

Solutions for Scaling up Agroecology

12th September 2019, 10:30 - 16:00h, Heliopolis University, Egypt

Biographies of speakers

Helmy Abouleish, Councillor, World Future Council; CEO of the SEKEM Initiative and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Heliopolis University.

Helmy Abouleish, born 1961 in Graz, Austria, is CEO of the SEKEM Initiative in Egypt, founded by his father Ibrahim Abouleish in 1977. Helmy Abouleish has been deeply involved in SEKEM since it was founded. He studied economics and marketing in Cairo and was for a long time campaigning in national and international politics to promote responsible competitiveness, social entrepreneurship and tackling the greatest challenges of the 21st century, such as climate change and food security. He is also member of a number of international organizations and councils, such as Fair Trade USA. In June 2018 he was elected as president of Demeter International. Helmy Abouleish became a member of the World Future Council in September 2017¹. The SEKEM Initiative, recently, was recognized as Outstanding Practice in Agroecology 2019 by the World Future Council.



Prof. Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr, Professor of Biological Control, Faculty of Organic Agriculture at Heliopolis University, Egypt

Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr is Professor of Biological Control, Faculty of Organic Agriculture at Heliopolis University and is Professor emeritus of Biological Control, Department of Economic Entomology and Pesticides, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, Giza. He is teaching and researching in the fields of insect biology and ecology; biological control of agricultural pests and disease vectors using natural enemies such as predators and entomopathogenic bacteria, viruses, fungi and nematodes, and authored more than 50 scientific publications in these fields. Moreover, Dr. Bakr is author, co-author and editor of several training guides on environmental education and environmental rights addressing school teachers and students as well as NGO members. He is a founding member of several environmental, developmental and human-rights NGOs and also works as consultant of several agricultural and environmental projects run by NGOs such as Salama Mousa Foundation, IDAM, Upper

Egypt association for education and development CEOSS, CARE, Save the Children, Future Eve, Women and Society, CEDARE, CIDA, USAID, and Drosos. From 1999 to 2008, Dr. Bakr served as environmental and education consultant of the EEPP – the Egyptian Environmental Policy Programme and the E³OP - the Egyptian Environmental Education and Outreach Programme.

Poppe Braam, Founder, DO-IT - Dutch Organic International Trade, the Netherlands.

A bio pioneer since 1980, Poppe Braam seeks for in-depth knowledge in a broad spectrum of subjects, including organic product development, supporting organic fair-trade projects, market development for organically produced crops, and creating organic communities and alliances. In 1991, he founded the company DO-IT - Dutch Organic International Trade. Like its founder, also the company is driven by a strong commitment to stimulate organic farming and build sustainable trade relations with, and between, farmers in developing countries and buyers in Europe. The company has developed relationships with 170 suppliers in more than 20 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America buying over 850 products from them; from nuts, quinoa, dried fruit and sugar, to rice and olive oil. The company works closely with local farmers and cooperatives, and shares knowledge about organic farming practices.² He is renowned as an inspiring lecturer on sustainable and organic matter, and as an initiator and supporter of international organic agricultural initiatives.



Thais Corral, Councillor, World Future Council; Co-founder, Women's Environment and Development Organization; and Founder of Sinal do Vale.

As part of the Women's Global Movement, Thais Corral was one of the leaders who actively participated in the Earth Summit in 1992. Together with American Congress representative, Bella Abzug, and Nobel Award winner, Wangari Maathai, she founded WEDO - Women's Environment and Development Organization. Ms Corral is the founder and current director of two established and nationally recognized non-profit organizations in Brazil, REDEH (Network of Human Development) and CEMINA (Communication, Education, Information and Adaptation). Her current most important initiative is SINAL do Vale, a 400 acres agro-forestry farm, near Rio de Janeiro. As a social entrepreneur, Ms

Corral conceived and implemented a women's radio network which links 400 female radio programs to their communities. She coordinates the project Adapta Sertao which mission is to improve food security and resilience to climate change in the semi-arid region of Brazil. In 2015 the project received the MDGs award given by the President of Brazil. Ms Corral was recognized as "Woman of the year 2001" by the Brazilian National Council of Women. In 2004 she received as part of WEDO the Award Earth Champion by UNEP. She holds master degree from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and a post degree by the United Nations University and University of Chicago.³

¹ <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/helmy-abouleish/>
² <https://www.triodos.com/articles/2018/case-study-do-it>

³ <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/thais-corral/>

Martina Dinkel, Arts Coordinator, Movement & Performing Arts, Core Program, Heliopolis University

Martina Dinkel studied Eurythmy at Eurythmum in Stuttgart (Dipl. 1985) and Eurythmy Therapy in Stuttgart (Dipl. 1992). She taught Eurythmy at the R.Steiner School in Duesseldorf, Germany. In 2011, she concluded a MA in Social Eurythmy at Alanus Hochschule, Alfter. Since 1992 she is active in Sekem, Egypt, providing Eurythmy Training for Egyptian Teachers at Sekem School, Training for Pedagogy Eurythmy at Sekem Schools, Social Eurythmy at working places, and Arts Performances with Sekem Eurythmy Ensemble. Since 2011she is at Heliopolis University, Egypt, as Arts Coordinator at Core Program and for Performing Arts, as Movement teacher for students and as Space of Culture event coordinator. At today's event she is performing together with Members of the Sekem Choir and musicians and music instructors form Heliopolis University.



Uwe Gehlen, First Counsellor, Head of German Development Cooperation, Egypt.

Mr. Gehlen is Head of German Development Cooperation in Egypt and First Counsellor at the German Embassy in Cairo since September 2018. Before that he served as Head of Division on Effectiveness, Transparency and Quality Standards in the German Federal Ministry on Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). He holds this position from 2015 to 2018 with a 1-year intermission as Head of German Development Cooperation in Afghanistan. Prior to that, he was Head of Section for Social Protection, Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and Demography in the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) after working as Senior Social Protection Specialist at the World Bank on the same subjects. Previous to that he served as Senior Advisor to the German Executive Director at the World Bank in the Board of the Institution, focusing on Human and Social Development, Internal Governance and Interagency Cooperation. Mr. Gehlen led the Division for Poverty Reduction, Social Protection including the rights of persons with disabilities, and MDGs in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and was strongly involved in sharpening the German G8 Agenda with regard to Social Protection and the negotiations of the UNCRPD. Mr. Gehlen served for over six years as head of the Minister's Office in the BMZ. Mr. Gehlen holds an MA in Political Science, Sociology and Public Law from the Friedrich-Wilhelms-University in Bonn, Germany.



Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald, Chair of the Supervisory Board of the World Future Council and CEO, Schweisfurth Foundation



Prof. Gottwald studied Theology, Indology, Social Science, and Philosophy with a Ph.D. in 1982. He is Honorary Professor for agrarian and environmental ethics at Humboldt University, Berlin. He is CEO of the Schweisfurth Foundation, Munich, where he has been committed since 1988. He also is member of the Executive Board of the Foundation for Research in Mycological Taxonomy and Ecology, and Director of the Renate Benthein Stiftung für Nutztierschutz. He has been a member of the board of publishers of the "Zeitschrift für Umweltpolitik und Umweltrecht" for many years. He holds memberships in several scientific and business ethics organizations. His fields of interest are Business Ethics, Consciousness Research, Future Studies. Author of numerous books and articles on the future of agriculture, education, agricultural and food ethics. Prof. Dr Franz-Theo Gottwald has been a member of the Supervisory Board of the World Future Council since 2010.

Jean-Marc Faurès, Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt

Mr. Jean-Marc Faurès is a senior agronomist and water resources management specialist. He has more than 30 years of experience in dealing with issues related to agricultural development in the Near East, Africa and Asia, with special focus on land and water issues, climate change adaptation and rural livelihoods. In 2015, he joined the Team in charge of developing FAO's strategic programme on sustainable agriculture and mainstreaming sustainable food and agriculture in national programmes, in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since February 2019, M. Faurès in coordinating FAO's technical programme in the Near East and North Africa Region.



Prof. Herbert Girardet, Honorary Councillor and Co-Founder, World Future Council; Consultant to UNEP and UN-Habitat; Author



Prof. Giraret is cofounder and former director of programmes of the World Future Council. He is a cultural ecologist, author and former filmmaker. He has worked as a consultant to UN Habitat and UNEP and is a recipient of a UN Global 500 Award for outstanding environmental achievements. He is an executive committee member of the Club of Rome, and a member of the World Academy of Art and Science and visiting professor at the University pf the West of England. As 'Thinker in Residence' he developed exemplary sustainability strategies for South Australia which have been fully implemented. His 13 books include Earthrise (1992), The Gaia Atlas Of Cities (1992 and 1996); Cities, People, Planet (2004 and 2008); A Renewable World – Energy, Ecology, Equality (2009), and Creating Regenerative Cities (2014).⁴

⁴ <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/herbert-girardet/>

Dr. Hans Rudolf Herren, Councillor, World Future Council; President and CEO, Millennium Institute, Co-Founder and President Biovision, Recipient of the World Food Prize, Recipient of the Alternative Nobel Prize

Hans R. Herren is an internationally recognised scientist who lived and worked for 27 years across Africa in agriculture, health, and environmental research and capacity development. As Director of the Africa Biological Control Center of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria, he conceived and implemented the highly successful biological control program against the cassava mealy bug and the green mite that saved the cassava crop, the staple of 200 million Africans and averted Africa's worst-ever food crisis. For this achievement, he was the first Swiss to receive the World Food Prize in 1995. Mr Herren advocates for holistic and multi-stakeholder approaches to development planning that take cognizance of the three dimensions of sustainability, and result from a shared vision of sustainability by all the key actors. Hans holds numerous awards that recognize his distinguished and continuing achievements in original research and advocacy. These include the Right Livelihood Award, Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, Brandenberger Preis, and the Kilby Award. Mr Herren earned his PhD at the Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, and completed post-doctoral research at University of California, Berkeley. He is also the founder of Biovision Foundation, Switzerland. He is a member of the World Future Council since 2018.⁵



Valerie von Koerber, Co-Founder, TAGS - Technology for Agroecology in the Global South - a Bosch corporate start up, Germany.

Valerie von Koerber is an aeronautical engineer by education. In parallel to doing a PhD in numerical simulation of combustion processes, she co-founded the Bosch corporate start-up 'Technology for Agroecology in the Global South' (TAGS) in 2018. TAGS is investigating ways of using the technological strength of the Bosch Group to contribute to major global challenges. Currently, the focus is on empowering smallholder farmers to transition from vulnerable subsistence farmers to resilient entrepreneurs in agriculture, who can fight food scarcity, poverty and also climate change.

Dr. Rama Mani, Councillor, World Future Council; and Founder of Theatre of Transformation Academy; Convenor of the Enacting Global Transformation at University of Oxford's Centre for International Studies



Dr Rama Mani is a transformative leader, peacebuilder, poet and performance artist whose life, work and art are devoted to human and global transformation. She was awarded the Peter Becker Peace Prize in 2013 at Marburg University, Germany, for the combined impact of her scholarship and advocacy for peace. Rama is the Founder of Theatre of Transformation Academy, a non-profit association registered in Geneva, Switzerland, whose purpose is to champion the creative power of humanity to shape our shared future. She is the Convenor of the Enacting Global Transformation Collaborative Initiative at the University of Oxford's Centre for International Studies, which seeks to redefine paradigms of power, and shape creative, humane and effective responses to current global crises. Rama is also the Co-Founder of Rising Women Rising World, a global group of women leaders aiming to 'co-create a world that works for all', established jointly with Prof. Jean Houston and Dr. Scilla Elworthy. Formerly, she serves as a Senior Advisor and Jury Member of the 'Alternative Nobel Prize' or Right Livelihood Award; as Executive Director of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Sri Lanka; and as Director of the Global Peace and Security Course at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. She is a Faculty member of the Geneva Academy for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, at the Graduate Institute and University of Geneva, teaching Transformative Justice for the M.A. in Transitional Justice, and is also a Research Associate at the Faculty of Education, University of Johannesburg, South Africa from 2018-2022. Rama has collaborated with the United Nations since 1992 and served on the Board of global institutions, like Foundation for the Future. Rama has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Cambridge, UK.⁶



Dr. Auma Obama, Councillor, World Future Council; Founder and Director of the Sauti Kuu Foundation, Kenya.

Born and raised in Kenya, Dr. Auma Obama completed her Doctorate in Philology at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. For several years, Dr. Obama lived and worked in Germany and the UK before returning to Kenya, where she worked for the aid organisation CARE International. She is the initiator and CEO of the Sauti Kuu Foundation, which works to self-empower children and adolescents from underprivileged backgrounds in Kenya. She also recently initiated the Sauti Kuu Act Now Awards that were launched in Berlin in 2015. The awards recognise children and young people between the ages of 12 and 25 who dedicate themselves to social, humanitarian and environmental projects. Dr. Obama is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the 'German Reading Foundation', a member of the Advisory

Board of the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies at the University of Bayreuth, a member of the Governing Council of the Kilimanjaro Initiative in Nairobi and since 2014, she has been the Patron of the international Storymoja Festivals in Kenya. Dr. Auma Obama is also a widely read author. Her autobiography "And Then Life Happens: A Memoir" was published in German in 2010 and subsequently translated into English. In great demand as a speaker, she is active at numerous events worldwide on topics of socio-economic development. Her focus here is on the relationship between the so-called 'developing countries' and the 'developed states'. The awards with which Dr. Auma Obama has been presented in recognition of her dedication to humanitarian efforts include the Prix Courage awarded by the German broadcaster ZDF in cooperation with Clarins, Paris (2014); the B.A.U.M. Award (2015); the World Human Rights Award (2015) by Look magazine; the Kiwanis Award (2016, Kiwanis Club Stuttgart); and the Deutscher Rednerpreis presented by the German Speakers Association (2015). Dr. Auma Obama is the sister of US President Barack Obama.⁷

⁵ <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/hans-herren/>

⁶ <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/rama-mani/>

⁷ <https://sautikufoundation.org/en/dr-auma-obama-3/> and <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/auma-obama/>

Prof. Dr. Atef Abd El Aziz Hassan Ragab, Director of Central Lab. Of Organic Agriculture, ARC.

Prof. Dr. Ragab is a Director of Central Lab of Organic Agriculture. He has served as a researcher in several agricultural projects as the use of microbial inoculants for Egyptian legumes and non-legumes cultivation, enhancing soil fertility in newly reclaimed soils by Controlled Microbial Compost (CMC) production vermicomopst, improving the cultivation of leguminous and non-leguminous plants, the production of a bio-fertilizer and bio-agents against nematodes and other soil borne diseases and its application in different agricultural lands. He has supervised several MSc and Ph.D. thesis on bio-fertilizer application for both leguminous and non-leguminous plants and organic agriculture. Prof. Dr. Ragab is a contributor to the ministerial decisions, regulations and governing systems and standards for organic agricultural inside and outside Egypt. Prof. Dr. Ragab was selected as national expert for CARE organization programmes providing practical training on methods of compost production and bio-fertilizers for small farmers in Upper Egypt (2004-2006), contributed to the Matrouh Sustainable Development Project concerning some mint varieties to organic farming system and also trained Fayoum small growers in agroecological practices and marketing. He serves as Consultant for MAFA, Agriculture Companies from 2016 until now. Prof. Dr. Ragab is also Vice President of High Committee of Bio Protection and Organic Agriculture and member of Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network (MOAN).



Tony Rinaudo, Natural Resources Advisor, World Vision Australia, Australia.



Tony Rinaudo is an Australian agronomist, known as the “forest maker”. Having lived and worked in Africa for several decades, he has discovered and put in practice a solution to the extreme deforestation and desertification of the Sahel region. With a simple set of management practices, farmers regenerate and protect existing local vegetation, which has helped to improve the livelihoods of millions. Tony Rinaudo is Principal Advisor for Natural Resources Management at World Vision Australia. He has decades of experience in the development and promotion of agricultural-forestry-pastoral systems across a range of environments, including 18 years spent in the Niger managing a long-term agricultural development program. Rinaudo's Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) method has restored 50,000 km² of land with over 200 million trees in Niger alone.⁸ For his work he received the Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Prize) in 2018 and, recently, FMNR was also recognized as Outstanding Practice in Agroecology 2019 by the World Future Council.

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Soliman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Egypt and President of the Agricultural Research Center (ARC).



Prof. Dr. Mohamed Soliman is the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Egypt and current President of the Agricultural Research Center (ARC). After a Bachelor in Science in 1985, he pursued his career in the Field Crops Research Institute (FCRI), where he started as Research Assistant in 1986. In 2008 he became Chief Researcher and since 2010 he serves as Vice President for production at FCRI.⁹



Shrikrishna Upadhyay, Initiator, Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal (SAPPROS).

Shrikrishna Upadhyay is a Nepalese development practitioner who has empowered more than a million people in rural Nepal to work for the improvement of their living conditions. Through his work with different organisations, he has demonstrated that poverty can be eradicated if the poor are mobilised and organised. A strong advocate of local self-governance, Upadhyay has strengthened Nepalese communities despite the violent political conflict in the country. Mr. Upadhyay was born in June 1945. He was educated in the U.S. and gained an MS in Economics. Serving as chairman of the board and general manager of the Agricultural Development Bank of Nepal (1982-1990) and as a member of the National Planning Commission of Nepal (1990-1993), he came to the conclusion that top-down development does not work. Thus, in 1975 he helped initiate the Small Farmer Development Programme (SFDP) which yielded substantial achievements in the fields of micro credit, low-cost drinking water supply schemes, tree planting, training and literacy through social mobilisation. In 1991, Mr. Upadhyay initiated SAPPROS - Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal, which works in the poorest areas of Nepal. SAPPROS' strategy is to develop grassroots level institutions that are self-sufficient, replicable and enable the poor people to self-govern and manage community affairs. His untiring and persistent social contribution has privileged him to receive the Right Livelihood Award 2010, also known as Alternative Nobel Prize.¹⁰

Alexandra Wandel, Executive Director, World Future Council.



Alexandra Wandel was appointed Development Director to prepare the Founding Congress of the World Future Council in 2006 and now serves as Executive Director. She is in charge of External and Council Liaison, Programmes, and the Future Policy Award in partnership with UN Agencies and chairs the Management Board. Since 2014, she is a member on the International Commission of the Children's Book Series "Voices of Future Generations". Previously, she was the European Trade and Sustainability Programme Coordinator of Friends of the Earth International in Brussels. Between 1999 and 2006, she coordinated European NGO activities including at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conferences in Seattle, Doha, Cancun and Hong Kong and the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. She was an advisor to the European Commission's Delegation to the Johannesburg Summit and to EU Commissioner Lamy on globalisation, trade and environment on behalf of the major European environmental NGOs: Friends of the Earth Europe, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Greenpeace and Birdlife. Earlier she worked for EcoPeace Middle East in East Jerusalem, the Egyptian Youth for Development and Environment in Cairo, and was personal assistant to Eva Quistorp, MEP, Brussels and Elisabeth Schroeter, MEP, Potsdam. Alexandra has a MA in International Relations with Honours from the University of Amsterdam, and studied political science and public law at the Free University Berlin.¹¹

⁸ <https://www.rightlivelihoodaward.org/2018-announcement/tony-rinaudo/>

⁹ <http://www.arc.sci.gov/InstsLabs/ResDetails.aspx?TabId=3&OrgId=3&NavId=0&ResID=70757&Lang=en>

¹⁰ <https://www.rightlivelihoodaward.org/laureates/shrikrishna-upadhyay-sapros/>

¹¹ <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/alexandra-wandel/>