



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF **FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

2021

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of various colorful, overlapping shapes representing fruits and vegetables, such as a green bell pepper, a red tomato, a yellow banana, and a purple eggplant.

Panelists BIO

Join by webinar
or webcast

15 December 2020
13:00-15:30 CET

Ms Helena Leurent

Director General, Consumers International (UK)

Helena Leurent is Director General of Consumers International, the membership organisation for 200 consumer advocacy groups around the world in more than 100 countries. Consumers International works with members and partners to empower consumers, to ensure consumers are treated safely, fairly and honestly worldwide, and to drive change in the marketplace on global consumer issues including digital access and rights, product safety, healthy and nutritious diets, and sustainability.

Dr. Simon Barquera

Director of the Center for Research in Nutrition and Health National Institute of Public Health - Mexico

Simon Barquera is a MD with a PhD from Tufts University in Boston, USA. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and author of more than 364 scientific publications. His book “Hasta que los kilos nos alcancen” (2019), was selected as an educational book for schools in Mexico. He has participated in the development of policies for its prevention and control, for which he has been recognized with the 11 Dell Lectureship (University of Texas, 2017), the 18 Martinson Lectureship (University of Minnesota, 2018), the Soper award for excellence in health (Pan American Health Organization, 2003), the Tufts University Nutrition Impact Award (2016) and the “Dr. Gerardo Varela” public Health Merit Award (Government of Mexico, 2020). He currently serves as Director of the Center for Research in Nutrition and Health of the National Institute of Public Health.

Dr Fernando Vio

President of the Corporation 5 a day Chile, Member of AIAM5 and Member of the Academy of Medicine of Chile

Dr. Fernando Vio is a Medical Doctor (MD), Master of Public Health (MPH) at John Hopkins University 1986, Post Doctoral Associate, Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University 1987, Full Professor and Director of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology at the University of Chile in the period 2002-2010. He is member of the Institute of Chile as Honorary Member of the Chilean Academy of Medicine and President of the Chilean 5 a day Corporation since 2004. He was World Bank consultant for nutrition and public health in Latin America (1987-2002) and he is Associate Editor in Public Health Nutrition Journal.

Mr Andre Leu

Organic fruit grower / Ambassador, IFOAM – Organics International (Australia)

André Leu is the author of the 'Poisoning our Children' and 'The Myths of Safe Pesticides'. He is the International Director of Regeneration International. André 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. 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. Andre and his wife Julia have an organic tropical fruit farm in Daintree, in Australia.

Mr Christophe Rabatel

CEO, Carrefour Italy

For 16 years in the Carrefour Group, Christophe Rabatel has held multiple roles of operational and management responsibility for the company. He joined the Group in 2004 as CFO and Director of Carrefour in Turkey, before taking on the role of Financial, Expansion and Organization Director of Carrefour Market in France. Rabatel was then given operational responsibilities for the Proximity segment in France, initially as Regional Director and from 2015 as Executive Director of Carrefour Proximity. Prior to his appointment as CEO at Carrefour Italia, he had been Executive Director of Carrefour Poland since 2018.

Chef Katsuhiko Nakamura

FAO National Goodwill Ambassador for Japan

Katsuhiko Nakamura is the Honorary General Chef of Nippon Hotel Co., Ltd., and is a FAO National Goodwill Ambassador for Japan since 2017. Born in Kagoshima in southern Japan, Mr Nakamura began his career in Zurich in 1970. In the 15 years that followed, he worked as a professional chef at top restaurants throughout France. In 1979 he became the first Japanese person to receive a Michelin star. In 1984, he returned to Japan and became Head Chef for the newly-opened Hotel Edmont (now Hotel Metropolitan Edmont) in Tokyo, and was appointed as the executive director and Executive Chef in 1994. In 2016, Mr Nakamura was awarded an Order of Agricultural Merit (Commandeur) from the French Republic.

Mr Saad Dagher

Farmer, agronomist and agroecologist / Member of Urgenci International Mediterranean Network (Palestine)

Saad Dagher, Humanistic Farm, Bani Zeid East/Ramallah, Palestine. Agronomist agro-ecologist with long experience in agriculture, which goes back to 1991, agro-ecological framer and Specialist in the field of nature restoration and water retention landscape, cofounder of the first CSA in 2000 in Palestine. Dagher is the one who introduced Palestine to agro-ecology in 2002. He is the initiator and cofounder of 'The Palestinian Agro-ecological Forum' (PAF), which promotes agro-ecology and supports direct relationships between producers and consumers. He is a member of regional and international networks like MedNet (Mediterranean Agro-ecological Network), URGENCI (Community Supported Agriculture around the World), Defend the Sacred Worldwide Alliance.

Timothy Laku,

CTO – Bringo Fresh, Uganda

In the past fifteen years, Timothy has led over 100 digital transformation initiatives. As a Strategist, he has partnered with over 30 organizations to align technology to business strategy, maximizing the value of technology investment. As a Catalyst, he has collaborated with over 20 executive teams to instigate over 80 innovation projects that drive complex transformations to business architecture, strategy, operations, and technology. As a Technologist, he has implemented over 50 secure on-premises and over 30 cloud architectures, to support transformation initiatives, increase business agility, and manage complexity. As an Operator, he has delivered operational discipline in over 30 organizations by focusing on reducing costs, improving operational efficiency, and ensuring systems perform reliably while managing risk, and protecting core assets.

Mr Guillaume Pagy

General Manager, Pagysa (Turkey)

Guillaume Pagy is the Managing Director of both PAGYSA A.S. & Nova Fruits International, Izmir Turkey since 2010. He joined PAGYSA, a leading processor and exporter of Dried Fruits from Turkey in 1995 starting in the production facility. He is the 9th generation to manage the almost 200 years old family company. Prior to that, he worked in several European countries and backpacked through South America during his gap year. He is a Business Graduate from Excelia Business School in La Rochelle, France (1991) He was a member of the board of the Aegean Exporter's Association for 6 years and has been an INC Member since 2008.