scale irrigation markets systems and finance, and gender and equity, and inclusive capacity development in international agricultural research. Her commitment to smallholder farmers globally is rooted in her family's farm in Oregon. She completed a PhD in Government at the University of Virginia and MSc in Development from the School of Oriental and African Studies.



Alok Talekar is a software engineer at Google Research and lead an effort focused on using remote sensing and machine learning to solve urgent problems faced by the agricultural sector in India and the global south. I was a founding member of the Climate Trace initiative, where I worked pro bono as a Google.org Fellow with WattTime. I have been with Google in various teams for over 8 years, and worked in the tech industry for over a decade. In my spare time I co-lead a fairly large grassroots climate solutions group at Google, who are collectively pooling 20% time at work to build climate solutions in a variety of sectors. I enjoy understanding the creation of ideas and business models, evolution of governance, technology and empathy, and the resulting impact on society and collective behavior



Amanda Ccanga is a Country Lead for the Urban Water Resilience Initiative and a Senior Urban Policy Analyst working with WRI teams in Africa and the headquarters. In her capacity as a policy analyst, she plays a central role in liaising with key stakeholders at the national government and local government level to create conducive ground for WRI's support on the urban development policy, providing technical support to key partners and identification of WRI's policy-level interventions in Africa. As a Country Lead, she guides the implementation of the Urban Water Resilience initiative in South Africa, including the identification of strategic intervention and collaboration areas for WRI city's work. Amanda has experience in water governance as a practitioner and a researcher. Prior to joining WRI, Amanda led a water programme at the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership based in Cape Town. Before joining the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership, she co-lead water governance research projects with the Water Institute of Stellenbosch University, the Centre for Sustainability Transitions, and the Centre for Water and Sanitation Research. Amanda holds a master's degree in International Land and Water Management at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.



Amanda Loeffen is CEO of Human Right 2 Water, and an experienced general manager and business development executive in water, energy and sustainable development, working on projects in Africa, Latin America, and South Asia, plus leading research in water and environmental law. Her goal is to provide sustainable solutions based on human rights to improve water governance worldwide. She leads a team of water governance experts to encourage law and policy reform. Current research projects include a global study on Resilience to Climate Emergencies, the link between the healthy environment and water, and the development of Human Rights Indicators. She leads the UNECE People-First PPP Stakeholder Engagement subgroup to realise benchmarks for developing human rights-based approaches, and she is currently on the steering committee of AGUASAN, co-chair of the Water and Climate Coalition, VP of the Water 4 All Stakeholder Engagement Board, and on the Strategic Advisory Committee of the World Water Quality Alliance. Previously, as CEO of a project management company in New Zealand, Amanda delivered environmental resource consent with stakeholder engagement for a community water infrastructure scheme for irrigation and hydro-generation.



Ishita Jalan is currently employed as a hydrologist at Water, Environment, Land and Livelihoods (WELL) Labs, where she focuses on utilizing data to develop tools that support data-informed policy-making. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the Technical University of Munich, with a specialization in water science and the application of remote sensing for hydrological modeling. During her studies, Ishita conducted her master's thesis research on the 'Hydrological performance evaluation of temperature reanalysis products for the Ouémé River Basin in West Africa.' She had the opportunity to present her findings at the European Geosciences Union in Vienna in 2023. Prior to her current role, Ishita gained valuable experience as a policy researcher at the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water in New Delhi. Eager to expand her skillset, she aims to integrate tools such as design thinking and systems research into her technical expertise to drive user-centric problem-solving.