

Eleventh Biennial Forum

**Water Quantity and Quality Management, Economic Production and
Welfare Implications in the Global South**

Cape Town, South Africa, 23-27 October 2023

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Forum Speaker: Chérifa Abdelbaki

Water Program Coordinator, Pan-African University, Institute for Water and Energy Sciences including Climate Change, Algeria

Prof. Dr. Chérifa Abdelbaki obtained her Ph.D. degree in 2014. She is a Senior Lecturer in Water Sciences at the Department of Hydraulics, Faculty of Technology, University Abou Bakr Belkaid - Tlemcen, Algeria. She graduated from the National Higher School of Hydraulics - Blida, Algeria. She is heading the research team: Water resources and mobilization (EOLE Research Laboratory) University of Tlemcen, Algeria. Actually, she is working as a Water Program Coordinator at the Pan-African Institute for Water and Energy including Climate Change (PAUWES), Algeria. Her fields of research are – Water resources management, Geographic information system, Water reuse, and Wastewater treatment.

Participant: Awudu Abdulai

Professor, University of Kiel, Germany, Germany

Awudu Abdulai, a Ghanaian, is Professor and Head of the Institute of Food Economics and Consumption Studies, University of Kiel, Germany. His teaching and research focus on poverty alleviation and food security, and adoption of improved agricultural technologies for sustainable food systems in developing countries. He previously served on the faculty at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH-Zurich) and has been a visiting scholar at Iowa State, Yale, and Stanford University. Awudu was inducted as Distinguished Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists in 2010, and was named Fellow of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) in 2020. He was also named an Honorary Life Member (Fellow) of the International Association of Agricultural Economists. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of Agricultural Economics.

Forum Speaker: Mahmood Ahmad

Chief Technical Advisor, RIZQ knowledge Hub, Lahore and Bangkok, RIZQ Foundation, Pakistan

Mahmood Ahmad is an internationally renowned expert on agriculture and water policy. He carries an experience of around 40 years, including 24 years with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, working in more than 15 countries. He carries extensive experience in water policy issues with focus on water demand management. Dr. Ahmad is presently working as Chief Technical Advisor at RIZQ knowledge Hub in Lahore, Pakistan and Bangkok, Thailand. Before that he was Professor of Practices (Adjunct Faculty) at Water Informatics Centre, Lahore University of Management Science. Also, he supported member countries in developing agriculture strategies and policy advice with donor support.

Participant: Hoori Ajami

Associate Professor, University of California Riverside, United States

Dr. Hoori Ajami is an Associate Professor of Groundwater Hydrology in the Department of Environmental Sciences, University of California Riverside. She received her PhD in Hydrology from University of Arizona. Hoori's research interest include surface water-groundwater interaction, hydrologic modeling and mountain hydrology.

Participant: Patricia Ávila García

Researcher, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

Patricia Ávila García has an interdisciplinary background in: Civil Engineering (UNAM), Master's in Urban Development (ColMex), PhD in Social Sciences (CIESAS), Post-Doctorate in Water and Global Change (Technological University of Helsinki) and International Specialty in Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD-Rockefeller Foundation).

Her main lines of research are: water cultures in indigenous territories; social and community water management; social impacts of water scarcity and pollution; water insecurity and socio-environmental conflict; and neo-liberalization of nature and effects on the socio-natural cycle of water due to agriculture for export (berries).

She is a professor and researcher at the Institute for Research in Ecosystems and Sustainability of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (IIES-UNAM). Since 2019, she is part of the Executive Committee of the National Strategic Program "Water for the common good" of the National Council of Sciences, Humanities and Technology (CONAHCyT), which seeks to generate inter and transdisciplinary knowledge to address the great problems of water in Mexico.

Advisory Committee: Christina Babbitt

Water Stewardship Senior Manager, Enterprise Sustainability, Starbucks, United States

Christina is the water stewardship senior manager at Starbucks. In her role, Christina serves as the company's lead water advisor, working across the enterprise and the industry to deliver thought leadership, overarching strategy, deep subject matter expertise and actionable guidance on topics including water, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture. Previously, Christina was program manager, sustainability and innovation, global supply chain at Starbucks, and has also served as Director, Climate Resilient Water Systems at Environmental Defense Fund, where she worked at the intersection of water, agriculture, and climate, with a focus on supporting the successful implementation of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Christina's past research has focused on water resources management in stressed watersheds across the western U.S., Europe, and eastern Africa. Christina holds a PhD in Natural Resources from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln and a MBA from the University of California, Berkeley Haas School of Business.

Forum Speaker: Xanani Baloyi

Programme Officer, Stockholm International Water Institute, South Africa

Xanani is a Development cooperation and international relations professional. She works for the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). Xanani has 7 years of international experience in supporting governments and stakeholders in transboundary water governance, global climate, and sustainable development processes. Her prime work area at SIWI is supporting the implementation of development projects that seek to make more public and private capital accessible for water-related projects in Africa: advancing the financial viability of these projects, attracting investment finance into the regional water sector, and strengthening national IWRM governance frameworks. She also serves as SIWI's Gender Equality Focal Point and contributes to the development of activities related to transboundary water governance and cooperation, gender mainstreaming, and attracting gender-transformative water investments, in particular Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Xanani has a

Master's degree in International Development Studies from Palacký University in the Czech Republic obtained through the EU Erasmus Mundus mobility program. She also holds an Honours degree in International Relations and a bachelor's degree in political sciences from the University of Pretoria.

Forum Speaker: Henning Bjornlund

Honorary Professor, Australian National University, Australia

Henning Bjornlund is an Honorary Professor at The Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. He is also Vice President of the International Water Resources Association. For the last ten years he has worked on the project Transforming Irrigation in Southern Africa (TISA)

Forum Speaker: Nicholas Brozovic

Professor, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, United States

Nick Brozovic is Director of Policy at the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska, and a Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He works to ensure that the institute's worldwide programs inform public and private sector needs around agricultural water management. Nick leads strategic programs at the intersection of policy, technology, and entrepreneurship. These include supporting irrigation entrepreneurs in the US, Sub-Saharan Africa, and elsewhere; collaborating with multiple agtech incubator programs; and advising corporate water strategy related to water use in agriculture.

Participant: Marcela Brugnach

Professor, BC3 - Basque Centre for Climate Change, Spain

Dr. Marcela Brugnach is an Ikerbasque Research Professor at the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) in Spain, specializing in collective decision-making under uncertainty in water management and governance. Holding a multidisciplinary education from the USA and Argentina, she brings over two decades of international expertise from her affiliations in Spain, Netherlands, Germany, and the USA. At BC3, she leads the research group Collab.

Participant: Julia Bucknall

Global Director, Environmental and Social Framework, World Bank, United States

Special advisor to Vice President of Eastern and Southern Africa at the World Bank. Has worked on policy and investments related to water and environment for 25 years at the World Bank. Based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Forum Speaker: Kirsty Carden

Associate Professor and Interim Director, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Kirsty Carden has over 35 years of experience working in academia, for government and the private sector in the field of urban water management in South Africa. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and is currently the interim Director for UCT's transdisciplinary research institute, Future Water. Her research interests include integrated approaches geared towards sustainable urban water management and the transition towards water sensitive and resilient cities.

Session Chair and Advisory Committee: Lucia De Stefano

Associate Professor, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain and Deputy Director, Water Observatory of the Botin Foundation

Dr. Lucia De Stefano is Associate Professor at Complutense University of Madrid (Spain) and Deputy Director of the Botin Foundation's Water Observatory. She has worked as an international consultant on projects for USAID, the World Bank, the University of Oxford, Oregon State University, and WWF International. Since 2010 he has carried out various research projects on water policy in Spain and Latin America within the framework of the Botin Foundation's Water Observatory. She has been a postdoctoral researcher at Oregon State University (USA), working on water conflicts and climate variability and the evaluation of water governance in North Africa and the Middle East. Previously, she worked as an expert in water policy for WWF International and WWF Spain and as a specialist in water and land management in the private sector. Her main areas of work and research are hydrological planning and water resources management with special emphasis on the interactions between scales and management areas, the evaluation of environmental public policies, drought management, the analysis of resilience to climate variability, and the evaluation of attributes of good water governance. De Stefano has participated in 14 competitive research projects funded by Spanish (2) or foreign / international (12) public bodies. Since 2008 she has been the author or co-author of 39 articles in indexed journals and 20 book chapters or technical reports for international and Spanish organizations. She has also been co-editor of four books and three special volumes in indexed international scientific journals.

Keynote Speaker, Session Chair and Advisory Committee: Ariel Dinar

Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of California, Riverside, United States

Ariel Dinar is a Distinguished Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy, Emeritus, School of Public Policy, University of California, Riverside and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of The Graduate Division, University of California, Riverside. He taught and still conducts research on water related policy and economics aspects. At present he co-leads a study on impact of and adaptation to climate change in California agriculture, and a study on development of a hydro-economic model for the Colorado River Basin to allow the evaluation of policy interventions aimed at sustaining the basin and the water-related activities.

Forum Speaker: Guillermo Donoso

Professor, Water Law and Management Center, Catholic University of Chile, Chile

Professor of Water Economics at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. He has researched water governance and water allocation mechanisms the past 20 years. He has over 20 years of research experience.

Session Chair and Advisory Committee: Qingyun Duan

National Chair, Professor, and Chief Scientist, College of Hydrology and Water Resources, Hohai University, China

Qingyun Duan is a Chair Professor in the College of Hydrology & Water Resources at Hohai University in China. His research interests include hydrological modeling and forecasting and impacts of climate change on water resources. He has authored or co-authored more than 200 peer reviewed articles and edited 4 books in hydrology and water resources. Dr. Duan is a Fellow of American Geophysical Union and American Meteorological Society.

Forum Speaker: Abdelmohssin El Mokaddem

Assistant Professor, AIRESS-FGSES-Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Morocco

El Mokaddem is an Assistant Professor at the FGSES-UM6P and a member of the African Institute for Research in Economics and Social Sciences (AIRESS). He is an Engineer and a Doctor in agricultural economics, graduated from the Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (Rabat, Morocco). Pr. El Mokaddem started his professional career, in 2004, as a consultant in an international consulting company in the field of agriculture, rural development, and natural resources management. He has spent more than 6 years participating and/or coordinating several large-scale studies carried out for the benefit of governmental institutions and international funders and development organizations (World Bank, FAO, UNDP, GEF,...) in Morocco and Africa (Senegal and Mauritania). During his last two years within the consulting sector, he held the position of Technical Director in charge of the management and coordination of all the company's projects and programs.

Pr. El Mokaddem has then joined the world of higher education in 2010 as an Engineer and then as an Assistant Professor at the Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II before joining the FGSES - UM6P in late 2018. From 2019 to late 2020 he held the position of Director of Studies in the Faculty.

A. El Mokaddem's current research center of interest is the multifaceted linkages between agricultural development, renewable natural resource management, and sustainability. More specifically, his research is about irrigation water economics including its productive use, management, allocation and its interconnections with soils, forests, rangelands, and water related ecosystem services.

Forum Speaker: Raymond Boadi Frempong

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Bayreuth, Germany

Raymond Frempong studied Economics (BA and MPhil) at the University of Cape Coast and PhD(Economics) at the University of Bayreuth. His research interests are development economics, health economics, the economics of child labour, rural and agricultural development, food security, and regional integration. He has authored several scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals including Energy Economics, Development Policy Review, Journal of Development Studies, Nature Communication, PNAS nexus, and World Development.

Forum Speaker: María García-Valiñas

Professor, University of Oviedo, Spain

Marçia A. García-Valiñas is Full Professor at the University of Oviedo. She is specialized in Water Economics, in particular in assessing water policies at the residential sector.

Forum Speaker: Caroline Gelderblom

Manager, Water Source Institutional and Financing Grameworks, World Wildlife Fund South Africa, South Africa

Caroline Gelderblom has over 25 years of experience in institutional strengthening, working with National and Provincial Agencies, in the environmental sector as well as at a municipal scale and with national research institutes. Her emphasis is on optimising the socio-ecological interface and on developing partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability. She has experience in public works programmes as a potential tool for developing solutions which promote sustainable environmental management and social upliftment. She has an understanding of invasive species management and catchment restoration. This is supported by a working knowledge of the implications of climate change for disaster risk management and conservation planning. She is currently working as part of WWF's freshwater team focusing on water risk and reducing exposure through nature-based solutions. Her emphasis is on supporting the development of public private partnerships to support better management of the country's strategic water source areas. Identification and alignment of mandates is

an important part of this process. She helped to facilitate the establishment of a national working group supporting cross-sectoral extension as a practical mechanism for strengthening implementation of policy. She has a particular interest in using feedback from implementation to inform the development of supportive policy frameworks and financing mechanisms.

Session Chair and Advisory Committee: Andrea Gerlak

Professor and Director, School of Geography and Development, University of Arizona, United States

Andrea K. Gerlak is Director at the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and Professor in the School of Geography, Development and Environment at the University of Arizona. Her research agenda focuses on cooperation and conflict in water governance, including questions of equity and access, institutional change, learning and adaptation. She is an author or co-author of more than 100 publications. Andrea has more two decades of experience leading interdisciplinary environmental studies programs and university-community environmental partnerships. She has consulted on water governance and climate resilience efforts for UNESCO and the WMO.

Advisory Committee: Glenda Humiston

Vice President, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, United States

Dr. Glenda Humiston has 25 years of experience working on agriculture, natural resources, sustainability, and economic development in rural communities. Prior to joining the University of California, Dr. Humiston was the California State Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, appointed to this position by President Obama in 2009.

Advisory Committee: Helen Ingram

Professor Emeritus, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine, United States

Helen Ingram is retired from the University of California at Irvine. She has written about water policy related to the Colorado River and transboundary waters. The emphasis of her work is equity.

Participant: Theresa Jedd

Environmental Policy Specialist, Theresa Jedd, Technical University of Munich, Germany

Dr. Theresa Jedd is a political scientist specializing in collaborative environmental governance. She is an instructor and researcher in the Department of Governance at the Technical University of Munich. Current projects include water citizen engagement and evaluating drought planning. She teaches the politics of existential global environmental risk.

Participant: Nikahang Kowsar

Editor-in-Chief and Host, Abangan, United States

Nikahang Kowsar is an award winning journalist who studied geology in Iran. He warned the Iranian public and officials in 2001 about the impact of poor water governance and bad management and corruption on the country's water resources. Kowsar produces a weekly TV show about water issues and is an environmental analyst for different TV channels including BBC Persian and Iran International.

Forum Speaker: Karabo Mokgonyana

Advocate for Human Rights, Women in Water Diplomacy Global Network, South Africa

Karabo Mokgonyana is an award winning Legal and Development Practitioner focusing on human rights protection, effective implementation of laws and policies and climate, peace and security. She has worked with several multilaterals (e.g. African Union, United Nations and Commonwealth), government entities (e.g. Constitutional Court of South Africa, GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Stockholm International Water Institute, the Department of International Relations

and Cooperation of South Africa) and civil society organisations (e.g. CIVICUS, Change.org, Sesí Fellowship and Skill Hub) to advise and implement development programs. Karabo is also a Columnist and Researcher who publishes on public interest topics, human rights protection and inclusion - researching on key areas like the role of women and youth in climate change, technology and agriculture and trade liberalisation.

Forum Speaker: Sylvester Mpandeli

Professor, Water Research Commission, South Africa

Prof Sylvester Mpandeli (PhD) is an Executive Manager: Water Utilisation in Agriculture at the Water Research Commission (WRC) since May 2018, he was a Research Manager responsible for the Water Utilisation in Agriculture from May 2013 to April 2018. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture at the University of Venda since August 2013. He was the Chairman: African Regional Working Group (AFRWG) of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the Deputy Chairman: South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) from 2015 to 2022. In 2022, he was elected Chairman: South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) 2025. He represents the South African Regional Irrigation Association (SARIA) at the International Executive Council (IEC) of ICID. Currently, he is a board member at the Applied Centre for Climate & Earth Systems Science (ACCESS), Board member at the South African Weather Service (SAWS), he's part of the Climate Change Advisory team that advises Premier of Gauteng Province on climate change, water and agriculture issues. He is the Chairperson of the Water JPI Advisory Board of the European Commission and co-chairs the NRF – NOW Advisory Committee from 2020 to 2023. He was recently elected as Vice President of the ICID.

Forum Speaker: Grace Muinga

Gender Specialist, Global Centre on Adaptation, Kenya

Grace Muinga is a skilled gender specialist with over 10 years of experience in gender training and integration across multiple sectors including agriculture, water, health & nutrition, and climate change within Sub-Saharan Africa. She has a proven track record of successfully developing proposals for funding and working with multiple donors. Grace is passionate about contributing to sustainable development programs that promote gender equality and women's empowerment. She is currently a consultant with Global Centre on Adaptation.

Forum Speaker: Daiju Narita

Professor, University of Tokyo, Japan

Daiju Narita is a professor at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Japan. He has earned a PhD (sustainable development) from Columbia University, USA. He is an environmental economist, and his main research focus is the economics of climate change, in particular, theoretical and applied evaluations of economic costs on various aspects of climate change. His other research interests include sustainable development (the environment and development) and energy issues.

Forum Speaker: Linus Nyiwul

Professor, Gettysburg College, United States

Linus Nyiwul is currently chair of the Economics department at Gettysburg College. Dr. Nyiwul joined Gettysburg College in the fall of 2009 as a Visiting Assistant Professor. He was appointed Assistant Professor of Economics and Africana Studies in 2010. Before joining Gettysburg College, Linus served as instructor in the Talent Advance Program at the School of Management, University of Massachusetts Amherst, from spring 2007 through spring 2008.

Participant: Soyoka Okamura

Graduate Student, The University of Tokyo, The University of Tokyo, Japan

Soyoka Okamura is a graduate student at the Graduate School of Economics, The University of Tokyo. She is currently working on the farmers' coping strategy against rainfall variability and policy options using long-term rainfall data in Zambia. Her interests include Development Economics and Household Economics.

Advisory Committee: Erik Porse

Director, California Institute for Water Resources, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, United States

Dr. Erik Porse is the Director of the California Institute for Water Resources and an Associate Cooperative Extension Specialist within the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR). Erik is an engineer, environmental scientist, and policy analyst who focuses on water and environmental management. Erik has authored studies on safe drinking water, urban water planning, sustainable groundwater management, flood risk planning, water reuse, environmental finance, and water resource systems analysis. He earned a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering (water resources) from the University of California Davis and a Master's degree in Public Policy (Science and Technology) from George Mason University. His professional experience includes international work and teaching in Mexico, Europe, Japan, and East Africa. He has authored over 50 reports and peer-reviewed articles.

Participant: Manzoor Qadir

Deputy Director, United Nations University, Canada

Manzoor Qadir is Deputy Director at the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). He has over 30 years of experience working on water-related sustainable development through contributions to policy, institutional, and technical aspects of unconventional water resources, wastewater management, water quality and environmental health, and salt-induced land degradation assessment and rehabilitation. Manzoor has implemented multidisciplinary projects with significant capacity development and knowledge-sharing components in the Global South.

Advisory Committee: Ayman Rabi

Executive Director, Palestinian Hydrology Group, Palestine

Dr. Ayman Rabi, the Executive Director of Palestinian Hydrology Group, Palestine. He holds MSc and PhD in Water Resources Engineering and has MBA in Business Administration. He has more than 30 years of water and environmental related experience. He is a regional councillor of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and he is a member of the advisory board of the Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy and he is also the national representative for Palestine within the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS).

Forum Speaker: Maria Cristina Rulli

Professor, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Dr. Maria Cristina Rulli is professor in Hydrology and Water and Food Security at the Politecnico di Milano, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering since 2019 and she is the Vice President of Italian Society of Hydraulic Engineering (GII) since 2021. Her research focus on the interaction between hydrological processes and humanity. Using the Food-Energy-Water (FEW) nexus perspective, she has been investigating the impacts on food and water security induced by global changes. She has focused on the emergent phenomenon of Large Scale Land Acquisition (LSLA) and its implication on water, energy and food security, as well as on water governance, rural livelihoods, and the emergence of water conflicts. Her most recent research concentrates on the nexus between Health and Environment

focusing on the potential nexus between the unsustainable food system and the resurgence of diseases (e.g., zoonotic; food related:uncommunicable).

Forum Speaker: Johannes Sauer

Professor, Ag Production and Resource Economics, Technical University of Munich, Germany

Johannes Sauer is a Professor for Agricultural and Resource Economics at TU Munich and Head of Department for Economics and Policy. He also holds a Honorary Profesorship at the Australian National University. His research work spans production, technology, policy and natural resources with a strong focus on applied econometrics. He also frequently acts as expert advisor to the OECD, Worldbank and ADB.

Participant: Mendy Shozi

Research Scientist, UKZN WASH R&D Centre, South Africa

Mendy Shozi is an Environmental Scientist who works as a Research Scientist at the UKZN Watrr Sanitation & Hygiene (WaSH) R&D Centre. Her research focuses on Citywide Inclusive Sanitation, Resource Recovery and the Circular Sanitation Economy - with a keen interest in Policy, Governance, Finance Models and Sustainability. Mendy is the Founder and President of the South Africa Youth Parliament for Water. She is a registered scientist with SACNASP & also a young water professional with the International Water Association and the Water Institute of Southern Africa.

Advisory Committee: Soroosh Sorooshian

Forum Chair and Distinguished Professor, University of California Irvine, United States

Soroosh Sorooshian - Distinguished Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Systems Departments at UC Irvine. Chair of the Rosenberg International Forum.

Forum Speaker: Getaw Tadesse

Director, Department of Operational Analysis, AKADEMIYA2063, Rwanda

Dr. Getaw Tadesse is the Director for the Department of Operational Analysis at AKADEMIYA2063. Before joining AKADEMIYA2063, he worked as a Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany. His research seeks to understand (a) the economics of climate changes; b) analysis of agricultural value chains and agri-food systems and (c) the impacts of policies and programs on food and nutrition security, commercialization of smallholders, competitiveness of private enterprises and food markets.

Getaw Tadesse holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Norway). He has more than 15 years of experience in agricultural development and food security research and project management. Over the past 5 years, Dr Tadesse has published more than 15 papers and book chapters and coordinated 10 research and development projects, which include 1) A USAID funded project on Comprehensive Action for Climate Change Action (CACCI) that aims to support countries to the implementation of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs); 2) . A project funded by the Global Center for Adaptation on Country Adaptation Support Program (CASP); 3) An FOA funded Pro-Sahel - Innovation and technology in small scale irrigation systems for small-scale producers in the Sahel project; 4) A research project for helping agribusiness innovation through prioritized public polices and investments in collaboration with Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn, Germany.

Forum Speaker: Djiby Thiam

Associate Professor, School of Economics, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Djiby Thiam is an Associate Professor in Economics at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. His research focuses on water resources economics, agricultural economics, and development economics. He has coordinated various research projects over the past few years. He directs the Water and Production Economic Unit at UCT where he leads a research team of postdocs, PhD and Masters students, all working on various issues related to water, development, and resources economics applied in South Africa and Africa as a continent.

Forum Speaker: Chieko Umetsu

Professor Emeritus, Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, Japan

Chieko Umetsu is professor emeritus at the Division of Natural Resource Economics, Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University. She was a project leader of "Vulnerability and Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems" at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) during 2007-2012 and studied on farmers' resilience in rural Zambia under rainfall variability. She has research experiences in arid and semi-arid regions including Zambia, Turkey and India. She specializes in resource and environmental economics, productivity analysis, and water allocation models and institutions for resource management.

Participant: Katherine Vammen

Co-Chair, Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences, Water Program (IANAS), Nicaragua

Presently Co-Chair of Water Program of the Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS). PhD with specialty in biochemistry and microbiology from the University of Salzburg, Austria. Specialist in Quality and Management of Water Resources; research now focuses on Water Quality and Health, Interdisciplinary Studies in Natural Sciences, Sustainable Development using Natural Resources, Water and Forests, Water Quality, Relations between Water, Energy and Food Security and Transboundary Waters.

Forum Speaker: Sarah Ann Wheeler

Professor, University of Adelaide, Australia

Sarah is a Professor of Water Economics in the School of Economics and Public Policy at the University of Adelaide. She is a past President and a Distinguished Fellow of the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, and a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. She has over 150 peer-reviewed outputs in the research areas of irrigated farming, climate change, Murray-Darling Basin, organic farming, water markets, water scarcity, mental health, and food waste.

Participant: Hope Zabronsky

Academic Coordinator and Program Lead, California Institute for Water Resources, United States

Hope Zabronsky is an Academic Coordinator and Program Lead for the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources' Climate Smart Agriculture Program housed within the California Institute for Water Resources. The Climate Smart Agriculture Program supports the adoption of water-use efficiency, soil health, and manure management practices on farming operations across California. Previously, Hope directed climate resilience and watershed education projects at Strategic Energy Innovations and supported water policy and climate adaptation research in Southern Africa at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). She earned her Master's degree in International Agricultural Development from the University of California, Davis and Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sustainability and Political Science from the University of Vermont.

Forum Speaker: Slim Zekri

Professor, Natural Resource Economics, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

Dr Slim Zekri is Professor at the Department of Natural Resource Economics at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. He previously worked at University of Tunis Carthage. His main research area is on water/agricultural economics and policy with focus on the middle east region.

Participant: Tingju Zhu

Associate Professor, Zhejiang University, China

Tingju Zhu is Associate Professor in the ZJU-UIUC Institute at Zhejiang University and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His research focuses on integrating hydrology, engineering, and economics in mathematical models to address real-world problems concerning sustainable water resource management and policy. Prior to his current position, he conducted water management and food policy research at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).