Dr Qu Dongyu took office on 1 August 2019 as Director-General of FAO.

Born in 1963 in Hunan Province, China, Qu studied horticultural science at Hunan Agricultural University, plant breeding and genetics at the graduate school, CAAS. He later added a PhD on agriculture and environmental science at Wageningen University.

Before coming to FAO, Qu served as China’s Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, promoted inclusive and innovative development and make sure information and communication technologies (ICT) were available in rural areas.

As Vice Governor of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Qu formulated action plans aimed at poverty reduction, women empowerment, youth startups, agritourism and solidarity between ethnic groups.

As FAO DG, Qu makes the full range of his efforts to build a dynamic, open, transparent and deliverable FAO to achieve the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.
Dr Ismahane Elouafi is the first Chief Scientist of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, a new position created within FAO’s core leadership structure.

She has two decades of experience in agricultural research and development in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. She is internationally known for her work on promoting neglected and underutilized crops, use of non-fresh water in agriculture, and empowerment of women in science.

From 2012 until her appointment at FAO, Dr Elouafi led the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture based in the United Arab Emirates. Previously, she held senior scientific and leadership positions in the Ministry of Agriculture in Canada and at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. She has also worked as a scientist with several international research organizations and served as a board member of several notable organizations.

Dr. Elouafi holds a B.Sc. in Agricultural Sciences and an M.Sc. in Genetics and Plant Breeding, and a Ph.D. in Genetics.

H.E. Julián Domínguez is the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Argentine Republic. A lawyer by profession and a native of Chacabuco (province of Buenos Aires, Argentina), he was mayor of his hometown between 1995 and 1999, when he was appointed Minister of Public Works of the Province of Buenos Aires. He held the positions of Secretary of the Cabinet and Parliamentary Affairs (Office of the National Cabinet Chief); Secretary of Military Affairs (National Ministry of Defense); and congressman for Buenos Aires in charge of the vice presidency of the House of Representatives for two years.

During his office as Minister, he developed the Participatory and Federal Agri-Food and Agro-Industrial Strategic Plan 2010-2020 (PEA2), which involved a participatory process that, promoted by the State, convened all the actors of the Argentine agri-food and agro-industrial sector to develop a project with a future horizon that industrializes rurality, adds value at origin and generates roots.

After the 2011 elections, he was elected chairman of the House of Representatives, which he held until December 10, 2015. He was an advisor to the Union of Automotive Transport and Related Mechanics (SMATA), where he coordinated the preparation of the Social and Productive Agreement for the Argentine Automotive Sector - Vision 2030. He also made an academic career as associate professor of History of Constitutional Law at Universidad del Salvador and director of the Diploma Program in Labor Challenges from a Humanistic Perspective at Universidad de San Isidro.
**TOPIC 2: SCIENCE AND INNOVATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

Dr Chavonda Jacobs-Young serves as the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), and as USDA's Chief Scientist. The REE mission area is comprised of more than 8,500 employees with a $4 billion budget across its five component organizations including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS). Together these organizations advance agricultural research, innovation, data, and Extension across a full range of agricultural issues including climate-smart agriculture, nutrition security, equity, and strengthening food supply chains. As Chief Scientist, Dr. Jacobs-Young advises the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials on scientific matters and chairs the USDA Science Council, which convenes all parts of USDA's scientific enterprise.

Dr. Jacobs-Young is a native of Georgia. She holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Wood and Paper Science and a B.S. degree in Pulp and Paper Science and Technology from North Carolina State University. She is a graduate of American University’s Key Executive Leadership in Public Policy Implementation Program, and a proud fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Academy of Public Administration.

**TOPIC 3: STRENGTHENING THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE**

H.E. Thesele John ‘Maseribane, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to FAO, took office on 27th October 2021 as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the Italian Republic and on 26th November 2021 he took office as Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to FAO. He had been Member of the 10th Parliament of the Kingdom of Lesotho, and he had been Minister of Small Business, Markets and Cooperatives, Minister of Communication, Science and Technology, and Minister of Public Service.

Additionally, he had been Coalition Leader of the 4x4 Coalition Government, Member of the 9th Parliament Representing Mount Moorosi Constituency, Member of the State Council, Member of the 8th Parliament and served as Minister of Gender, Sports and Recreation respectively, and he had been Coalition Partner in the First Coalition Government of Lesotho. He held Senior Positions in the Executive Committee of Basotho National Party.

Finally, he has extensive business expertise and has established various business ventures and has shown prominence in the Agricultural business. His business experience has led to bilateral business cooperation with countries such as South Africa.

**TOPIC 4: PROMOTING ACCESS OF SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS TO INNOVATIONS**

Mr Douglas Kangi, Director of Agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, the Republic of Kenya

Mr Kangi has held various positions in the State Department for Crop Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives where he has served in various capacities for over 20 years.

He holds a Masters Degree in Tropical Agriculture from Kasetsart University in Thailand and a BSc in Agriculture from University of Nairobi. He has attended many skills-based courses in and out of the Country.

Currently he is the Director of Agriculture in charge of Crop management Directorate.
Dr Zitouni Ould-Dada is Deputy Director in the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment at FAO leading FAO’s coordination of climate change and Energy workstream. He is currently member of the “UN COP27 Task Team” established by the UN Secretary General to offer “One UN” support the COP27 Egyptian Presidency. Before joining FAO, he was Head of Technology Unit at UNEP for five years leading work on technology, climate change, renewables and energy efficiency. He was member of the UN Inter-Agency Task Team developing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its Annual Science Technology and Innovation Forum to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

He worked for the British Government for 15 years providing policy and technical advice on many areas including food safety; environmental policy; climate change; energy policy; radiation protection; and science and technology. He was the Lead Negotiator on International Climate Change and Technology for the UK (2008-2012) and France (2008). He chaired negotiations on technology transfer, agriculture, blue carbon, and nature and ecosystems which contributed to reaching the landmark Paris Climate Agreement in 2015. His international responsibilities also included Chair of EU Expert Group on Technology; Chair of IRENA’s Policy and Strategy Committee; and Member of UN Task Team for producing a UN System-wide Approach to Climate Action for the UN Climate Action Summit 2019.

Dr. Ould-Dada, a national of Morocco and UK, holds a PhD in Environmental/Radiation Protection from Imperial College, London, United Kingdom; a Master Degree in Environmental Management and Planning, Université de Rennes, France; and a BSc in Environmental Engineering from Institut Universitaire de Technologie, Perpignan, France.