



FAO Technical Lecture Series

Virtual | 6-20 July 2026

Together, let's empower the next generation of researchers to transform agrifood systems for a better future.

Date	Malaysia Time	Technical lecture	Zoom link / notes
6 July	11:00 MYT	 One Health in Action: Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance with RENOFARM	Register Here
7 July	15:00 MYT	 Sustainable Land, Soil and Water management, sharing experiences on WASAG - The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture	Register Here
9 July	15:00 MYT	 Indigenous Peoples' Food and Knowledge Systems: FPIC and Considerations for Research on Nutrition	Register Here
10 July	15:00 MYT	 Democratizing Open Foris solutions for forest and land monitoring	Register Here
14 July	15:00 MYT	 FAO's Agroinformatics Platform and Digital Tools in agriculture	Register Here
15 July	15:00 MYT	 What's in our food? The importance of food composition data for research and policies in Asia-Pacific	Register Here
16 July	15:00 MYT	 Sustainable bioeconomy for agrifood systems transformation, sharing experiences on BET 4 Sustainable Food and Agriculture in the Asia-Pacific	Register Here
17 July	11:00 MYT	 One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative	Register Here
17 July	15:00 MYT	 Integrated agriculture-aquaculture systems and Governance mechanisms for sustainable aquaculture development.	Register Here
20 July	15:00 MYT	 Food Loss and Waste, specifically on these tools FLAPP and Optiwaste.	Register Here

Meet the Lecturers

FAO Technical Lecture Series | 6-20 July 2026

The FAO Technical Lecture Series brings together FAO experts and partners to share practical knowledge, tools and experiences to support young researchers in developing stronger, policy-relevant research proposals for agrifood systems transformation.

Speakers at a glance

Date	Technical lecture	Lecturer(s)
6 July 11:00 MYT	One Health in Action: Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance with RENOFARM	Dr. Alessandro Patriarchi
7 July 15:00 MYT	Sustainable Land, Soil and Water Management: Sharing experiences on WASAG	Dr Ruhiza Jean Boroto; Dr Maria Konyushkova; Felistas Mugariri
9 July 15:00 MYT	Indigenous Peoples' Food and Knowledge Systems: FPIC and Considerations for Research on Nutrition	Pablo Innecken; Alejandra Lizarraga Peña
10 July 15:00 MYT	Democratizing Open Foris solutions for forest and land monitoring	Dr Julian Fox
14 July 15:00 MYT	FAO's Agroinformatics Platform and Digital Tools in Agriculture	Zhongxin Chen; Karl Mortero
15 July 15:00 MYT	What's in our food? The importance of food composition data for research and policies in Asia-Pacific	Dr Fernanda Grande
16 July 15:00 MYT	Sustainable bioeconomy for agrifood systems transformation	Marta Solari; Marta Gomez
17 July 11:00 MYT	One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative	Dr Xuan Li;
17 July 15:00 MYT	Integrated agriculture-aquaculture systems and governance mechanisms for sustainable aquaculture development	Kwang Suk Oh, Pierre Murekezi and Oluwafemi Ajayi
20 July 15:00 MYT	Food Loss and Waste: FLAPP and Optiwaste tools	Dr Luciana Delgado

6 July | 11:00 MYT | One Health in Action: Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance with RENOFARM

Lecture focus: This lecture introduces practical One Health approaches to tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR), with a focus on RENOFARM and regional efforts to strengthen AMR governance and food safety systems.



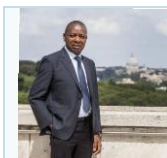
Dr. Alessandro Patriarchi

AMR Regional Coordinator, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Dr. Alessandro Patriarchi holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology from University College Dublin, where he specialized in the ecology and molecular characterization of *Campylobacter* spp. in poultry. He has over 15 years of international experience with the United Nations system, including FAO and WHO. He joined FAO's Animal Health Service in 2015, where he established the Organization's first Interdepartmental Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and coordinated the development of FAO's first AMR Action Plan. He also served as FAO's Tripartite focal point, facilitating collaboration with WHO and WOA. After contributing to AMR capacity-building initiatives at WHO, he returned to FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in 2025, where he leads regional efforts on AMR governance and food safety systems.

7 July | 15:00 MYT | Sustainable Land, Soil and Water Management: Sharing experiences on WASAG

Lecture focus: This lecture explores integrated approaches to land, soil and water management in water-scarce contexts, drawing on experiences from WASAG, soil salinity work, and the links between water, crops and nutrition.



Ruhiza Jean Boroto

Senior Land and Water Officer, FAO

Ruhiza Jean Boroto is a Senior Land and Water Officer at FAO. Since 2017, he has overseen the development of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) partnership. He previously provided technical assistance to countries through FAO's Regional Office for Africa, covering agricultural water management, climate change, land use and tenure, soils, bioenergy, sustainable agriculture and value chains. A water engineer by training, he has also served as a senior civil servant in South Africa and as a regional water expert for the Global Water Partnership - Southern Africa.



Maria Konyushkova

International Consultant, Soil Salinity, FAO

Maria Konyushkova is a soil salinity expert with almost 20 years of experience in field work and research in arid and salt-affected regions, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Iran, Uzbekistan and China. She joined the Global Soil Partnership Secretariat in 2021 to lead work on soil salinity. Before joining FAO, she worked as a soil scientist in the Department of Salt-Affected Soils of the Dokuchaev Soil Science Institute and as a soil expert at the Eurasian Center for Food Security. She has been an active contributor to the Eurasian Soil Partnership and served as a European expert in the FAO Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils. She holds an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Soil Science.



Felistas Mugariri

Water, Crops and Nutrition Analyst, FAO

Felistas Mugariri is a Nutritionist and Water, Crops and Nutrition Analyst at FAO. Her work focuses on the intersection between water, soils and nutrition in the context of climate change, with a particular emphasis on promoting indigenous, drought-resilient and nutritious crops in water-scarce regions. She holds a Master's degree in Nutrition and Rural Development from Ghent University.

9 July | 15:00 MYT | Indigenous Peoples' Food and Knowledge Systems: FPIC and Considerations for Research on Nutrition

Lecture focus: This lecture presents key principles for respectful research with Indigenous Peoples, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and considerations related to food, nutrition and Indigenous knowledge systems.



Pablo Innecken

Technical Officer, Indigenous Peoples Unit, FAO

Pablo Innecken is Technical Officer for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) at FAO's Indigenous Peoples Unit. He coordinates the implementation of FPIC across FAO projects and programmes and supports FAO's engagement in negotiations under the Rio Conventions, international fora and FAO governing bodies. He contributed to the drafting of the FAO Standards on Ecosystem Restoration and coordinates the FAO Global Programme on Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration, with work in countries including India, Thailand, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Brazil, Paraguay and Peru. Originally from Costa Rica, he served for more than 12 years as a career diplomat, including as Alternate Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to FAO. He holds degrees in diplomacy, international cooperation, international relations and history.



Alejandra Lizarraga Peña

Indigenous Peoples Food and Nutrition Expert, FAO

Alejandra Lizarraga Peña is an expert in Indigenous Peoples' nutrition and foods at FAO, contributing to work on food composition, healthy diets and ultra-processed foods. She holds a Master's degree in Human Development and Food Security from Roma Tre University, a specialization in Food and Sustainability from the European Institute for Innovation and Sustainability, and a Bachelor's degree in Dietetics and Nutrition. She has over 12 years of experience in clinical nutrition and has worked with civil society organizations on climate change, food security and sustainable food systems. She previously served as Food Loss Manager at the Food Security Alliance in Baja California Sur, Mexico, and has taught at universities and spoken in national and international forums on food, sustainability and food systems.

10 July | 15:00 MYT | Democratizing Open Foris solutions for forest and land monitoring

Lecture focus: This lecture presents Open Foris and related open-source solutions for forest and land monitoring, showing how digital tools can support data collection, analysis and decision-making.



Julian Fox

FAO - Senior Forestry Officer

Julian has 20 years' experience in forest assessment as a leader of multi-disciplinary teams, manager of international and national projects, researcher, teacher, and technical specialist. Julian has 7 years' experience living and working in developing countries managing international REDD+ forestry projects in Papua New Guinea and Zambia. Julian's current position is Team Leader, National Forest Monitoring (NFM), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As Team Leader NFM, Julian coordinates global normative NFM work, global NFM tools (Open Foris suite, and SEPAL), and a significant portfolio of country support activities of the NFM team (active in forty-five countries). The Team supports countries on technical issues related to National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS), the development of cost effective and reliable Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for REDD+ processes as well as SDG indicators. In terms of impact, 75% of all 38 Forest Reference (Emission) Levels submitted to the UNFCCC have received support from the FAO REDD+/NFM team.

14 July | 15:00 MYT | FAO's Agrioinformatics Platform and Digital Tools in Agriculture

Lecture focus: This lecture introduces FAO's Agrioinformatics Platform and digital tools that support agricultural data management, analysis and evidence-based decision-making.



Karl Mortero

FAO - Senior IT Officer

Karl has over 30 years of experience developing and supplying IT solutions & services. He is currently working at the Food and Agriculture Organization, where he is currently leading the development of the flagship agro-informatics platform. This platform brings together technical units from across the Organization and integrates data from the United Nations system, international organisations, NGOs, space agencies, public data providers, and the private sector. Previously, Karl has delivered IT solutions at the global, regional, and national scale in animal health, livestock, fisheries, crops, plant genetics and pests, food security, climate, trade and markets, soil, land, and water. He has also worked in telecoms, merchant banking and the space industry. Karl is a Cloud Architect, Scrum Master, PRINCE2 project manager and an ITIL practitioner. He graduated from the University of Leeds with a bachelor's degree in Computational Science and completed a master's degree in Intelligent Knowledge Based Systems at Cranfield Institute of Technology.



Zhongxin Chen

FAO - Senior IT Officer

Dr. Zhongxin Chen is a Senior IT Officer at Digital FAO and Agro-informatics Division at United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Now he is leading Digital for Impact Stream and Agro-informatics team, the agricultural applications of cutting-edge information technologies including geospatial IT and artificial intelligence. He is Co-Chair of the Geo-AI Working Group of UN Open GIS since 2020. He was also vice-chair of FAO-ITU Joint Focus Group on "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) for Digital Agriculture" (FG-AI4A) during 2021-2025. He has engaged in promoting agriculture benefit using data science, AI, geospatial IT including remote sensing and GIS since 1999. His main interests and achievements are in agricultural digitalization, agricultural geospatial information platform and infrastructure, IT applications development, agro-informatics, and digital public goods. He has been PI for more than 50 national, ministerial and international research and applications projects. He has published more than 200 papers, books, book chapters, and reports. He was honored 'National Outstanding Agronomist' by the Ministry of Agriculture of China in 2015. He has also been awarded in three National Science and Technology Advance Awards from Chinese Government (2012, 2014 and 2016) and one Newton Prize from UK Government (2019).

15 July | 15:00 MYT | What's in our food? The importance of food composition data for research and policies in Asia-Pacific

Lecture focus: This lecture explains why food composition data are essential for nutrition research, dietary assessment and policy development, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific context.



Fernanda Grande

FAO – Nutrition Officer

Fernanda Grande is a Nutrition Officer specializing in food composition in the Dietary Intake and Food Composition team within the Food and Nutrition Division of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). She holds a Ph.D. in Applied Human Nutrition from the University of São Paulo, Brazil. With over 15 years of experience in food composition, she has contributed to the development and update of 12 national and international published food composition tables and databases and one FAO/INFOODS guideline. Fernanda has trained professionals from multiple countries through FAO/INFOODS online and in-person courses and workshops. Since September 2025, she has served as the global coordinator of INFOODS, the international network of experts dedicated to improving the quality, availability, and use of food composition data.

16 July | 15:00 MYT | Sustainable bioeconomy for agrifood systems transformation

Lecture focus: This lecture shares experiences on sustainable bioeconomy approaches for agrifood systems transformation, including links to BET 4 Sustainable Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific.



Marta Solari

FAO - Bioeconomy and Sustainability Specialist

Ms Marta Solari is a Bioeconomy and Sustainability Specialist in the OCB Office at FAO, Rome. An Italian lawyer with a Master's degree in International Environmental Law, Marta is currently pursuing a PhD in Law, focusing on bioeconomy. She joined FAO Headquarters in 2024 and, in 2025, moved to Bangkok to serve with the Bioeconomy Team at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), before returning to FAO Headquarters in Rome.

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Photo to be added

Marta Gomez

FAO - Senior Bioeconomy Expert

Marta Gomez San Juan studied at the Technical University of Madrid (Spain), the University of Illinois (USA) and Cranfield University (UK). Her background is in agricultural engineering and biosystems. For the past eight years, she has worked on bioeconomy-related issues as part of FAO's Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment. She is currently a senior bioeconomy expert supporting the leadership of FAO's "Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture" programme priority area.

17 July | 11:00 MYT | One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative

Lecture focus: This lecture introduces the OCOP initiative and how it can support distinctive agricultural products, inclusive value chains and sustainable agrifood systems.



Xuan Li

FAO – Senior Policy Officer

Dr. Xuan Li is Senior Policy Officer at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), Bangkok. She is also serving as Secretary, Regional One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) Secretariat, RAP. Before she moved to FAO RAP, she was Attaché de Cabinet of Office of the Director-General, FAO, Rome, Italy, and Programme Officer at International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Prior to joining the FAO, she was Programme Coordinator of Innovation, Access to Knowledge and Intellectual Property Programme and Lead Economist at South Centre, Geneva, Switzerland. She was Director of South Centre-United Nations Institute for Training and Research on Intellectual Property Policy and Development programme. Previously, she worked at World Trade Institute, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the Asian Development Bank, working on WTO law and economics, trade and investment, agriculture, public health, intellectual property and sustainable development issues etc. Her academic credentials include a Ph.D in Economics and a second Ph.D in International Law (both obtained in Switzerland). She has written/edited 16 books and authored numerous journal articles, including Nature Plants.

17 July | 15:00 MYT | Integrated agriculture-aquaculture systems and governance mechanisms for sustainable aquaculture development

Lecture focus: This lecture explores integrated agriculture-aquaculture systems and governance mechanisms that can support sustainable aquaculture development.

	Mr. Oh <i>FAO-Senior Fisheries Officer</i> Mr Kwang Suk Oh as Team Leader for Aquaculture Policy and Institutions, covering aquaculture governance, policy, planning, partnerships, economic tools and spatial planning
	Pierre Murekezi <i>FAO- Fisheries Officer</i> Pierre Murekezi as a Fisheries Officer working on sustainable aquaculture guidance, governance and policy issues, and he is also an author of FAO's 2024 technical paper on public-private partnership innovations for aquaculture development in sub-Saharan Africa
	Oluwafemi Ajayi <i>FAO- Aquaculture Specialist</i> Oluwafemi Ajayi as an Aquaculture and Integrated Agriculture-Aquaculture Specialist in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division.

20 July | 15:00 MYT | Food Loss and Waste: FLAPP and Optiwaste tools

Lecture focus: This lecture introduces tools and approaches to support the assessment and reduction of food loss and waste, with a focus on FLAPP and Optiwaste.



Luciana Delgado

FAO – Technical Adviser

Luciana Delgado is a Technical Adviser at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), where she leads the Food Loss and Waste programme. She holds a PhD in Production Ecology and Resource Conservation from Wageningen University & Research. Before joining FAO, she worked at International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on global, regional, and local value chains, agroindustry, and food losses, and earlier in the private agroindustry sector. Her work focuses on food loss and waste data, evidence-based strategies, and practical solutions to reduce losses across agrifood systems. At FAO, she created and developed the FAO Food Loss app (FLAPP) and Optiwaste, digital tools designed to support the measurement, analysis, and reduction of food loss and waste. She has extensive experience working across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.