

# Global Agriculture Innovation Forum



## Enabling Farmers with Transformational Technologies

March 23, 2021

9:00-10:30 a.m. EDT, USA (UTC-4)

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### Moderator

**Ms. Lesly Goh**, Senior Technology Advisory, World Bank. She is a Fellow at Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance Judge Business School and Senior Fellow at National University of Singapore. Her expertise is in leveraging emerging technology to deliver agile solutions for Sustainable Development Goals at the intersection of technology and policy frameworks.



### Apps and Technologies That Improve Production Efficiency

**Dr. David Bergvinson**, joined aWhere as Chief Science Officer in February 2019 to accelerate innovation and access to premium weather data from over 1.9 million virtual weather stations to generate agriculture insights for farmers, agribusiness, agri-food and policy makers - globally. David's diverse experience in crop improvement, agronomy, pest and disease management and policy formulation are now being leveraged to integrate weather and data science into workflows across the entire agri-food sector. Weather variability has increased dramatically during the past decade and driving the demand for weather-based insights to support a resilient and sustainable food system. Prior to aWhere, David was the Director General of ICRISAT and initiated Digital Agriculture for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2012.



## Technologies That Increase Product Value

**Dr. Klein Ileleji**, Professor and Extension Engineer in Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Purdue University. Dr. Ileleji's research focus and interest at Purdue University are in the areas of grain & crop post-harvest technology, powder technology and biomass feedstock systems engineering. He is also the co-founder, CEO and CTO of JUA Technologies International, a start-up company incubated at Purdue Foundry developing solar dehydration technologies and mobile off-grid power generators for everyday use, with focus on small and mid-size farms and businesses.



## Key Issues in Scaling Transformational Innovations in Agriculture

**Mr. Larry Cooley**, President Emeritus and Senior Adviser, Management Systems International. For more than four decades, Larry has been a thought leader, author, and lecturer on a wide range of development management issues. A specialist in strategic management, public sector performance, and organizational development, he has served as an adviser to cabinet officials in six federal agencies and in more than a dozen countries. Larry leads a global community of practice on scaling innovation which he co-founded in 2015. He currently serves as global board chair of the Society for International Development



## Data Collection and Mining

**Dr. Christian Witt**, Senior Program Officer in the Agricultural Development team at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He provides strategic direction on innovation in soil health and agronomy as part of the Digital Farmer Services Portfolio aimed at increasing productivity and income of small-scale producers in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Prior to joining the foundation in 2010, he was scientist and project manager in international agricultural research with 17+ years of experience in plant nutrition and soil nutrient management in the tropics.

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## Future forum themes

- Innovations in Genetic Improvement of Agricultural Systems – beginning **May 4, 2021**
- Innovations in Post-Harvest Management – beginning **June 29, 2021**
- Innovations in Entrepreneurship, Especially Among Youth – beginning **August 24, 2021**
- Innovations in Information and Communication Technologies – beginning **October 19, 2021**
- Innovations in Scaling – beginning **December 14, 2021**

## About the Global Agriculture Innovation Forum:

The Global Agriculture Innovation Forum is a joint undertaking between USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and Purdue University's Office of International Programs in Agriculture. The Forum will be valuable to entrepreneurs, producers, value-chain operators, service providers, and researchers, as well as donor agencies and implementing partners and will consist of a series of virtual events held throughout 2021. All events are free, but registration is required. Registration provides post-event access to all presentations as well as access to additional curated material on the topic.

[globalaginnovationforum.org](https://globalaginnovationforum.org)

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