

GAFSP Knowledge Forum | Plenary Speaker Bios

Agnes Kalibata, GAFSP Steering Committee Co-Chair

Agnes Kalibata joined the GAFSP Steering Committee in 2026 as the new Co-Chair. Her career has been dedicated to transforming agriculture and food systems to reduce hunger and poverty. She is the Founder and Chair of Connect for Impact Advisory Group (C4Impact), a mission-driven social enterprise that helps countries deliver ambitious food system development outcomes. As President of AGRA (2014-2025), Dr. Kalibata partnered with 15 African governments to strengthen delivery systems and contributed to improved food security and the livelihoods of over 30 million households. Previously, as Rwanda's Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, she oversaw the country's transition from food deficit to food secure in four years, cutting the global hunger index by more than 50 percent. She serves on a number of boards and holds a PhD in Entomology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Máximo Torero, Chief Economist, UNFAO

As FAO's chief economist, Máximo Torero leads FAO's work with governments and partners to build resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems, focusing on strengthening shock resilience while advancing innovative financing and improving access to healthy diets. He leads FAO's economic policy engagement and provides leadership on flagship reports. Before joining FAO in 2019, Dr. Torero was executive director at the World Bank Group, representing several Latin American countries. He has published 14 books on poverty, inequality and behavioral economics. His research examines how infrastructure, institutions and technology influence poverty reduction and market connectivity.

Shobha Shetty, GAFSP Program Head and Senior Adviser, Agriculture, at the World Bank Group

Before joining GAFSP, Shobha Shetty was Global Director of Agriculture and previously served as Agriculture and Food Practice Manager in the Africa region as well as South Asia. She also served as Practice Manager for Global Partnerships and Resource Mobilization in the Social, Urban, Rural, Resilience Global Practice. Prior to this, Ms. Shetty

worked in the East Asia & Pacific and Middle East and North Africa regions. Her work and interests span irrigation and water resources management, digital agriculture, agribusiness development, women's empowerment, nutrition sensitive agriculture, urban food systems, rural youth employment, climate resilience, and rural-urban linkages. In 2015, she was a Visiting Fellow at the Tata-Cornell Agriculture and Nutrition Initiative (TCi) at Cornell University, NY. She has also been a Visiting Fellow at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). Ms. Shetty holds a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Anna University, Madras, India. She obtained her Masters and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural economics from Cornell University.

Gabriel Ferrero de Loma Osorio, GAFSP Senior Strategy Advisor

Gabriel Ferrero de Loma Osoria is the Senior Strategy Advisor of the GAFSP and was the Chairperson of the UN Committee on World Food Security from 2021 to 2023. From 2021 to 2025 he also was Spain's Ambassador at Large for Global Food Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union. Ferrero has devoted his career to sustainable development and international cooperation. Previously, he was also a member of the Office of the UN Secretary General's team for the 2030 Agenda and Climate Change and the UN High Level Task Force on Global Food Security. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gabriel-ferrero-de-loma-osorio/overlay/about-this-profile/>

Francesca D'Emidio, Facilitator

Francesca D'Emidio is the Founder and Director of Learning and Change (www.learningandchange.org), a consultancy specializing in monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) for international development. Since 2017, she has partnered with INGOs and international development agencies to design and strengthen MEL and Value for Money (VfM) frameworks and approaches, with a particular focus on gender equality and women's rights programs. In addition to MEL design and advisory work, Francesca facilitates learning and planning events, delivers capacity building and MEL training, and conducts research. She has worked with a diverse portfolio of clients including WHO, Women Win, Oxford Policy Management, ActionAid, Chemonics, Aus4Equality, and Cowater International. Francesca holds a BA in Economics from the University of Sussex (UK) and an MA in International Development Cooperation from the University of the Basque Country, Bilbao.

Renato Godhino, Director, Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty - Support Mechanism

Renato Godinho is the Director of the Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty Support Mechanism. As a journalist and career diplomat of 22 years, Renato Godhino has played key roles in multilateral governance, including his work in the reform of the UN Committee on World Food Security and the establishment of the Biofuture Platform. As director of the Support Mechanism, he oversees operational implementation of the Alliance.