

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Nick Jacobs

Director, International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-FOOD)

Nick is a specialist in agri-food, trade and development policy, with a background in media, communications and political research. From 2011-2014 Nick was a member of the support team to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food Olivier De Schutter (Rapporteur from 2008-2014) as the communications and research assistant. Previously, he worked as a journalist for Agra Europe, providing coverage of EU agriculture and trade policy, and writing in detail on Common Agricultural Policy reform, biofuels, GMOs, trade negotiations and other issues affecting the EU agricultural sector. From 2010-2014 he also blogged on EU politics for EU Observer. Nick holds an MA in Modern Languages from Cambridge University and an MSc in Globalization and Development from the University of Antwerp.



Professor Sir Charles Godfray FRS

Professor of Population Biology and Director of the Martin School, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Charles Godfray is a population biologist with broad interests in science and the interplay of science and policy. He has spent his career at Oxford University and Imperial College and is currently Director of the Oxford Martin School and Professor of Population Biology at Oxford. His research has involved experimental and theoretical studies in population and community ecology, epidemiology and evolutionary biology. He is particularly interested in food security and chaired the UK Government Office of Science's Foresight project on the Future of Food and Farming and is currently chair of the UK's agricultural and environment (Defra) ministry's Science Advisory Council.

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Dr Emanuele Zannini

Senior Research Coordinator - School of Food and Nutritional Sciences, University College Cork, Ireland

Emanuele Zannini studied Agricultural Science at the Università Politecnica delle Marche. During his PhD, in Applied Biomolecular Science, he focused on the selection of antifungal lactic acid bacteria as biopreservatives in food products, performing his work at the SAIFET (Italy) and DAFNS (Canada) Departments. Since November 2009 he is working as a Senior Researcher at the School of Food and Nutritional Sciences, UCC. His research projects focus on medical nutritional therapy. He is particularly interested in fundamental and orientated research activities on food microbiology, food engineering, and food nutrition in order to formulate the next generation of food and beverage products able to address consumers' preference and dietary needs as well as complement the medical therapy requirements.

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Dr Cataldo Pulvento

Researcher at National Council of Research (CNR)- Institute for Agricultural and Forest Systems in the Mediterranean (ISAFoM), Italy

Dr Cataldo Pulvento joined ISAFoM-CNR in 2005. He holds a Ph.D. in Mediterranean Agronomy at University of Bari in 2011. His research is focused on herbaceous crops with a particular focus on quinoa and amaranth, soil-water plant interactions, best agronomic practices, crop tolerance to abiotic stresses. Since 2014 he cooperates with FAO as quinoa expert for technical cooperation projects in central Asia and Arab Countries. He is involved in the work package “Crop Production” of P2F project.



Jürgen Bez

Senior Scientist, Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV, Germany

Jürgen Bez (Dipl. LM-Ing.), food technologist and project manager has extensive experience in both processing and product development of ingredients from plant-based raw materials, and their chemical and technological evaluation, as well as their application in food systems. He has managed several public and industry funded projects and is experienced in international research collaborations. He was project coordinator of the EU capacities project GLUTENFREE and was involved as work package or task leader in several other European projects such as HEALTHY PROFOOD, BIOPROFIBRE, CO-EXTRA and BIOBOARD. Currently Jürgen Bez is involved as Work Package-leader in the H2020 PROTEIN2FOOD project.

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Andreas Detzel

Managing Director, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Germany

Andreas Detzel is a senior scientist with profound expertise in sustainability assessment of products and underlying production processes. Having worked for more than 20 years at ifeu he currently is one of its managing directors and section head with an emphasis on biobased materials, beverages and food as well as packaging. He furthermore has been and still is involved in related methodology developments at national and EU level (e.g. CEN standards on bio-based products).



Professor Elke Arendt

Senior Lecturer, School of Food and Nutritional Sciences, University College Cork, Ireland

Prof. Dr. Elke Arendt is a senior lecturer in the School of Food and Nutritional Sciences, University College Cork since 1993. She lectures and carries out research in the area cereals, malting and brewing science specific focusing on gluten free foods and beverages, starter cultures, functional beverages, rheology and food structure. Prof. Dr. Arendt's research programme at UCC, to date, has resulted in over 300 peer-reviewed research papers, 3 books, 35 book chapters, and approximately 600 additional published articles and abstracts. She has a h-factor of 41. Over 50 post-graduate students completed their studies under her supervision.

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Professor Pablo Steinberg

President, Max-Rubner Institute, Federal Research Institute of Nutrition and Food

Studied biochemistry, followed by a Ph.D. in Pharmacology, at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Buenos Aires. Then studied “habilitation” in toxicology at the University of Mainz, Germany. He has held full professorship positions at the Institute of Nutritional Science at the University of Potsdam, Germany, as well as for food toxicology and replacement/complementary methods to animal testing at the Institute for Food Toxicology and Analytical Chemistry, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover. Since May 2017, he has been President of the Max Rubner-Institut, Federal Research Institute of Nutrition and Food.



Dr Riccardo Siligato

Policy Advisor, Copa-Cogeca

Riccardo Siligato works as a Policy Advisor in the General Affairs Team at Copa-Cogeca. The team covers topics related to food and feed safety, circular and bio-economy, environment and climate change, research and innovation, food waste etc. After completing a Master of Science in Cellular and Molecular Biology in Rome, Riccardo obtained a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Plant Biology from the University of Helsinki. He later attended a Master of Laws in Food Law, working as trainee in a law firm in Brussels as well as in the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in Parma. In Copa-Cogeca he is in charge of food safety, human and animal nutrition, information to consumers, quality assurance and promotion policy.

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Cindy Schoumacher

*Policy Officer, DG Research & Innovation,
European Commission*

Cindy Schoumacher is a Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG RTD, Unit C2 Bioeconomy & Food Systems. She is working on Food 2030 and more specifically on dietary shift and alternative proteins, as well as the climate aspect of food systems. She holds an engineering degree in agronomy from Agrocampus Ouest (Rennes) and a Master's degree in environmental economics and policies from AgroParisTech (Paris). She is knowledgeable about European agricultural and environmental economics and policies, climate change, marine issues and biodiversity.



Karel van Bommel

*Market Officer, DG Agriculture and Rural
Development, European Commission*

Karel is working as a Market Officer in the Unit Arable Crops and Olive Oil on the development of plant proteins in the European Union. Before Karel joined DG AGRI, he worked as a senior policy officer at the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, where he was responsible for arable crops within the Common Agricultural Policy. He started his career as an economic researcher at the Dutch Agricultural Economic Research Institute (LEI). Karel studied business economics at the Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands.