

# Food Convergence Innovation

*For a Healthy People, Planet and Economy*

## FCI High-Level Roundtable at the United Nations 2021 Food Systems Summit

*Co-hosted by The McGill Centre for the Convergence of Health and Economics and the Global Partnerships Forum*

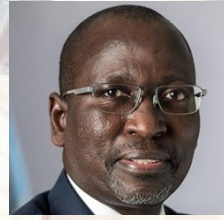
**Friday, September 24, 2021 | 9 AM to 10:45 AM EST**

**For Remote Participation, please register [HERE](#)**



**Mr. Amir Dossal**

President & CEO, Global Partnerships Forum



**His Excellency Colleen Vixen Kelapile**

President of the Economic and Social Council.



**Prof. Laurette Dubé**

Chair & Scientific Director, MCCHE

Professor of Marketing, McGill University



**Prof. John G. Keogh**

Founder & Managing Principal, Shantalla Inc

Professor of Practice, McGill University



**Prof. Dominic Schofield**

Co-Founder & Director, The FutureFood Platform

Professor of Practice, McGill University

### **ABOUT THE EVENT:**

This virtual round table is part of a webinar series convening scientists and leaders from business, government and civil society to articulate a digital-powered societal-scale solutions portfolio aimed at transforming our agriculture and food systems for equitable human and planetary health and wealth, at the convergence of technological, social and delivery model innovation. Powered by the accelerated digital transformation of science and society that is a key silver lining of COVID-19 responses, as much as by human creativity and empathy that has also manifested itself during The Pandemic, Food Convergence Innovation (FCI) bridges diverse disciplines, sectors, and jurisdictions around real-world solutions that are operationalized through a worldwide network of transformational modular discovery & innovation platforms.

FCI platforms to date are already operational and taking action in Canada, India and West Africa. This event is framed in the context of the 15th Anniversary of the first of the McGill Health Challenges thinktanks and will build on the momentum created from the Sept 23rd virtual UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). This FCI High-Level Roundtable will contribute to the aspirations of the UNFSS by advancing actionable 3-year project plans for a world reset from economic convergence to convergence economy by the end of 2021.



# AGENDA

**Master of Ceremonies:** Mr. Amir Dossal, President, Global Partnerships Forum

**Welcome Remarks:** His Excellency Colleen Vixen Kelapile, President, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**Introduction, FCI Overview and Roundtable Objectives:** Prof. Laurette Dubé, Director, The McGill Centre for the Convergence of Health and Economics (MCCHE)

## **Session 1: Leadership and Digital Support for re-inventing Agriculture Innovation as a lever Food Security and System Transformation**

**Keynote:** Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, Visiting Scholar Stanford University Center on Food Security and Environment in the Freeman Spogli Institute; Founder and CEO, Food Systems for the Future

**Panel 1:** Moderated by Prof. John G. Keogh: Founder & Managing Principal, Shantalla Inc., Professor of Practice, McGill Center for the Convergence of Health and Economics, Desautels Faculty of Management, McGill University, Canada

- Mr. Chris Anderson, Chief Technology Officer, Protein Industries Canada
- Mr. Ken Lohento, Digital Innovation Strategy Specialist – FAO Regional Office for Africa
- Ms. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli, Founder, LEAP Africa, Nourishing Africa, Changing Narratives Africa; Co-Founder, AACE Foods and Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition
- Dr. Roy Steiner, Senior Vice President, Food Initiative, The Rockefeller Foundation (TBC)
- Dr. Patrick Webb, Alexander MacFarlane Professor of Nutrition - The Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University
- Mr. Rick White, Co-Chair, Private Sector Mechanism, The UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

## **Session 2: Investment in Food Convergence Innovation (FCI) for a healthy people, planet and economy**

**Keynote:** Dr. Fadel Ndiame, Deputy President, AGRA

**Panel 2:** Moderated by Mr. Dominic Schofield: Co-Founder and Director, The FutureFood Platform, Professor of Practice, Desautels Faculty of Management, McGill University, Canada

- Mr. Gordon Bacon, Director Food Systems, Global Pulse Federation
- Dr. Shawn Brown, Director Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center, Vice Chancellor Research Computing, University of Pittsburg
- Mr. Brian King, Platform Coordinator, CGIAR Platform for Big Data in Agriculture (TBC)
- Mr. David McInnis, Coordinator, Canada's National Index on Agri-Food Performance
- Dr. Rose Omari, Senior Research Scientist, CSIR Ghana, and Co-Founder, Executive Director, EATSAFE GHANA
- Mr. Robert Opp, Chief Digital Officer, UNDP

# Organizers' & Moderators' bios

## Master of Ceremonies & Co-host



**Mr. Amir Dossal** is President & CEO of the Global Partnerships Forum – a not-for-profit knowledge platform providing changemakers with tools to build innovative partnerships for the SDGs. Amir is co-founder of the Pearl Initiative, and the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance. He is a founding Commissioner of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. Amir co-founded the Blockchain Commission for Sustainable Development and serves as Executive Vice Chair. He is also co-founder of the Coalition for Better Health at Lower Cost that focuses on prevention of chronic diseases.

## Welcoming remarks



**His Excellency Colleen Vixen Kelapile** is the seventy-seventh President of the Economic and Social Council. He is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations in New York. He has an accumulated career of 26 years in multilateral diplomacy, both as a government representative, intergovernmental expert and is also a former United Nations (UN) Secretariat staff member. Before his appointment in 2018 as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, he was the Chief of Staff to the Executive-Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 2014 to 2018. He was elected by the UN General Assembly as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) from 2004 to 2012. During his tenure in the Committee, he served as Vice-Chair of the ACABQ for 3 years from 2008 to 2010 and subsequently as its Chair for 2 years from 2011 to 2012. In conjunction with his present position as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, he is also concurrently Botswana's Ambassador to Cuba and the High Commissioner to Jamaica, on a non-resident basis.

## Co-host



**Prof. Laurette Dubé**, initially trained as a nutritionist, also holds degrees in finances (MBA), marketing (MPS), and behavioral decision-making/consumer psychology (PhD). Dr. Dubé is Full Professor at the Desautels Faculty of Management, McGill University. Her research focuses on the study of affects, behavioral economics, and neurobehavioral processes underlying consumption, lifestyle, and health behavior. Her translational research examines how such knowledge can inspire effective interventions. She is also the founder and scientific director of the McGill Centre for the Convergence of Health and Economics, a unique initiative to push the boundaries of science to tackle societal and economic challenges and foster individual and collective health and wealth.

## Moderator, Session 1



**Prof. John G. Keogh**, John G. Keogh is a strategist, C-level advisor and academic researcher with 25 years of executive leadership roles as Director, VP and SVP in global Supply Chain Management, Information Technology, Technology Consulting and global Supply Chain Standards. He advises the public and private sectors worldwide and is a regular subject matter expert on TV and Radio. Mr. Keogh is managing principal at Toronto-based, niche advisory and research firm Shantalla Inc. Mr. Keogh holds a PG diploma and an MBA in Management and an MSc in Business and Management Research in transparency and trust. He is currently completing doctoral research on transparency and trust in food chains at Henley School of Business, University of Reading.

## Moderator, Session 2



**Prof. Dominic Schofield** is CEO of Peregrine Impact Associates and Senior Advisor for Food Convergence Innovation (FCI) at the McGill University's Centre for the Convergence of Health and Economics (MCCHE). With over twenty-five years working in the field of international development, Dominic has served in leadership positions with the private and not-for-profit sectors, and the United Nations. His work in public health over the last twenty years has focused on addressing malnutrition in developing countries through global initiatives and multi-sectoral alliances that combine the strengths of government, private sector, and civil society. Dominic provides strategy and management consulting services to government, philanthropies, UN and mission-driven businesses to advance food systems transformation and economic development that supports human and planetary health. Dominic is also co-Founder and Director of the Future Food Platform, which supports start-ups and large companies alike to scale-up their innovations at the convergence of health, environment and economic development along key future of food trendlines. Throughout his career, Dominic has sought to bring good development practice together with good business practices. Dominic is a Professor of Practice at McGill University's Desautels Business School and a Professional Affiliate in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition at the University of Saskatchewan.



## SESSION 1: Speakers' bios



**Keynote Speaker: Ertharin Cousin** is a graduate from the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Georgia Law School. She has more than 25 years of national and international non-profit, government and corporate leadership experience focusing on hunger, food and resilience strategies. Cousin served as White House Liaison to the State Department, and concurrently, appointed to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, and Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, Feeding America. 2009, nominated and confirmed as the US Ambassador to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture, and head of the US Mission in Rome. From 2012 to 2017, she served as the twelfth Executive Director, United Nations World Food Programme, guiding it in meeting urgent food needs while championing longer-term solutions to food insecurity and hunger. Ambassador Ertharin Cousin currently directs the Food Systems for the Future enterprise and is a Payne Distinguished Lecturer, Spogli Institute for the Study of International Relations and Distinguished Fellow, Center on Food Security and the Environment, at Stanford University. Cousin travels extensively to raise awareness of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition.



**Mr. Chris Anderson (B.Sc Hons, M.Sc)** is the current Chief Technology Office of Protein Industries Canada. Chris is passionate about driving innovation in agriculture and has demonstrated experience in achieving consensus among diverse stakeholders.

Prior to joining PIC, Chris spent 20 years in private industry working on the development, production and commercialization of ag technologies in multi-national organizations. He played a key role in the development and launch of several new seed products, biologicals and biotech traits and spent more than 5 years leading the canola technology strategy for Monsanto/Bayer. In addition, Chris served as the Vice President of Crop Production for the Canola Council of Canada.



Originally from Benin Republic, **Ken Lohento** is Digital Innovation Strategy Specialist (Consultant) at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO, Regional Office for Africa). With 22 years of experience, he led for many years award-winning projects on digital agriculture and youth entrepreneurship at the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA), covering African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. These included support to 800 young companies to design and offer digital services to the agrofood sector (AgriHack program); promoting implementation of e-agriculture strategies and blockchain use for agriculture. Ken supported the African Development Bank (AfDB) on digital agriculture strategies. He holds an MBA and a Master's in information sciences.



**Ndidi Nwuneli** is a serial social entrepreneur based in Nigeria. She is the founder of LEAP Africa, co-founder of AACE Foods, director at Sahel Capital and in 2015, she was a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business & Government, Harvard Kennedy School, USA. She is also the founder and chair of Nourishing Africa, a digital knowledge, financing and data hub which is enabling agribusiness entrepreneurs in 34 African countries to scale. Ndidi holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and an undergraduate degree with honours from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Ndidi was recognized as a Young Global Leader and Schwab Social Innovator by the World Economic Forum and received a National Honor from the Nigerian Government. Ndidi is a TED Global speaker and is the author of "Social Innovation in Africa: A Practical Guide for Scaling Impact."



**Dr. Roy Steiner** is a highly experienced senior global agriculture and global development leader with a demonstrated ability to strategize, consult, and manage professionals for development initiatives across Africa, Asia and Europe. Dr. Steiner is currently the Senior Vice President, Food Initiative at the Rockefeller Foundation leading multi-year initiatives to advance a more nourishing and sustainable food system. Previously he was a Senior Director at the Omidyar Network where he worked across strategic initiatives and with the board to build a best in class learning organization. Roy also served for nearly a decade at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where he was the Deputy Director and Founding Member of the Agricultural Development Initiative in the foundation's Global Development Program. As Deputy Director, Dr. Steiner managed a professional team responsible for a \$400M grant portfolio in the area of sustainable farmer productivity that included irrigation and water management, seed systems, agronomy, farmer organizations, gender, human capital and Information Communication Technology initiatives. Moreover, he has conceptualized and helped develop innovative initiatives including the Agricultural Transformation Agency of Ethiopia, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (chaired by Kofi Annan), the Human Centered Design toolkit and the Digital Soil Map of Africa.





**Dr. Patrick Webb** is engaged in research and policy guidance around the globe as Director for USAID’s Feed the Future Nutrition Innovation Lab (fieldwork ongoing in Nepal, Uganda, Malawi, Bangladesh, Egypt and Cambodia), and leads the US government’s Food Aid Quality Review (cost-effectiveness trials in Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Malawi). Until 2005, he worked for the United Nations' World Food Programme as Chief of Nutrition. During that time he was a first-responder to the Asian tsunami disaster in Aceh. He was also part of the MDG Hunger Task Force reporting to Secretary General Kofi Annan, and a member of the steering committee of the UN's Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN). Earlier, Dr. Webb spent 9 years with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). His high-level interactions with governments and donor organizations globally include work at ministerial levels in countries like Indonesia, Vietnam, North Korea, Kenya, Haiti, Cambodia and Timor Leste and Ethiopia. Dr. Webb’s expertise lies in food policy analysis, agriculture systems, international nutrition programming, and emergency relief. His ongoing research involves humanitarian policy and practice, development policy, micro-nutrient deficiencies, food system development, aflatoxins and nutrition outcomes, and implementation science. In terms of professional outreach and impact, he currently serving as senior adviser to the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, as member of the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC) of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR), and a member of the World Health Organization/UNICEF Technical Expert Advisory committee on nutrition monitoring (TEAM).



**Rick White** is the Chair of the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) and the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM). IAFN works on a wide variety of issues relating to agriculture, food, and nutrition, and serves as the focal point for the PSM of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS). In 2020, he was selected as Vice Chair-Private Sector of the Champions Network for the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit. Rick currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Canola Growers Association – a farmer-led association representing 43,000 canola farmers on national and international policies. He is responsible for the overall management and operations of CCGA. Rick has served on the Boards of several organizations, including the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance, Canadian Renewable Fuels Association, and the Vegetable Oil Industry of Canada. He is currently Chair of the Canada Grains Council and is the Industry Co-Chair of the federal Grains Value Chain Round-table. Through the course of his career, Rick has held positions with the University of Saskatchewan, the Canadian Wheat Board, Agricore Cooperative Ltd, and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. Rick has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, and a Master of Science degree from the University of Saskatchewan, both majoring in Agricultural Economics.

## SESSION 2: Speakers' bios



**Keynote Speaker: Fadel Ndiame, Ph.D.** is Deputy President of AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa), Representative to the African Union & Senior Advisor of the President; Interim Vice President of Policy and State Capability; Regional Director in West Africa, Lead Coordinator of the Farmer Organization Support Center in Africa (FOSCA), Dr Ndiame has been keen to provide leadership in the context of AGRA mandate to contribute to agricultural transformation on the African Continent by matching economic opportunities available to smallholder farmers, rural entrepreneurs and agribusinesses with policies and agricultural investment programs that have impact. Prior to his appointment in AGRA, he was a Program Director at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Southern Africa. In this capacity he led the conceptualization and content design of the Foundation’s Investment programme in Southern Africa, with a particular focus on economic opportunities and agricultural investment programs. Prior to that, he served as Executive Regional Director of the West Africa Rural Foundation (WARF), Program Coordinator at the Local Organization Support Program (LOSP), and a Program Coordinator, Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research.



**Gordon Bacon** served as the CEO for Pulse Canada from 1997 to 2021 and was CEO of the Canadian Special Crops Association for 16 years. Gordon has been an active member on the Executive of the Global Pulse Confederation (GPC) since 2001 and now serves the GPC as Director, Food Systems. Mr. Bacon was part of a national and global pulse leadership group that worked to have the United Nations declare 2016 as International Year of Pulses and a UN designation of World Pulses Day each year in February. For two decades Gordon has been a champion of positioning pulses as an affordable, nutritious and healthy food with an important contribution to both sustainable cropping systems and reducing the ecological footprint or providing protein to diets for both people and animals. Prior to joining Canada’s pulse industry Gordon was Director of Market Development at the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). He has also served as Senior Policy Advisor to a Federal Cabinet Minister in Ottawa, and as well as various roles with federal and provincial departments of agriculture.



**Dr. Shawn Brown** is Vice Chancellor for Research Computing at the University of Pittsburgh and the Director of Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center at the Carnegie Mellon University/University of Pittsburgh and. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Brown served as the Associate Director of Research Software Development at the McGill Centre of Integrative Neuroscience at the McGill Neurological Institute. Dr. Brown is an expert on high - performance computing and computational simulation. He has over 25 years of experience in developing software to support the use of high-performance computing for research in areas such as chemistry, bioinformatics, and public health. His research interests are also in how agent-based modeling and other computational techniques can be used to provide decision support in public health and chronic disease.



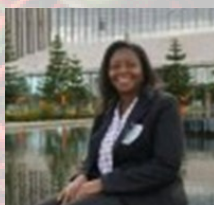


**Brian King** leads the Platform for Big Data in Agriculture, a global program of the CGIAR consortium centered on digital transformation of food systems worldwide. He has led programs leveraging successive waves of transformational digital technologies including establishing early internet networks and policies, building sustainable rural internet, licensing of mobile operators, governance of submarine cables and cross-border backbone networks, developing digital strategies for an array of clients, and building more inclusive mobile financial services, most of this in developing economies. He is a former agriculture extensionist and a California rice farmer. Skilled in Corporate Social Responsibility, International Relations, Management, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Policy Analysis. Strong digital development professional graduated from University of Maryland - Robert H. Smith School of Business and University of California, Berkeley Department of Spanish and Portuguese.



**Mr. David McInnis**, Principal of DMci Strategies, is a strategic advisor, speaker and facilitator on change and opportunity facing the global food system. He is currently leading a diverse coalition of industry, government, academic, NGO, and innovation and financial organizations to develop Canada's first agri-food sustainability index. David is a Member of the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario, a Governance Committee Member of the Canadian Agri-Food Sustainability Initiative, an Arrell Food Fellow with the Arrell Food Institute, University of Guelph, an Affiliate of McGill University's Institute for Global Food Security, and a Global Advisor for Nova Scotia Business Inc.

He is the former Chair of WaterAid Canada and Trustee of London-based WaterAid International and former President & CEO of the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute. He has held executive positions with a global life sciences company and has worked at a national business association, a chartered bank and with government. David is a graduate of the London School of Economics and Dalhousie University.



**Dr. Rose Omari** is a Senior Research Scientist, CSIR Ghana, and Co-Founder, Executive Director, EATSAFE GHANA. Dr. Omari conducts food, nutrition, agriculture, science and technology policy studies. Conducts consumer studies in relation to food and nutrition issues and impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation of food, nutrition and agricultural programmes. Engages in the promotion of safe food production and consumption of safe and healthy food through education and training, advocacy and food safety-related infra-structural improvement.



**Robert Opp** is currently the Chief Digital Officer of UNDP, the United Nations' global sustainable development organization working across 170 countries globally with more than 17,000 staff. He leads the agency's digital transformation, an organization-wide effort, to harness the power of new technology to improve the lives of those furthest behind. Prior to this role, Robert served as Director of the Innovation and Change Management Division within the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) where he established an in-house 'Zero Hunger' innovation accelerator and created an award-winning crowdfunding smartphone app, ShareTheMeal which has raised over US\$60 million for hunger programs. Previously, Robert was a management consultant with The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) based in Singapore where he served a wide range of private sector companies throughout Asia and the Middle East. He has also served in various other capacities in the UN, including Manager of emergency food aid assistance programs in Angola within a \$260 million operation that reached over 1 million internally displaced persons affected by civil war. Robert began his career at Canada's International Development Research Centre managing projects focused on peacebuilding in post-conflict countries.

