

SPEAKER LIST



ANDRÉ LEU

Author/ Ambassador/Director

André Leu is the Author of the 'Poisoning our Children' and 'The Myths of Safe Pesticides'. He is the co-author with Dr Vandana Shiva of 'Biodiversity, Agroecology, Regenerative Organic Agriculture - Sustainable Solutions for Hunger, Poverty and Climate Change'. He was the longest serving President of IFOAM - Organics International, the world change agent and umbrella body for the organic sector. He is currently an IFOAM Ambassador and Chair of the Nomination Committee. André is the International Director of Regeneration International. He has an extensive knowledge of farming and environmental systems in more than 100 countries across Asia, Europe, North America, South America and Africa from over 45 years of working and visiting these countries. He meets with governments, United Nations bodies, industry, farmers, consumers and NGOs on the multi-functional benefits of regenerative organic agriculture, the health effects of pesticides and on the science of increasing soil organic matter to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Andre and his wife Julia have an organic tropical fruit farm in Daintree, in Australia.



MICHAEL ABLEMAN

Cofounder & Director, Sole Food Street

Michael Ableman, the cofounder and director of Sole Food Street Farms, is one of the early visionaries of the urban agriculture movement. He has created high-profile urban farms in Watts, California; Goleta, California; and Vancouver, British Columbia. Ableman has also worked on and advised dozens of similar projects throughout North America and the Caribbean, and he is the founder of the non-profit Center for Urban Agriculture. He is the subject of the award-winning PBS film *Beyond Organic* narrated by Meryl Streep. His previous books include *From the Good Earth*, *On Good Land*, and *Fields of Plenty*. Ableman lives and farms at the 120-acre Foxglove Farm on Salt Spring Island in British Columbia.

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MARTIN SETTLE

Executive Director, Seed Change

Martin was appointed Executive Director of SeedChange in 2016, sharing the title with Jane Rabinowicz as a leadership team. Passionate about social and economic justice, Marti has two decades of experience in social justice work particularly related to youth services, food sovereignty, and social housing in three provinces – Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario – and in England, where he helped establish a locally sourced hot meal program in Dorset Primary Schools. He is a Chartered Professional Accountant and was recruited to the USC Canada Board of Directors as Treasurer in 2009. He was delighted to join the staff team in 2013 as Director of Finance and Human Resources. (he/him, Ottawa)



NICOLE BOUDREAU

Coordinator, Organic Federation of Canada

Nicole Boudreau is a biologist (B.Sc. Université de Sherbrooke) and a communicator (B.A. McGill University). She has been involved in the organic sector since 2005, working as a market monitor for the CARTV, and has been employed by the Organic Federation of Canada for the past 10 years. She manages the Canadian Standards Interpretation Committee and co-administers the Organic Science Cluster II with the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada. For 2 years, she coordinated the revision of the Canadian Organic Standard which led to the publication of the 2015 version.



CAROLYN CALLAGHAN, Ph.D

Senior Conservation Biologist, Terrestrial Wildlife, Canadian Wildlife Federation

My primary area of focus is the conservation of declining species on working landscapes. I am interested in understanding the factors that put species at risk and then determining how to reduce the impact of these factors to recover populations. My team and I work collaboratively with producers and land managers to find compatibility with practices on agricultural lands and rights-of-way (roadways, hydro lines) and the conservation of biodiversity, including pollinators and farmland birds.

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AABIR DEY

Director, Seed Change Canadian Field Program

Aabir is the Director of the Canadian field program, The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security. Aabir developed his passion for seeds (and an obsession for garlic) while working at Everdale Farm, where he helped Seeds of Diversity Canada grow their Great Canadian Garlic Collection. He completed a Master of Environmental Studies at York University, researching organic seed systems in Ontario, before joining SeedChange. Aabir has been instrumental in shaping and leading the initiative's training, research, and policy programs. Aabir is thrilled to be working with seed producers and farmers all over Canada to promote seed security coast-to-coast. (he/him, Guelph)



LISA MUMM

Director, Organic Connections & Plant Breeders Rights Council

Lisa Mumm was raised on her family's organic seed and sheep farm and is a fourth-generation farmer. Together with her mother Maggie Mumm, she runs the family farm and business, Mumm's Sprouting Seeds.

Lisa works actively to strengthen the organic food system Canada. She has worked with the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network in its efforts to stop GM Alfalfa and is a member of the Organic Agriculture Protection Fund Committee of SaskOrganics. She represents COTA on the Seed Regulation Modernization Working Group on the CFIA's Plant Breeder's Rights Advisory Committee. She has served on the Organic Connections board since 2012 and spent seven years on COTA's board of directors.

Lisa also works to empower women entrepreneurs in the food sector through her roles on the Saskatchewan Food Centre's Advancing Women Entrepreneurs through Skill Development, Opportunity identification, Manufacturing support and Export marketing (AWESOME) program's advisory committee, and the Small Scale Food Processor Association's Status of Women steering committee.

SPEAKER LIST



VALERIYA STAYKOVA

Lead Auditor, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Valeriya has been the Lead Auditor of the Canada Organic Regime of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) since 2007. Prior to that, Valeriya was involved in the development of the CFIA national on-farm food safety recognition program. Valeriya holds Master degree in Food Science, combined with Advanced Diploma in Food Safety and Post -Graduate certificate in Quality Management. In 2016 Valeriya was given additional responsibilities related to assessments of foreign food safety systems. Valeriya was part of Canada's negotiation teams that achieved the existing organic equivalency arrangements and is currently involved in several international organic projects.



NAVIN RAMANKUTTY

Professor/ Research Chair, University of British Columbia

Navin Ramankutty is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Change and Food Security at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs and the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia. His research program aims to understand how humans use and modify the Earth's land surface for agriculture and its implications for the global environment. Using global Earth observations and numerical ecosystem models, his research aims to find solutions to the problem of feeding humanity with minimal global environmental footprint. He contributed to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment report and to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He was an editor of the journal *Global Food Security and Global Ecology* and *Biogeography*, and is an Associate Editor of *Environmental Research Letters*. He is a Leopold Leadership Fellow.

SPEAKER LIST



DR. JESSICA SHADE, PH.D

Director, Organic Center,

Dr. Jessica Shade is the Director of Science Programs at The Organic Center, where she directs projects associated with conducting research related to organic agriculture. During her tenure at The Organic Center Dr. Shade has collaborated on research programs ranging from applied solutions to on-farm challenges to methods for improving environmental impacts of agriculture, including projects aimed at decreasing nitrogen pollution from agricultural sources, increasing on-farm biodiversity, and developing integrated pest management solutions for organic growers. Dr. Shade has been honored for her environmental accomplishments by the Audubon Women in Conservation through their Women Greening Food Special Recognition, the Ecological Society of America Student Section and Union of Concerned Scientists through their Ecoservice Award, and is a Switzer Environmental Fellow. She received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley



MARIA FORERO

*MSc. Bioresource Engineer, Agri-Industrial Engineer
Sector Specialist, Cross Sectoral Issues, Industry Engagement
Division of Agriculture Canada*

Maria Paulina is a professional Engineer with a Master's Degree in Bio-resources Engineering from McGill with specialization in Economics and International Development. Maria spent 13 years as an International Consultant with a focus on bioremediation, postharvest technologies, waste management, and food security. Maria Paulina worked 11 years at Global Affairs Canada where she served as the Sector Specialist for Water Management and Wastewater Treatment under both the Cleantech and Infrastructure teams. Maria Paulina is currently the Cross Sectoral Issues Sector Specialist responsible for Organics within the Industry Engagement Division of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

SPEAKER LIST



DR. KRIS NICHOLS

Soil Microbiologist, KRIS Systems Education & Consultation

Dr. Kris Nichols is a leader in the movement to regenerate soils for healthy crops, food, people and the planet. She is the Research Director at MyLand Company LLC in Phoenix, AZ. She is also the founder and principal scientist of KRIS (Knowledge for Regeneration and Innovation in Soils) Systems Education & Consultation; Soil Microbiology Research Advisor with the Food Water Wellness Foundation in Olds, Alberta; Research Director with Carbon Sync in Freemantle, Western Australia; and Soil Health Consultant with COG (Canadian Organic Growers) in Ottawa, Ontario. She is working with Dr. Arjun Makhijani, President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, on a project combining Regenerative Agriculture and Renewable Energy (RARE) to reduce the economic risks in transitioning to regenerative agriculture. Kris participates on the Advisory Board for the Real Organic Project; on the Scientific Advisory Board with the Savory Institute's - Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV) program; and as a Soil Science Advisor with Health First.



CATHERINE ABREU

Executive Director, Climate Action Network

Catherine Abreu is an internationally recognized, award-winning campaigner whose work centres on building powerful coalitions to advance transformative action on climate change. One of the world's 100 most influential people in climate policy as named by Apolitical in 2019, she has over 15 years of experience campaigning on environmental issues including 7 years in the heart of the global climate movement. Catherine is the Executive Director of Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat (CAN-Rac) Canada. Canada's primary network of organizations working on climate change and energy issues, CAN-Rac is a coalition of more than 100 organizations operating from coast to coast to coast. For 30 years, CAN-Rac has been the only national organization with a mandate to promote the interests of the Canadian climate movement as a whole, rather than any one individual organization.

SPEAKER LIST



PAIVI ABERNETHY

Adjunct Professor, University of Victoria

A Finnish-Canadian researcher, academic, life long learner, community activist, friend, wife & stepmother. Born in Finland - held homes in Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Germany, the United States & currently residing in British Columbia, Canada. (Spent a number of months in the UK, as well as traveling around Europe, South America & Asia). PhD in Social and Ecological Sustainability (sustainability governance & policy) MRes in Health Research (public health) MSc (cand.scient.) in Biochemistry (molecular biology & microbiology).



DEBRA HAUER

Manager, AGRILMI, Canadian Agriculture Human Resources Council

Debra Hauer is the Manager of AgriLMI, the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council's labour market information program. The Council is a national, non-profit organization, focuses on addressing human resource issues facing agricultural businesses in Canada. Debra has an interest in Growing the AgriWorkforce to ensure a strong agriculture and agri-food industry in the future. Since 2008, she has managed a variety of projects related to agricultural labour market information and human resource needs in the industry. She sits on the National Stakeholder Advisory Panel (NSAP) of the Labour Market Information Council. Debra grew up on mixed beef and grain farm and has diverse experience in research and education the agriculture industry.

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GORETTY DIAS

Associate Professor, University of Waterloo

Professor Goretty Dias has a background in natural sciences and engineering. Recently, her work has focused on sustainability and life cycle assessment (LCA) of dietary patterns, Canadian agriculture products, and bioenergy. Her research interests lie in the use of LCA and other sustainability assessment tools to analyze various agricultural and biobased product systems in order to create more sustainable agriculture and food systems.



SHENALI MADHANAROOPAN

Masters Student, University of Waterloo

Shenali Madhanaroopan is a first-year student in the Sustainability Management program at the University of Waterloo, where she is pursuing a Masters of Environmental Studies (MES). She recently obtained her B.Sc. in Environmental Sciences at Queen's University and was the recipient of the Students Taking Initiative for a Viable Environment (STRIVE) Award. Shenali was also awarded an NSERC USRA in her final year at Queen's University to complete her undergraduate thesis in flood risk management and river geomorphology. At the University of Waterloo, she is learning to apply theories of industrial ecology and ecological economics to the study of sustainable agriculture. She will be undertaking a robust quantification of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from organic crop production in Canada using life cycle assessment methodologies. Shenali hopes to contribute meaningful strategies for improved environmental performance in the agricultural sector and engage further in environmental stewardship.

FREE MOVIE SCREENING

FREE FILM SCREENING: THE NEED TO GROW

On top of all of our wonderful speakers, we will be offering a special screening of the movie "The Need to Grow." You will receive a link once you've purchased your ticket.

A Story of Solutions in a race against the end of farmable soil, three individuals fight for change in the industry of agricultural food production, calling for a revolution. "The Need to GROW" delivers alarming evidence on the importance of healthy soil – revealing not only the potential of localized food production working with nature, but our opportunity as individuals to help regenerate our planet's dying soils and participate in the restoration of the Earth.

