

# Closing data gaps and promoting evidence-informed decision-making for food security and nutrition

1 July 2021 | 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm CET

CFS

COMMITTEE ON  
WORLD FOOD  
SECURITY

You can find the concept note [here](#).

## *Speaker Biographies – Panel 2: Use of data for increasing food and nutrition security and accelerating food systems transformation – country experiences/case studies*



Thule Lenneiye

**Thule** (pronounced too-le) **Lenneiye** began her career in Zimbabwe as part of a start-up that implemented the first e-Voucher program on the continent – the precursor to the very successful Zambian e-voucher program. During that time, she gained unparalleled hands-on experience in project management for the deployment of IT systems and what has now become ‘the digital transformation’ space. Over the years she has established herself as a sought after thought leader. Currently working as the Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO) Coordinator for the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Thule is charged with driving the transformation agenda in the Agriculture sector by fostering the embracing of digital platforms that can make a tangible difference in how the ministry operates and interacts with the wider community; as well as private sector engagement for increased investments in the sector in Kenya. For Thule, mainstreaming youth and increasing women’s participation along the supply chains in Agriculture, will also be key measures of success in her endeavours.



Nadjirou Sall

**Nadjirou SALL** is the President of CNCR and Secretary General of ROPPA. A peasant with integrity at the heart of peasant struggles: integral, sober and pragmatic. Nadjirou Sall is the Secretary General of ROPPA (Network of Farmers and Producers Organizations in West Africa). This agro-pastor, native of the village of Donaye, near Podor (480 km north of Dakar) in the Senegal River valley, participated in all the peasant struggles against land grabbing and for the promotion of family farms in Senegal and all of West Africa.



Pat Mooney

**Pat Mooney**, a Canadian, is a co-founder of ETC Group, an IPES–Food panelist, an IFOAM ambassador and an IATP board member. For 55 years, Pat has worked within international civil society and is the author or co-author of several books on the politics of seeds, agrobiodiversity, biopiracy and new technologies including genomics and nanotechnologies and Big Data. Pat is a recipient of the Right Livelihood Award (1985) in the Swedish Parliament, the Pearson Peace Prize (1998) from Canada’s Governor General and the American Giraffe Award (for “sticking his neck out”) and received honorary doctoral degrees from the University of Waterloo (Canada) and the 17 Advanced Research Institutes (Mexico) in 2017. Most recently, Pat was lead author for the Long Food Movement Report (2021 – 45). He is retired and living in rural Québec.

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**Rikin Gandhi**

**Rikin Gandhi** is co-founder of Digital Green, a global development organization that empowers smallholder farmers to lift themselves out of poverty by harnessing the collective power of digital technology and grassroots-level partnerships. Rikin began his career at Oracle, where he received patents for linguistic search algorithms that he helped develop. Later he joined Microsoft Research's Technology for Emerging Markets team in India, where he researched ways to amplify the effectiveness of agricultural development globally.

Digital Green uses peer-to-peer farming videos to increase the efficiency of agricultural extension services and a shared logistics to market service to boost farmer incomes. Digital Green is now co-creating FarmStack as an open-source protocol to enable the 2.5 million small-scale producers across Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia that it has already worked with to control and securely share their data across the food and agriculture system with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UK AID, Walmart Foundation, and others.

Rikin has a bachelor's in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University, a master's in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from MIT, and is a licensed private pilot.

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