



House Keeping

- Everyone should be Muted
- Questions should be posted on the chat box and Answers at the end of the event





**Mr. Divine Ntiokam ,
Founder & Executive
Director of
GCSAYN,USA**





Ms. Yuckmila Choonea, GCSAYN Personal Assistant, Mauritius

Yuckmila Choonea has more than eight years of experience in plant health protection, plant biosecurity research, and policy implementation. Yuckmila refined her passion for plant health while working with the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, later going on to receive her master's degree in Agricultural Science from the University of Queensland, Australia. There, Yuckmila received the Australian Awards Scholarship for her work. Yuckmila has dedicated herself to promoting accountable and transparent implementation of plant quarantine policies and regulations facilitating global trade of agricultural commodities. Currently she is posted at the National Plant Protection Office in Mauritius. Lending her expertise, Yuckmila also serves in the Pesticide Regulatory Office in Mauritius. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Yuckmila plans to continue her work advancing research and policy implementation to strengthen the plant health sector in Mauritius. She also hopes to build valuable networks and professional connections with fellows from the public sector to foster increased cooperation and growth within and across their respective fields.





Amb Hans Hoogeveen, GCSAYN Board Chair, The Netherlands

Dr Hans Hoogeveen was elected as Independent Chairperson of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in June 2021. FAO Members elected him in July 2023 for a second term of two years. He is ambassador and former Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to FAO.

Hans Hoogeveen is duly acknowledged as a consummate professional and a man of agriculture in the utmost degree. With unwavering focus on the stimulation and promotion of sustainable agriculture globally, food security and safety, he has served in numerous international functions. He is political advisor to the World Bank and special advisor to the UN Task Force. Board membership includes Yale University Governance, Environment and Market Initiative, and Fellow of Forest Trends, a leading International NGO on innovative natural policy in Washington D.C. He is also a member of the Board of the World Agriculture Forum.

As Chairperson of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests Bureau, his leadership resulted in an international instrument deemed a landmark achievement by the UN Secretary General following fifteen years of encumbered international negotiations – a highly noteworthy accomplishment within the forum, which earned Hoogeveen a UN award. He is one of the founding members and current co-Chair of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA). In addition, he is founder member and current co-Chair of Champions 12.3, an international coalition of





Dr. Peter Kelly, Founder & CEO, Grow Further, USA

Prior to founding Grow Further, Peter was an assistant professor of economics at Renmin University in Beijing, where he taught and published on agriculture, international development, and the environment. He currently serves on the boards of a number of other charitable, policy, and for-profit organizations in addition to his full-time work at Grow Further, including as vice chair of Carbon Washington. He holds a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from UC Berkeley; holds a BS in International Agricultural Development, with distinctions in agricultural science, from UC Davis; and has completed Global Washington's Global Leadership Forum.

In addition to Grow Further, Dr. Kelly has helped to create and grow a number of organizations and companies focused on social impact. He was a founding board member and serves as vice chair of Carbon Washington. There, he played a leadership role in expanding the \$454 billion green bonds market in the US and helped to write and pass the bill creating the Washington state Sustainable Farms and Fields Program, a multi-million dollar grant program for farmers to adopt carbon-friendly practices and the first of its kind nationwide. He was a founding member of the steering committee of 1.5 Climate Strategies Group, which has raised \$30 million for charitable and political organizations offering highly leveraged climate change solutions. He was a founding member of the China program and helped to expand the India program at Social Venture Partners, the world's largest network of giving circles. He is a founding member of the advisory committee of Samaritan, a software-based startup that connects individuals experiencing homelessness with passers-by and service providers, and is also advising an initiative developing a robotic seeing-eye dog. He serves on a number of other committees, including the editorial board at the Journal of Forest Economics, the board nominating committee at Global Rice Research Foundation, and due diligence teams associated with Decarbon8, a clean-tech venture capital fund.





Ms. Liliana Bucur Cress, President of WAFUNIF, USA

Mrs. Liliana Bucur Cress has a M.Sc. in International Affairs & Planning (2008) from HUNTER College of the City University of New York (CUNY) and a B.Sc. in Sciences and Letters (2004) from the University of Petru Maior (UPM) Romania. She has also studied International Finance and Banking at the Investment Banking Institute of NYC (2012). Mrs. Cress has worked as a Research Specialist in projects for the City Government of New York City in the office of the Mayor's Commission for the United Nations Consular Corps and Protocol. She worked as well as Research Specialist in Community Development for PPAF at the United Nations.

At the United Nations Headquarters under WAFUNIF she was an intern, a Research Fellow and a Director at Large on International Affairs and Planning since 2008. In 2018 she became the President of WAFUNIF.





Mr. Jon Wogman, Senior Director of Global Youth Programs and Partnerships at the World Food Prize Foundation, USA

As the Senior Director of Global Youth Programs and Partnerships at the World Food Prize Foundation, Jon provides strategic direction and support to the Foundation’s Youth Institute programs across the U.S. and globally. Each year, the World Food Prize Foundation partners with major agricultural universities to host 40 Youth Institutes worldwide, where nearly 2,000 high school students engage in research, hands-on activities and discussions to develop their skills and knowledge to address global food insecurity. Jon also supports the Foundation’s Global Youth Institute, a youth academic conference held in Des Moines, Iowa, where students from around the world connect with global leaders to discuss critical challenges, share ideas and develop solutions for a more sustainable and food-secure world.

For much of his career, Jon has worked to develop the skills of emerging leaders to end food insecurity, including nearly 13 years at the Congressional Hunger Center in Washington, D.C., where he held multiple roles, including Director of the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship, a program focused on ending hunger and poverty.

Jon holds a Master of Public Administration with a focus on Community Development from Eastern Kentucky University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Susquehanna University.





Prof. Rebecca Boger, Vice Present and Co-founder of Next Generation Global Collaboration, USA

Rebecca Boger is a professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Brooklyn College, City University of New York (CUNY). She has a background in geospatial technologies, environmental science, sustainability, and science education. She teaches geospatial technologies and urban sustainability courses, and works with anthropologists and archaeologists on socio-ecological resilience research, community-based mapping, and environmental modelling. Before coming to Brooklyn College, she worked for GLOBE, a global citizen science program that supports the advancement of Earth science research,

where she collaborated with teams of scientists and educators to develop classroom materials, conduct workshops, and facilitate international collaborations. In May 2024, she became the Director of Science, Training, Education, and Public Engagement for the NASA GLOBE Implementation Office (GIO-STEPE). She is a founding member and Vice President of the nonprofit, Next Generation Global Collaborative (nextgenglobe.org).





Ms. Lina Khoury, Intern at Global Flagship Initiative, Germany

Lina Khoury holds a BSc in Liberal Arts and Sciences from Maastricht University with a multidisciplinary focus on food studies, food sciences, sustainability, and politics. She is finishing her MA in Food Studies: Policies for Sustainable Production and Consumption from the American University of Rome, where she focuses on food security in areas of protracted crisis. She is currently interning at the Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security in Bonn, Germany. Being Dutch/Jordanian with Palestinian heritage, Lina has always had a strong sense of justice, and aims to support communities to gain agency and sovereignty over their food systems - working towards a world where no-one is left behind.





Ms. Irene Kimani, GCSAYN Global Coordinator Unit, RVNP - Kenya

Irene Kimani is a seasoned TVET trainer and Head of Corporate Communications and Liaison at Rift Valley National Polytechnic. She is an exceptional leader passionate in advancing sustainable development and strategic development initiatives, championing the SDGs and youth engagement. She is committed to fostering knowledge exchange, strengthening regional and global collaboration, and amplifying youth voices in shaping solutions to pressing environmental challenges. Irene is currently a PhD candidate (ABT) in Applied Linguistics at Laikipia University, Kenya. Her research interests are in sustainability, Forensic Linguistics, Interactional Sociolinguistics, pragmatics, Language in Education and Communication Technology.





Dr. Fiordaliza Ippolito, GCSAYN Board Member, USA

Dr. Fiordaliza Ippolito, PhD, MBA, M.A., BBA, A.A. has taught at Stony Brook University, University at Albany, CUNY Hostos Community College, and Helene Fuld College of Nursing. She is an educator and scholar specializing in Spanish language, literature, and culture. Dr. Ippolito enhanced her academic credentials with an ACUE Certificate in Effective College Instruction, CUNY K-16 Initiative certification, Lumen Circles Teaching certification, and VoiceThread Educator Certification, highlighting her passion for dynamic, technology-rich pedagogy. Dr. Ippolito is proficient in online and in-person teaching systems on Blackboard, Brightspace, Google Classroom, Panopto, Canvas, Anthology, VoiceThread, Zoom, and more. Dr. Ippolito is the CEO and founder of Classic Spanish Classes.





Ms. Jane Lowicki-Zucca, Humanitarian aid and Development Professional, USA

Jane Lowicki-Zucca is a long-time humanitarian aid and development professional, who pioneered participatory approaches to programming and policy with young people in conflict and post-conflict settings. She most recently served as Senior Youth Advisor within USAID’s Bureau for Resilience, Environment and Food Security, providing leadership to strengthen the Agency’s work with young people in Feed the Future programming with an emphasis on inclusive market systems development and the expansion of “green job” opportunities for youth, women and others in agrifood and water systems. She holds a BA from Cornell University and an MPA from New York University, is the author of many studies and reports and contributed to the FAO Status of Youth in Agrifood Systems Report released in 2025.





Dr. Sarada Prasad Mohapatra, GCSAYN Asian Hub Lead, India

Dr. Sarada Prasad Mohapatra, working as Assistant Prof & Head, Post-Graduate Department of Botany, Narasingh Choudhury Autonomous College (Government of Odisha) has more than 23 years teaching and research experience. He has published about 42 high quality research papers, 10 books (2 with USA ISBN) till date. About 14 Patents (2 of UK and 12 Govt. of India) from his research area was granted to him till date. His main research area includes Environmental Science, Agriculture, Artificial Intelligence in Climate Study, Biodiversity Conservation. He is a member of Committee on Food Security, FSN, FAO, UN and Executive Board member of CSAYN (Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network, an UNECOSOC Organisation). He is the only independent dialogue convener of UNFSS from Odisha, India from Academia who has conducted more than 15 dialogues of UNFSS. He also acts as mentor, PLT, Canada, WFC, FAO, UN in 2022 in South Korea and also invited by MARD, Govt. of Vietnam to attend Food Security Conference in the year 2023. Till date he has visited about 9 countries in connection with his academic and research area as he has research collaboration with the scientists from Germany,

Singapore, Nepal, Bhutan and Nigeria. He has received about 20 National & International Awards in recognition with his research work on Climate Change,

Biodiversity and Sustainability. He has successfully completed E-Course on Food System from Wageningen University, Netherlands. Under his guidance as Academic Head, Narasingh Choudhury Autonomous College, Jajpur, Odisha, India is selected as a member of NPU (Nature Positive University) an initiative by University of Oxford, UK and UNEP. Presently he is engaged in research work on Climate Smart Technology.





Dr. Miriam Besem Ebako, GCSAYN Central Region Coordinator, Cameroon

Miriam Besem Ebako is a results-driven educational leader and healthcare professional with expertise in instructional leadership, management, and patient care. With experience in Cameroon and Germany, she has improved student outcomes, fostered positive relationships, and provided quality patient care. As Regional Coordinator with CSAYN, she empowers young Cameroonians in Climate Smart Agriculture. Miriam holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Management and is skilled in leadership, team management, communication, and data analysis. She's fluent in English, German, and French





Dr.Domenico Vito, GCSAYN Liaison to the RBAs Italy

Domenico Vito, PhD engineer, worked in European projects on air quality in northern Italy. He has been an observer of the Conferences of the Parties since 2015 , Member of the Italian Society of Climate Sciences (SISC), he is active in various environmental organizations and networks (.Member of GACSA and Focal Point for Italy and Liason Officer for Rome Based Agencies for GCSAYN





Mr Kevin Nnadi, Founder of ICAD, GCSAYN Regional Coordinator for West Africa, Nigeria

Kevin Nnadi, PhD, is the Founder of the International Center for Accelerated Development (ICAD) <https://www.icadnig.org.ng/> and a dedicated youth development practitioner focused on empowering young people as agents of positive change. With over a decade of experience in community-based programming, he works at the intersection of education, climate action, and social inclusion. Kevin has led initiatives that strengthen youth leadership, promote sustainable livelihoods, and advance gender equity in underserved communities. He is passionate about amplifying youth voices and fostering innovation, and continues to drive impactful partnerships that equip young people with the skills and opportunities to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable futures.





Ms. Pauline M. Christian, Founder and CEO of Best Lifestyle Residence Inc, Canada

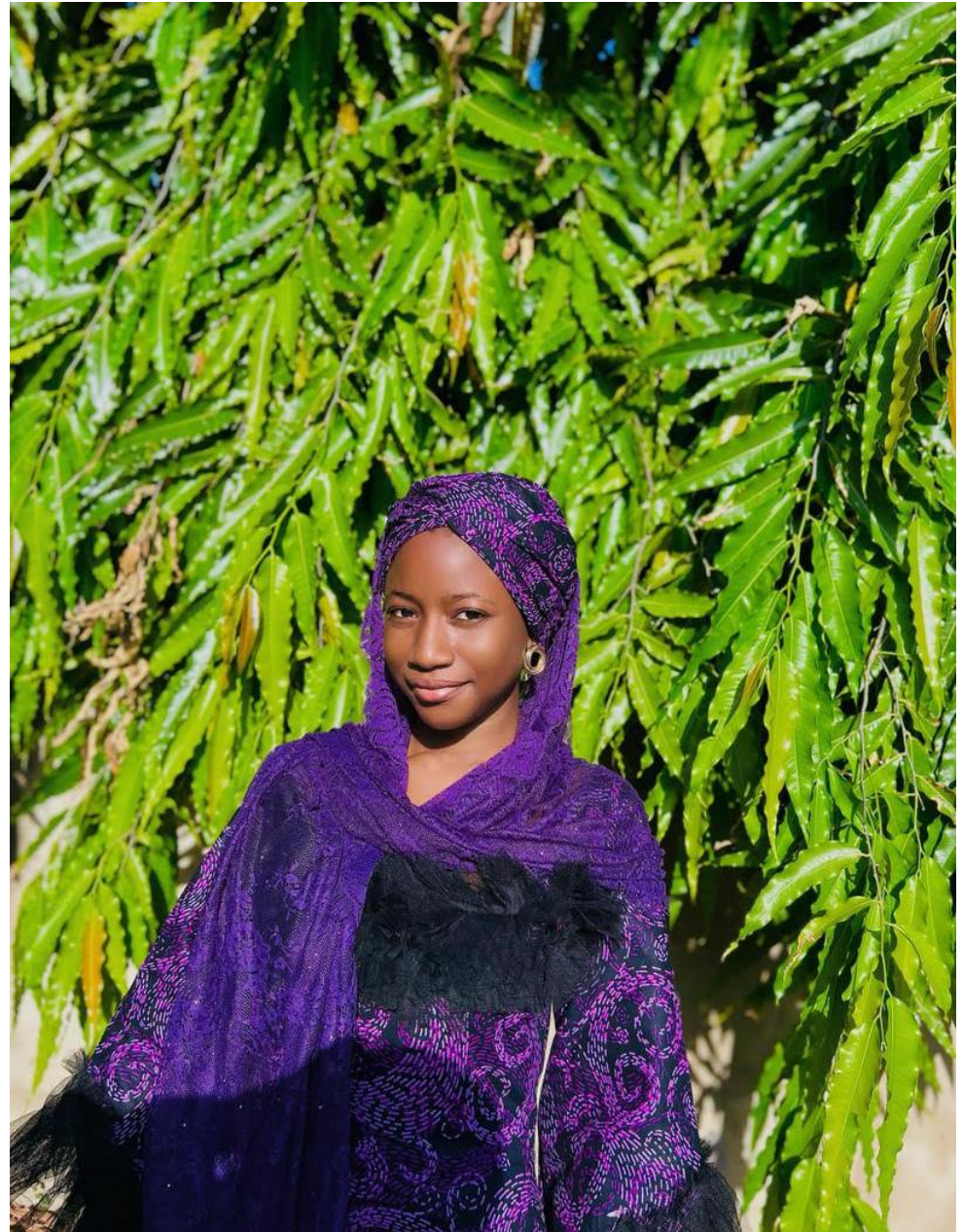
Pauline M. Christian is a distinguished community leader, entrepreneur, author, and global advocate for youth empowerment and sustainable development. With over 20 years of leadership experience at Bell Canada, she transitioned into entrepreneurship as the Founder and CEO of Best Lifestyle Residence Inc. Pauline is a former President of the Black Business and Professional Association and currently serves on several boards, including the Climate Smart Agricultural Youth Network Global. She is the author of *Breaking Barriers in Pursuit of Excellence* and is deeply committed to mentoring youth locally and internationally, helping to shape the next generation of leaders and changemakers.





Ms. Rumaila Nuru Tahir, GCSAYN Cohort 4 Intern Alumni, Nigeria

Rumaila Nuru Tahir is a 19-year-old Biotechnology undergraduate at the Kaduna State University Centre of Excellence and a passionate youth and climate advocate. She is committed to advancing environmental sustainability, climate-smart agriculture, and meaningful youth engagement across Africa. Alongside her studies, Rumaila volunteers as a biology teacher, where she inspires young learners to explore science and understand the importance of environmental stewardship. Her dedication to education and community impact led her to join the Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global (GCSAYN) as an intern and mentee. From June to September 2025, Rumaila actively contributed to GCSAYN through programme coordination, documentation, and youth mobilization. She supported the drafting of event reports, contributed to communication materials, assisted in community outreach activities, and participated in policy and climate discussions that strengthened youth involvement in sustainable agriculture. In recognition of her growing leadership, Rumaila represented GCSAYN at two major international events in 2025: the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Conference and the Young Activists Summit. At these platforms, she elevated youth voices, shared perspectives on climate-smart agriculture, and advocated for stronger youth participation in global climate solutions. Driven, determined, and deeply committed to environmental justice, Rumaila continues to grow as a young climate leader working to empower communities, support resilient food systems, and inspire a new generation of climate-conscious





Thank you for your Meaningful Participation and
Looking forward to a Sustainable World

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