



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## BIOGRAPHIES

Additional biographies will be added as they become available.



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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Keith Adams

Division Chief, Program Operations Division  
Office of Food for Peace  
U.S. Agency for International Development

Keith Adams is a Division Chief in the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Food for Peace (FFP). He leads the Program Operations Division, which is responsible for all commodity, ocean freight procurement-related activities, and budget and finance-related activities associated with the U.S. Government's largest food assistance program. He oversees participation in numerous consultative working groups on behalf of the Office of Food for Peace and is the primary point of contact with other U.S. government agencies, cooperating sponsors, and commodity and freight related interest organizations.

Previously, he worked as a Financial Specialist with U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for the strategic planning arm of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, assisting small businesses nationwide. He accepted that position after three years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service where he helped non-profit cooperators, state governments, U.S. agricultural organizations and private companies under several federally funded export assistance programs. Before that, he was with the U.S. Postal Service where he began as a letter carrier and held increasingly important positions during his nearly twenty year postal career including Regional Acquisition Sales Manager, Tactical Marketing Team Leader, Customer Advocate Coordinator of the Washington DC Post Office, as well as Account Representative and Manager of Customer Services.

Mr. Adams has worked with and is a member of numerous industry trade groups, including the Association of National Advertisers and the Direct Marketing Association. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia and received his Master of Science degree in Marketing from the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)



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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### David Atwood

Director  
Sustainable Development Office  
Africa Bureau  
U.S. Agency for International Development

David Atwood is a Senior Foreign Service Officer and Director of the Sustainable Development Office in USAID's Africa Bureau. The Sustainable Development Office is the source of Africa-specific expertise and support across all development sectors for USAID, its Missions in Africa, and broader U.S. Government interagency policy and decisions.

Mr. Atwood has worked with USAID since 1981 in overseas and Washington assignments leading teams in a range of development sectors, including agricultural policy and research, food aid and nutrition, economic policy, environment, democracy, health and education. His overseas assignments include Mali, Egypt, Bangladesh (with the Peace Corps) and the Central African Republic.

Mr. Atwood holds degrees from Brown University, Michigan State University, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, where research he conducted in 1999-2000 resulted in a paper entitled "Cutting Hunger and Poverty in Half: Interest Groups and a Renewed US Commitment in the Post-Cold War World." He has published on food aid, food security, land tenure and US Government engagement with Muslim leaders and institutions overseas.

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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Brian Bacon

Lead Policy Analyst  
Office of Food for Peace  
United States Agency for International Development

Mr. Bacon has primary responsibility for donor coordination with the U.N. World Food Program. With over fifteen years of international development and humanitarian program management experience, Mr. Bacon's overseas service has included Afghanistan, Kenya, Iraq, Bosnia, Rwanda, Cambodia and Togo. He is a graduate of Tulane University with a Master of International Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in food security, and a graduate of the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) with a Master of International Business Administration (MBA).

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### Jeffrey Borns

Director  
Office of Food for Peace  
U.S. Agency for International Development

Mr. Borns is the Director of the Office of Food for Peace (FFP) within the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance. He is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, with over twenty years of USAID experience, and has served in various positions in USAID, both in the field and in Washington.

Mr. Borns joined the USAID Office of General Counsel in 1987, followed by postings as a USAID Regional Legal Advisor in Kenya (covering east and southern Africa) and Ecuador (also covering Peru and Colombia). He then served as the Director of the USAID Office of Democratic Initiatives and Training in Peru, followed by service as the Director of the USAID Office of Democratic Initiatives in Guatemala.

Mr. Borns was selected to attend the National War College, and graduated with a Masters degree in National Security Strategy in May 2002. Upon graduation, he served as the Director of the Disaster Response and Mitigation Division in the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, directing the planning and execution of emergency programs worldwide. Mr. Borns then served in the Bureau for Africa as the Director of the Office of East African Affairs.

His most recent assignment was as the Director of the Office of Sustainable Development, which houses the Bureau for Africa's technical expertise in agriculture, democracy, economic growth, education, environment and health. In that position, Mr. Borns oversaw the implementation of several Presidential initiatives in agriculture, trade, and education, and managed USAID's participation with the U.S. Africa Command. For over six months, he concurrently served as Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Africa.

Before joining USAID, Mr. Borns practiced law in Los Angeles, California, specializing in business litigation. He received his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Iowa.

<http://www.usaid.gov>



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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Emily Burrows

Strategic Issues Advisor for Civil-Military Relations  
Catholic Relief Services

Based at the agency's headquarters in Baltimore, Ms. Burrows is responsible for developing policy and guidelines on relations between CRS and military actors. She also develops positions and advances advocacy related to the U.S. military's expanding role in humanitarian and development assistance. Ms. Burrows has held this position since April 2007.

Ms. Burrows began her career in international development in 1999 as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea, where she taught English and supported a Guinean non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting the educational and social development of young girls.

Ms. Burrows joined CRS as an International Development Fellow in Burkina Faso in 2002. From the capital of Ouagadougou, she managed the preschool component of a girls' education program. Ms. Burrows transferred to Malawi in 2003, where she managed publicly funded livelihoods and food assistance programs, including a \$5.2 million developmental relief program. She also planned and executed the business development strategy for the country program, leading the identification and solicitation of funding from public and private donors.

In 2005, Ms. Burrows moved to headquarters to provide direct support to the Southern Africa regional office as the Regional Representative and Public Resource Specialist. In these positions, she assisted seven country programs in the acquisition and management of public and private resources.

Raised in Thiensville, Wisconsin, Ms. Burrows holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She also holds a master's degree in sustainable development from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. Ms. Burrows and her husband Dave live in Towson, Maryland, with their children, Jack and Annie.

[www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)



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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Judy Canahuati

Technical Advisor  
HIV, Maternal, and Child Nutrition  
U.S. Agency for International Development

Ms. Canahuati has worked for more than 30 years in supporting maternal, child nutrition, and health programs in over twenty countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, working with non-governmental organizations, governments, and international organizations.



Ms. Canahuati began her professional career as outreach coordinator for the first mobile-unit family planning project on the continental U.S. and went on to support the national breastfeeding program in Honduras. Ms. Canahuati worked as the Senior Technical Advisor to the Wellstart Expanded Promotion of Breastfeeding Program. For several years, she directed the largest bilingual school in Central America, in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Returning to the US to live in 2001, Ms. Canahuati worked with the CARE Health, Emergency, Food and HIV units. For the last five years, she has been working with USAID's Food for Peace office focusing on HIV and maternal and child nutrition.

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### Brigadier General Edward C. Cardon

Deputy Commandant  
Command and General Staff College

Brigadier General Edward Cardon was commissioned as an engineer officer from the United States Military Academy in 1982. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Service Staff School, United States Naval Command and Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the National War College. BG Cardon is currently serving as Deputy Commandant of the Command and General Staff College, Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, KS.



BG Cardon's previous assignments include platoon leader and battalion maintenance officer with the 17th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 2nd Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas; training officer with the 130th Engineer Brigade, V Corps; brigade engineer for 3rd Brigade, 3rd Armored Division; company commander C Company, 23rd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Armored Division; staff officer and the engineer company trainer for the Live Fire Team, Operations Group, National Training Center; writer and instructor, United States Army Engineer School; assistant division engineer, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized); executive officer, 82nd Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized); staff geographic officer for Land Forces Central Europe, NATO; chief Geographic Officer, IFOR/SFOR Bosnia-Herzegovina; Chief of the Initiatives Group for the Commander, Stabilization Force (SFOR); battalion commander, 588th Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Division; Special Assistant (Strategy) for the Army Chief of Staff, Pentagon; commander, 3rd Infantry Division Engineer Brigade; commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Deputy Commanding General (Support), Multi-National Division Center, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq, Deputy Commanding General (Support), 3rd Infantry Division.

BG Cardon and his wife have three children.

[usacac.army.mil/cac2/cgsc/](http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/cgsc/)



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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Camila Chaparro

Research Specialist  
Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA-2)

Dr. Chaparro is a Research Specialist, working with the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II Project (FANTA-2). She has been involved in different aspects of nutrition research in both international and domestic settings. Prior to her current position, Dr. Chaparro worked at the Pan American Health Organization, where she was involved in developing materials to promote the adoption of essential delivery care practices to improve maternal and infant nutrition, as well as the analysis of DHS anthropometric data for Latin America and the Caribbean region, applying the recently developed World Health Organization child growth standards. Dr. Chaparro has carried out a great deal of research on assessing infant and young child growth and effective feeding practices for infant and young child feeding as well as on the development of strategies to prevent iron deficiency during infancy, such as through delayed umbilical cord clamping. She holds a Ph.D. in Nutrition, with an emphasis in International Nutrition, from the University of California, Davis, and a B.A. in Biology from the University of Chicago.



[www.fantaproject.org](http://www.fantaproject.org)



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### Carolyn Cooksie

Acting Deputy Under Secretary  
Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Carolyn Cooksie is Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. She also serves as Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The farm loan program area offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. Ms. Cooksie's area also helps established farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters, or whose resources are too limited to maintain profitable farming operations. In addition, Farm Loan Programs provides supervised credit, outreach, and technical assistance.

Prior to assuming this position in 1996, Ms. Cooksie was a 21-year veteran of USDA. She began her career in a Kentucky county office of the former Farmers Home Administration. She later moved to a district office, and then to the state office where she worked with the Multi-Family Housing Program. In 1984, Ms. Cooksie accepted a position as a rural housing loan specialist in Washington, D.C. Ms. Cooksie has also held the positions of Chief, Program Training Branch, Human Resources Development and Training Staff; Deputy Assistant Administrator, Housing; and Director, Multi-Housing Portfolio Management Division.

Ms. Cooksie holds a Bachelor's degree in communications and public affairs from Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)



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#### Dirk Willem Dijkerman

Acting Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA)  
U.S. Agency for International Development

Dr. Dijkerman brings to this job over 28 years of experience designing, managing and implementing foreign assistance programs both in the field and from Washington. He will return to serving as the U.S. Delegate to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) when the new Assistant Administrator for DCHA is nominated.



Prior to his January 2009 arrival in Paris, Dr. Dijkerman served as the first Chief Operating Officer (COO) in the Office of the Director of United States Foreign Assistance, an office established by the Secretary of State in early 2006 to bring greater coordination and integration of foreign assistance. Before serving as COO, Dr. Dijkerman taught at the National War College of the National Defense University and served as the USAID Mission Director to the Republic of South Africa from 2001-2004.

In USAID, his experience as a Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) in the Asia and Near East Bureau included oversight of all bilateral and regional assistance programs in South and East Asia. As a DAA in USAID's Policy and Program Coordination bureau, he led the process to update agency-wide policies on strategic planning, program monitoring and reporting for resource allocation purposes in concert with Congressional Oversight Committees, the President's Office of Management and Budget and non-governmental organizations. Dr. Dijkerman assisted in developing procedures to improve coordination on planning and budgeting between the State Department and USAID. He was a key champion in formulating and executing the Asia and Near East Bureau's strategic planning and resource allocation framework and co-chaired two Agency Task Forces that simplified procedures for strategic and resource planning and results reporting, respectively.

During fifteen-plus years stationed overseas, he directed and implemented multi-sectoral assistance programs in Eastern and Southern Africa, including those in South Africa, Rwanda, Sudan, Somalia, and Burundi, and managed technical and administrative support to other bilateral USAID programs. Experience includes developing and implementing



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country and sectoral development strategies, project and non-project programs, evaluations, credit, food aid and emergency programs.

His personal rank is Career Minister in the US Foreign Service. His Ph.D. and M.S. degrees are from Cornell University, and his B.Sc. is from the Pennsylvania State University. He also spent two years working at the World Bank.

[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)



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### Sam Coleman Dunlap

Project Director  
World Council of Credit Unions

Mr. Dunlap is a World Council of Credit Unions Project Director for an agricultural finance program funded by USDA's Food for Progress program. He was a political appointee in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service during the Clinton administration, from 1994-2000. Since 2000, he has served as project director on NGO projects in agricultural development, agricultural risk management and agricultural finance in Romania, Sri Lanka and Kenya.

Prior to this, Mr. Dunlap served as President and CEO of Atlanta-based Environmental Risk Management Service, Inc., where he specialized in environmental risk management for commercial and agricultural property. The company was sold to a national insurance firm in 1994.

Mr. Dunlap has a home in Washington, DC, and a farm in Mississippi, but he currently resides in Kisumu, Kenya. He attended Mississippi State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, and did graduate studies in environmental sciences at George Washington University.

[www.woccu.org](http://www.woccu.org)



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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Jonathan Dworken

Deputy Director, Office of Food for Peace  
United States Agency for International Development

Jonathan Dworken is Deputy Director, of the Office of Food for Peace (FFP) within the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance.

A career USAID Civil Servant, prior to joining FFP, Mr. Dworken served in USAID's Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination, where he worked on a wide range of foreign aid policy issues and coordinated USAID assistance for North Korea.

From 2001-2004, Mr. Dworken served on detail to the National Security Council (NSC) staff as Director for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response, where he coordinated food aid policy issues and emergency humanitarian assistance operations. Prior to his NSC assignment, he worked in USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance where he coordinated emergency programs for East and Central Africa.

Before joining USAID, Mr. Dworken worked for the U.S. military in various capacities related to disaster assistance and humanitarian aid, including service in Somalia with the U.S. Joint Task Force.

A New England native, Mr. Dworken received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a master's degree in International Relations and Economics from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.



[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)



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#### Gary Eilerts

Project Manager  
Famine Early Warning Systems Network  
Office of Food for Peace  
U.S. Agency for International Development

In 2003, Mr. Eilerts joined USAID's Office of Food for Peace as the USAID FEWS NET Program Manager, and began managing FEWS NET activities, helping to expand FEWS NET for the first time outside of Africa, in Afghanistan, Central America and the Caribbean.

He was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Ivory Coast, and then received a Masters Degree in African Regional Planning from the University of California-Los Angeles School of African Studies. Mr. Eilerts spent five years directing an NGO development program in Niger, and several years working for a Washington consulting firm on Middle Eastern, African and Central American development planning activities, and with a US foundation working in the appropriate technology field as an African projects manager.

In 1986, Mr. Eilerts joined the Washington staff of the USAID Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) as a country analyst, and became the FEWS' Deputy Director in 1989. In 1992, he left Washington and became FEWS' Southern Africa Regional Representative based in Harare, Zimbabwe. In 1998, he began working first with the United Nations' FAO, and then with the World Food Program VAM Office as a Senior Food Security Advisor, working out of Rome.

[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)



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#### Clint Eisenhauer

Vice President-Government Relations  
Maersk Inc.

Clint Eisenhauer joined Maersk Inc. as Vice President of Government Relations in 2006. He is responsible for translating the business requirements and interests of Maersk Inc. into sound and sensible policy positions that effectively align and maximize the company's commercial and operating relationships with local, state and federal government legislation and regulation.

Mr. Eisenhauer has been involved with the transportation industry for over 30 years. In 1995, Mr. Eisenhauer joined Sea-Land Service as Vice President of Marketing and Communications. Prior to joining Maersk, Mr. Eisenhauer operated his own marketing and advocacy consultancy with a specialty in the transportation sector.

A native of North Carolina, Mr. Eisenhauer received a B.A. degree in Economics from Wake Forest University. He is currently Vice President of the Propeller Club of Washington, DC and is on the board of the Organization for International Investment (OFII) in Washington, DC. Mr. Eisenhauer and his wife, Susan, have two sons.

<http://www.maersk.com/>



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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Max Finberg

Director, Alliance to End Hunger

Max Finberg has dedicated his career to serving people in need, especially the hungry. He has a wide range of experience in the non-profit, diplomatic and political arenas.

He is currently the director of the Alliance to End Hunger ([www.alliancetoendhunger.org](http://www.alliancetoendhunger.org)), a non-profit organization that engages diverse institutions in building the public will to end hunger, both in the United States and worldwide. The Alliance brings together U.S. businesses, religious bodies, charities, foundations and individual donors to change the politics of hunger. The Alliance helps its members and others contribute to the needed commitment to end hunger by sharing information and sparking new collaborations.



Prior to becoming the Alliance's first director, he served Ambassador and former Representative Tony Hall (D-OH) for 12 years in a variety of capacities. Most recently, Mr. Finberg was special assistant to the ambassador at the U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome, Italy (<http://usunrome.usembassy.it/>), where he lived for almost three years. The U.S. Mission relates to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Program (WFP) and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

Mr. Finberg was also senior legislative assistant covering domestic hunger and poverty issues for Representative Hall. He worked on the successful passage of The Hunger Relief Act and the Community Solutions Act with a variety of anti-poverty and faith-based organizations.

Mr. Finberg was the founding director of the Mickey Leland Hunger Fellows Program at the Congressional Hunger Center ([www.hungercenter.org](http://www.hungercenter.org)). He helped to start this unique fellowship program that fights hunger by developing leaders through a combination of direct service and public policy experience. The Program is now in its 13th year.

In 1990, he was selected as a Harry Truman Scholar from New York for his commitment to public service. He is an Eagle Scout, is involved with the Third Street Church of God and has been active with various initiatives around racial and religious reconciliation. He has traveled to almost 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

Mr. Finberg graduated with honors from Howard University's School of Divinity with a master's degree in Social Ethics and with bachelor's degrees in Political Science, German and International Relations from Tufts University, where he met his wife Katherine. Their daughter, Eliana Grace, was born in Rome in March 2005. Max was born and raised in Upstate New York.

<http://www.alliancetoendhunger.org>



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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Jamie Fisher

Program Analyst  
Food Assistance Division  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Ms. Fisher has about ten years experience working on emergency food security programs. Prior to her current position with the Foreign Agricultural Service, she worked in USAID's Office of Food for Peace, Program Operations Division. Her work there related to food aid procurement, transportation, and logistics. While at USAID, she was a member of Food for Peace's East Africa Team serving as a Food for Peace Officer for Sudan.

Ms. Fisher is currently working on a Masters degree in International Commerce and Policy at George Mason University in Fairfax , VA.

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)



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#### Fred Grant

Nutrition and HIV Manager  
Land O'Lakes

Mr. Grant is the Nutrition and HIV Manager at Land O'Lakes, supporting health and nutrition activities, including food product development, food assistance, school nutrition, and livelihoods support to people living with HIV. He has ten years of experience in international health and nutrition with a focus on nutrition and HIV, emergency nutrition, maternal-child health, and food commodities. He has worked and supported programs in Ethiopia, Burundi, the DRC, Ghana, Niger, Rwanda, and Zambia.



[www.idd.landolakes.com/](http://www.idd.landolakes.com/)



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#### James M. Guinn

Vice President  
International Promotion Programs  
USA Rice Federation

James M. (Jim) Guinn currently serves as Vice-president of International Promotion Programs with the USA Rice Federation in Arlington, Virginia. USA Rice represents the interests of the producers, merchants, millers and exporters of U.S. rice. He joined the Federation in his current position in 2006.

Prior to joining the USA Rice Federation, Mr. Guinn was Executive Director for International Marketing with the U.S. Soybean Export Council during its formation, and before that held the same position with the American Soybean Association. He worked in various international marketing positions for twenty years with that organization, the last ten years as Executive Director. In his role as Executive Director he oversaw international programs in some 40 countries with 10 international offices. Mr. Guinn joined the association after ten years in the grain export business in Galveston, Texas and the New Orleans area with a major multinational grain exporter.

[www.usarice.com](http://www.usarice.com)



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#### Ken Hackett

President, Catholic Relief Services

Ken Hackett, president of Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services (CRS), oversees the international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community, with operations in more than 100 countries and a global staff of 5,000.

A native of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, Mr. Hackett graduated from Boston College in 1968. He joined the Peace Corps and served in Ghana. Mr. Hackett joined CRS in 1972, starting his career in Sierra Leone. He has served CRS in posts throughout Africa and in the Philippines, as well as a variety of positions at CRS headquarters. He was the Regional Director for Africa, guiding CRS' response to the Ethiopian famine of 1984-1985. He supervised operations in East Africa during the crisis in Somalia in the early 1990s. Mr. Hackett has led CRS since 1993.



Mr. Hackett has received honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Notre Dame, Boston College, Villanova University, the University of San Diego, Siena College, and New York Medical College.

Mr. Hackett has served as North America president of Caritas Internationalis, the worldwide confederation of Catholic humanitarian aid agencies. He is currently a member of the boards of the Pontifical Commission Cor Unum, the Vatican body that coordinates the Church's charitable work; Migration & Refugee Services – U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; International Policy Committee – U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; and the Africa Society. He has served on the advisory committees of the TIME magazine Global Health Summit; Woodrow Wilson Institute, Committee on Failed States; Changing the Present; a non-profit corporation operated by Important Gifts, Inc.; and the Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs

Since 2004, Mr. Hackett has served on the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a federal effort to increase aid to countries that demonstrate a commitment to ruling justly, investing in people and encouraging economic freedom.

<http://crs.org>



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### Tony P. Hall

Ambassador, United Nations, Rome  
Term of Appointment: 09/25/2002 to 04/05/2006

Three times nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, Ambassador Tony P. Hall is one of the leading advocates for hunger relief programs and improving international human rights conditions in the world. In February 2002, President George W. Bush asked him to serve as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture. He was then confirmed by the U.S. Senate and sworn in by Secretary of State Colin Powell in September 2002.

As the chief of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. Agencies in Rome – the World Food Program (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – Ambassador Hall is responsible for “putting into action America’s commitment to alleviate hunger and build hope in the world.”



Prior to entering the diplomatic corps, Mr. Hall of Dayton, Ohio, was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He represented the people of the Third District of Ohio for almost twenty-four years, their longest serving representative in history. He was the chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger and the Democratic Caucus Task Force on Hunger. He founded and was one of two House members on the steering committee of the Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors. He was the author of legislation supporting food aid, child survival, basic education, primary health care, micro-enterprise, and development assistance programs in the world’s poorest countries. Ambassador Hall is also founder and was chairman of the Congressional Hunger Center, a non-governmental organization dedicated to fighting hunger by developing leaders.

Mr. Hall was a founding member of the Select Committee on Hunger and served as its chairman from 1989 until it was abolished in 1993. Mr. Hall has been an outspoken advocate for fighting domestic and international hunger and he has initiated legislation enacted into law to fight hunger-related diseases in developing nations. He was the sponsor of a successful 1990 emergency measure to assist state Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs and legislation to establish a clearinghouse to promote gleaning to provide poor people with food. Mr. Hall has worked to promote micro-enterprise to reduce joblessness. In response to the abolishment of the Hunger Committee, in April 1993, Mr. Hall fasted for 22 days in order to draw attention to the needs of hungry people in the United States and around the world.



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In his efforts to witness the plight of the poor and hungry first-hand, he has visited numerous poverty-stricken and war-torn regions of the world. Ambassador Hall has spent time in more than 100 countries – ranging from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. He was the first Member of Congress to visit Ethiopia during the great famine of 1984-5. He has visited North Korea six times since 1995, and was one of the first Western officials to see the famine outside of the capital, Pyongyang. In 2000, he became the first Member of Congress to visit Iraq in order to investigate the humanitarian situation. During his second week on the job as Ambassador, he traveled to Zimbabwe and Malawi to see the food security crisis in southern Africa.

Mr. Hall has worked actively to improve human rights conditions around the world, especially in the Philippines, East Timor, Paraguay, South Korea, Romania, and the former Soviet Union. In 2000, he introduced legislation to stop importing "conflict diamonds" that are mined in regions of Sierra Leone, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 1983 he founded the Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors. In 1999, he was a leader in Congress calling for the United States to pay its back dues to the United Nations.

In 1997 and 2000, Mr. Hall introduced legislation calling on Congress to apologize for slavery. He has also worked at promoting reconciliation among diverse peoples through a number of private initiatives.

Mr. Hall is married with two children. Mr. Hall graduated from Fairmont High School, Kettering, Ohio, in 1960. In 1964 he received his A.B. degree from Denison University, Granville, Ohio. At Denison, he was a Little All-American football tailback and was named the Ohio Conference's Most Valuable Player in 1963. During 1966 and 1967, Mr. Hall taught English in Thailand as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He returned to Dayton to work as a realtor and he was a small businessman for several years.

Mr. Hall served in the Ohio House of Representatives from 1969 to 1972, and in the Ohio Senate from 1973 to 1978. On November 7, 1978, Mr. Hall was elected to the 96th Congress. He served on the Foreign Affairs and Small Business Committees before being appointed to the Rules Committee at the beginning of the 97th Congress.

Ambassador Hall was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for 1998, 1999 and 2001 for his humanitarian and hunger-related work. For his hunger legislation and for his proposal for a Humanitarian Summit in the Horn of Africa, Mr. Hall and the Hunger Committee received the 1992 Silver World Food Day Medal from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Mr. Hall is a recipient of the United States Committee for UNICEF 1995 Children's Legislative Advocate Award, U.S. AID Presidential End Hunger Award, 1992 Oxfam America Partners Award, Bread for



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the World Distinguished Service Against Hunger Award, and NCAA Silver Anniversary Award. He received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Asbury College, Antioch College and Eastern College and a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Loyola College and Wright State University. President Clinton nominated Mr. Hall for the position of UNICEF Executive Director.

Since leaving Government Service, Ambassador Hall, as Ambassador at Large, heads an Opportunities International non-profit initiative that hopes to lift 100 million people out of poverty by 2015. He co-chairs an effort to raise and leverage one billion dollars. Tony asked President Clinton to announce this amazing initiative at the Clinton Global Summit in 2007.

Mercy Corp, another non-profit, helps starving people in 35 countries. They sought Tony's help for their work in feeding the starving people in North Korea by planting apple orchards and establishing fisheries. They are one of the few organizations that the government still allows to operate there. Ambassador Hall has been there 7 times and he is one of the very few people they will allow to go outside of the capitol.

Stanford University's Hoover Institute recently hosted a select group of "evangelical" leaders to hear former Secretary of State George Shultze on the urgent need to keep focused on nuclear disarmament and Tony was invited to participate in the day long discussion with that group.

Ambassador Hall is currently heading an initiative that is committed to fostering a Middle East peace initiative. Congressman Frank Wolf sought the support of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to bring together the Middle East religious leaders to further the peace process.

He serves on the boards of Bread for the World, the Congressional Conservation Caucus; the Congressional Hunger Center, Sojourners and Royale Energy Corporation.

He and his wife Janet reside in Arlington, Va. They have two children Jyl and Matt

[www.un.org/](http://www.un.org/)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### John E. Herbst

Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization  
Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization  
U.S. Department of State

Ambassador John Herbst serves as the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization as a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. He holds the rank of Career-Minister.

As Coordinator, Ambassador Herbst is leading the development of U.S. Government civilian capacity to promote the stabilization and reconstruction of societies in transition from conflict or civil strife, and to provide support to countries at risk of instability. In 2007, the Ambassador led the government-wide effort to institutionalize the Interagency Management System (IMS), a whole-of-government system for planning and managing crisis response. The Coordinator is overseeing the establishment of the Civilian Response Corps of the U.S. The Corps's Active, Standby, and Reserve components will span eight federal government agencies, local governments, and the private sector. The Corps is the U.S. civilian rapid response force for reconstruction and stabilization operations overseas.



In 2003, Ambassador Herbst was appointed the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. During his tenure, he worked to enhance U.S.-Ukrainian relations and to help ensure the conduct of a fair Ukrainian presidential election. In Kyiv, he witnessed the Orange Revolution. Prior to that, Ambassador Herbst was the U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan, where he played a critical role in the establishment of an American base to help conduct Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He also promoted improved U.S.-Uzbek relations, in part by encouraging the government in Tashkent to improve its human rights record.

Mr. Herbst previously served as U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem; Principal Deputy to the Ambassador at Large for the Newly Independent States; the Director of the Office of Independent States and Commonwealth Affairs; Director of Regional Affairs in the Near East Bureau; as political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and at the Embassies in Moscow and Saudi Arabia. Both the Presidential Distinguished Service Award and the State Department's Distinguished Honor Award were presented to Mr. Herbst.



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

He received a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Phi Beta Kappa, and a Master of Law and Diplomacy, with Distinction, from the Fletcher School. He also attended the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies Bologna Center.

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Ulla Holm

Global Director  
Tetra Pak Food for Development Office

Ulla Holm is Global Director of the Tetra Pak Food for Development Office (FfDO), established in 2000 to share the knowledge and experience gathered from over 40 years involvement in global school feeding and agricultural development programmes. Working in close partnership with governments, development agencies and NGOs, the Food for Development Office initiates, develops and supports projects that aim to fight poverty and improve nutrition in developing countries.



Ms. Holm joined the Tetra Laval Group in Stockholm, Sweden in 1977, where she worked on developing financing solutions and cross-border leasing systems. She then started up the in-house leasing company, Tetra Laval Credit AB, which today provides financing solutions for Tetra Pak equipment to customers all over the world. Ms. Holm also worked to develop, establish and coordinate one of the first integrated milk and dairy development projects in St. Petersburg, Russia, between 1997 – 2000.

Ms. Holm has a degree in Business and Administration from the Stockholm School of Economics. She has been a Board member of the Swedish Export Credit Guarantee Board since 2001 and in 2008 she joined the board of the Global Child Nutrition Foundation, Washington DC, USA.

[www.tetrapak.com/about\\_tetra\\_pak/food\\_for\\_development/](http://www.tetrapak.com/about_tetra_pak/food_for_development/)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Vijaya Jain

Project Coordinator of Community Nutrition Services  
University of Illinois

Ms. Jain is currently leading efforts to add soy in the school lunch programs in India as part of the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH), whose primary goal is to create sustainable solutions to the problem of protein malnutrition around the world. She has over 30 years of experience coordinating nutrition programs at health centers and as a consultant for clinical nutrition programs.



After completing her Dietetic Internship at San Jose Hospital and Medical Health Center in San Jose CA, she worked as a Nutrition Consultant at the Visiting Nurse Association in Santa Clara, California. As a Clinical Nutritionist, she has worked at the New York Presbyterian Hospital of Columbia and Cornell Universities in Manhattan, providing nutrition counseling to nutritionally vulnerable groups and high risk individuals.

Ms. Jain is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Awards from the New York State Metropolitan WIC Association in 2000 and the New York State WIC Association in 2005. As a Registered Dietitian since 1979, she is also a certified Cardiovascular Nutritionist and has served as Co-Chair of the Nutrition Committee of the American Heart Association.

[www.illinois.edu](http://www.illinois.edu)  
[www.wishh.org](http://www.wishh.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Allan Jury

Director, US Relations Office  
World Food Programme

Allan Jury has been Director of the World Food Programme's (WFP) US Relations Office in Washington, D.C. since September 2008. He is responsible for managing WFP's relations with its major partners in the United States, including the World Bank headquarters.

Mr. Jury previously served as WFP's Director of External Relations from 2004 to 2008, where he was responsible for representing the programme and developing organizational policy on UN reform, interagency affairs, and relations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). He joined the World Food Programme in 2001 as Chief of the Policy Service, a post he held until 2004. Mr. Jury, a national of the US, came to WFP following a 25 year career with the US Department of State.



[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Ross G. Kreamer

Assistant Deputy Administrator  
Office of Capacity Building & Development  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Since November 2006, Mr. Kreamer has been based in Washington, DC as the Assistant Deputy Administrator in the Office of Capacity Building & Development, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). This organization has 235 employees involved in a wide range of trade capacity building activities around the world, including reconstruction and stabilization efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their Food Assistance Division is responsible for managing the Food for Progress and the McGovern-Dole Food for Education programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Mr. Kreamer has extensive overseas experience:

- Director of Agricultural Trade Office, 2003-2006, Shanghai, China
- Area Director for North Asia, FAS, 2000-2002 (all offices Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China)
- Agricultural Counselor, 1996-2000, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Agricultural Attaché, 1990-1993, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Associate Director for Agricultural Programs, 1981-1983, U.S. Peace Corps, Ghana
- Peace Corps Volunteer, 1977-1980, Ghana

From 1986 to 1995, Mr. Kreamer worked for FAS as a commodity analyst in both the Grain and Feed Division and the Tropical Products Division.

Mr. Kreamer attended Centre College of Kentucky, earning a Bachelor of Science in 1976; and a Master of Professional Studies in International Agriculture & Rural Development from Cornell University in 1987. In 1986, *Entrepreneurship & Technical Change: A Case Study of Gari Processing in Ghana, West Africa* was published by the Department of Agricultural Economics of Cornell University.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/>



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Lauren Landis

Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of the Executive Director  
World Food Program (Rome)

Ms. Landis has many years of experience working with food aid and development. From 2006 until her recent appointment, she was the Senior Representative on Sudan at the U.S. Department of State. Between 2002 and 2005, Ms. Landis was the Director of the Office of Food for Peace in the U.S. Agency for International Development.



Ms. Landis has worked in developing countries around the world, including with Save the Children as Director of the Food Security Unit; Interaction; and with OFDA. She has also worked as a consultant to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, USAID, the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, and with ADRA. In addition, she worked with private industry in marketing research and business development for Southern Air Transport, a company providing airlift and airdrop of relief commodities.

While an undergraduate at Mount Holyoke, Ms. Landis attended the Institut D'Etudes Politiques in France. She has done graduate work at the University of Miami and Harvard's Graduate School of Business Administration as well as at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Carl H. Leonard

President and CEO  
ACDI / VOCA

Mr. Leonard has 30 years of experience directing and managing economic assistance programs in Latin America and the Caribbean for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), serving as mission director in three countries and Acting Assistant Administrator. In this capacity he oversaw sixteen USAID field missions and three regional programs. He achieved the rank of career minister in the Senior Foreign Service and received numerous awards from USAID, including two presidential-rank awards and the agency's Distinguished Career Service Award.



In 2001, Mr. Leonard joined ACDI/VOCA. He served as senior vice president for Global Programs and the Latin America Division until 2004.

Mr. Leonard speaks Spanish and has an M.A. in Ibero-American studies from the University of Wisconsin and a B.A. in economics from Vanderbilt University. Mr. Leonard also completed a mid-career fellowship at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs.

[www.acdivoca.org](http://www.acdivoca.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Stephen Lewis

Co-Director  
AIDS-Free World

Mr. Stephen Lewis is Co-Director of AIDS-Free World, a new international advocacy organization that works to promote more urgent and more effective global responses to HIV/AIDS. Among several senior UN roles that spanned over two decades, Mr. Lewis was the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa from June 2001 until the end of 2006. From 1995 to 1999, Mr. Lewis was Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF at the organization's global headquarters in New York. From 1984 through 1988, Stephen Lewis was Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations.



In addition to his work with AIDS-Free World, Mr. Lewis is a Professor in Global Health, Faculty of Social Sciences at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and is the chair of the board of the Stephen Lewis Foundation in Canada.

Mr. Lewis is the author of the best-selling book, *Race Against Time*. He holds 28 honorary degrees from Canadian universities and is a Companion of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest honour for lifetime achievement. In April 2005, *TIME* magazine listed Stephen Lewis as one of the '100 most influential people in the world'. In 2007, the Kingdom of Lesotho invested Mr. Lewis as Knight Commander of the Most Dignified Order of Moshoeshoe. The order, named for the founder of Lesotho, is the country's highest honour.

Mr. Lewis has received a number of prestigious awards, amongst them: The Dean's Distinguished Service Award conferred by Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in recognition of outstanding contributions to public health (2003); Jonathan Mann Health and Human Rights Award from the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care (2003); the International Council of Nurses' Health and Human Rights Award, awarded quadrennially for outstanding contributions to international health and human rights (2005); the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Leadership Award, from the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas (2006); and the Health and Human Rights Award from Doctors of the World, USA (2007).

[www.aids-freeworld.org](http://www.aids-freeworld.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Thomas Melito

Director, International Affairs and Trade  
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Dr. Melito is a Director in the International Affairs and Trade Team at GAO. In this capacity, he is primarily responsible for GAO work involving multilateral organizations and international finance. Over the last ten years, Dr. Melito has been focusing on a wide range of development issues, including debt relief for poor countries, international food security, and human trafficking. Since 2007, Dr. Melito has testified several times to Congress on GAO's reports on challenges U.S. agencies face in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of food aid.



Dr. Melito holds an MA and PhD in economics from Columbia University and a BS in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University.

[www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Stephanie Mercier

Chief Economist  
Democratic Staff of the Senate Agriculture Committee

Dr. Mercier is the chief economist for the Democratic staff of the Senate Agriculture Committee, a position she has held since 1997. The key issues she currently covers for the Committee include international trade policy, crop insurance, disaster programs, and farm programs.

Previously, Dr. Mercier she served as team leader for the Trade Policy and Programs area of the Economic Research Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In her nine years at ERS, she worked on both domestic commodity programs and trade policy issues.



An Iowa native, Dr. Mercier has a bachelor's degree in economics from Washington University in St. Louis and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Iowa State University.

[agriculture.senate.gov](http://agriculture.senate.gov)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Michael Michener

Foreign Agricultural Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Mr. Michener was appointed in March 2009 as Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service. This agency is responsible for the USDA's international activities, including food aid and agricultural development programs, helping to expand income and food availability in developing nations, market development, international trade agreements and negotiations, collection and analysis of market information, and administering export credit guarantee programs.

Mr. Michener has served in three U.S. foreign affairs agencies in the past ten years. Most recently, he served as the Senior Democracy and Governance Advisor and Lead Planning Officer for the U.S. State Department's Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization. From 2005-2007, Mr. Michener was the lead Iraq policy officer for the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, managing nearly \$400 million in assistance programs promoting democracy and human rights in that country. He also has experience working with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Kosovo, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A native of New London, Iowa, Mr. Michener was educated at the University of Maryland in Europe while serving with the U.S. Army.

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Susan J. Owens

Director of the Trade and Scientific Capacity Building Division  
The Office of Capacity Building and Development  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Ms. Owens serves as Director of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's Trade and Scientific Capacity Building Division. Prior to assuming this position, Ms. Owens was Director and Deputy Director of the Research and Scientific Exchanges Division since 2001. In these positions, she directs trade and science capacity building work in emerging markets to build regulatory and policy capacity in food safety, animal health and plant health.

Ms. Owens possesses more than 20 years of experience in international efforts with the U.S. Government and private sector, including positions at the U.S. Agency for International Development, Peace Corps, the U.S. Embassy in Paris and non-profit organizations. For more than eight years, Ms. Owens lived and worked overseas in Japan and France, and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in West Africa.

She has a Masters degree in Public Administration from Northeastern University and completed three years of Ph.D work in science and technology policy and economic development at George Washington University. She speaks fluent French and rudimentary Spanish and Japanese.

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Silke Pietzsch

Food Security Advisor  
Action Against Hunger

Ms. Pietzsch has worked in the area of humanitarian and development work in different settings and organizations, always in the field of Food Security and Livelihoods, as well as nutrition.

She has worked with ICRSAT (crop research, 1998) and GTZ (2000) in Asia (Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka) on improved seed varieties, addressing the problematic of changing rainy seasons and increased risks to drought, and on community development programs. Afterwards she joined Action Against Hunger – UK (2002) to open the missions of Malawi and Zimbabwe, and facilitated the first exploratory mission in Swaziland.



She then joined MSF-NL to learn about nutrition programming in Ethiopia, but rejoined the food security and livelihoods team with Oxfam-GB (2004) in humanitarian support personnel, covering flood emergencies in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, the Tsunami response in India and Andaman, the droughts and resulting food crises in Niger and Mali, and chronic crises in East Africa. After a stand in Oxford headquarters for OGB, she rejoined Action Against Hunger in 2006, working in Niger where she was Food Security Coordinator and focusing on improving agro-pastoral production through improved techniques and seed varieties, improving natural resource management through agro forestry, diversifying income generation and contributing to national and local surveillance systems, including remote sensing in pastoral areas.

Ms. Pietzsch holds a Master of Food Science and Household Economy from the University of Kiel, and a Master of Public Health from the University of Maastricht. She speaks English, French, German, and has notions of Nepali and Dutch.

[www.actionagainsthunger.org](http://www.actionagainsthunger.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Colette Powers

Senior Director, Integrated Food and Nutrition  
International Programs Group  
World Vision United States

Colette Powers has eighteen years of experience in international commodity marketing, agribusiness enterprise formation, and integrated food security project design, acquisition, start-up, and management in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Russia. She is currently the World Vision United States International Programs Group (IPG) Senior Director for Integrated Food and Nutrition. In this role, Ms. Powers provides strategic leadership and technical skills to manage the acquisition and implementation of over \$200 million in annual US Government funded integrated food and nutrition programming, including provision of technical advisory services on food security to World Vision International's Global Partnership, and on preventive nutrition, integrated HIV/AIDS, food and nutrition, and early warning preventive programming design to twelve USAID Title II and three USDA Programs. Ms. Powers also lends her leadership and technical skills towards innovate World Vision-US food aid management and design, including local procurement of garden vegetables for school feeding, and design and management of cash transfer relief systems in Afghanistan; food fortification and nutrition education in Africa and Haiti; and develops networks and linkages between technical institutions and academia for operational research projects.



Ms. Powers presented at the 2006 HIV/AIDS PEPFAR Implementers' Meeting in Durban, South Africa on "The Impact of Food Aid on the Chronically Ill"; served as a practitioner contributor to the USAID/World Food Programme "Food Assistance Programming in the Context of HIV" handbook; and through the USAID Institutional Capacity Building grant, developed a website for technical capacity building in the areas of integrated multi-sectoral food security interventions including preventive mother and child health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS nutrition and food, agricultural production and marketing, and early warning.

Previously, Ms. Powers was the Director for Food for Development with ACDI/VOCA, and was Manager of International Operations, Europe/Middle East with the U.S. Grains Council.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

[www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)



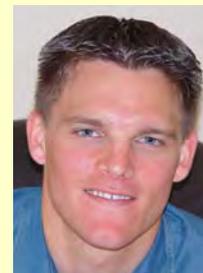
## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Isak Pretorius

President, Joint Aid Management USA

Born and raised in South Africa, Mr. Pretorius is intimately acquainted with the perennial problems that continue to plague the continent of Africa. The son of one of Africa's great social entrepreneurs, Peter Pretorius, Mr. Pretorius has traveled to the remote corners of Africa's communities and heartlands. It was during this time that a passion to address the diverse needs of Africa's children and communities began to guide his career and life's work.



A business graduate from the University of South Africa, with a BCom in Business Management, Economics, Law and Accounting, Mr. Pretorius is passionate about the development and transformation of Africa through the combination of social and economic development activities. Understanding the problems of poverty from the ground up, he has been able to make the difficult connection between compassion and capitalism. Not guided by a charity mentality, he is concerned rather with utilizing resources to connect the poor to world markets. The reality of a poverty-free future for Africa's children depends on this connection being made in a serious and meaningful way. For 12 years, Mr. Pretorius has worked to find the delicate balance between humanitarian relief and development and commercial viability.

As part of his experience, he has been involved in public relations and marketing, relief program management, logistics, and operations management. This broad base of experience highlighted for him the entrenched rigor of a committed industry that needs to challenge itself to think more broadly about the causes of poverty and our responses to it.

Previously the Vice President of Development and Chief Operating Officer for Joint Aid Management International, Mr. Pretorius now splits his time between traveling and developing new programs in Africa and his home office in Washington, DC. He is currently the President of Joint Aid Management-USA where he continues to create partnerships that seek a new way to meet the needs of African children and their families.

[www.jamint.com](http://www.jamint.com)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Bob Price

Deputy Director  
New Business Development  
FINCA International

Mr. Price is Deputy Director for New Business Development at FINCA International, Inc., a non-profit microfinance institution that delivers financial services to the world's lowest-income entrepreneurs so that they can create jobs, build assets and improve their standard of living. As Deputy Director for New Business Development, Mr. Price is responsible for supporting FINCA's planning, fundraising, marketing and communications.



Mr. Price also serves as FINCA's Corporate Relations Manager, working with FINCA's senior staff to develop strategic alliances with the private sector. Prior to joining FINCA in 2006, Mr. Price spent more than a dozen years working for a series of environmental nongovernmental organizations, where he led professional teams to devise and implement innovative solutions to global climate change.

Mr. Price holds a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. He has lived and worked in Southern Africa and Southeast Asia.

[www.villagebanking.org](http://www.villagebanking.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Bertrand Salvignol

Food Technologist  
World Food Program

Mr. Salvignol joined the World Food Program, Rome, in 2008, working as a food technologist in the procurement unit (financed by the P4P program) to pursue the work started in Asia. His role is to provide technical support to procurement officers, P4P coordinators, and logistic officers on food quality related matters, food processing (e.g. FBF, biscuits, oil, ready-to-use supplementary foods).



Mr. Salvignol has over 10 years experience as a food technologist / nutritionist, with emphasis on:

- Food fortification in minerals and vitamins
- Industrial development of food (complementary foods for infants and small children, wheat flour, biscuits, and RUSF)
- Use and improvement of extrusion-cooking technology
- Program management

He has considerable experience in production and distribution of fortified blended flour (FBF) products and has been with WFP in their Asia Regional Bureau between 2003 and 2008. He worked as Commodity Control Officer and dealt with food quality, food processing and food loss control.

Mr. Salvignol has a Masters in Food technology from the University of Sciences and Technology in Lille, France and a Master in Science in Public Health Nutrition from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Steven L. Sanders

Director  
Kansas City Commodity Office  
Commodity Operations  
Farm Service Agency  
United States Department of Agriculture

Steve Sanders joined FSA's Commodity Operations organization in August 2008 as the Director, Kansas City Commodity Office. In this capacity, he focuses on the acquisition, regulatory, and operational functions of the Commodity Operations organization.

Prior to being named the Director of the Kansas City Commodity Office, Mr. Sanders served five years as FSA's Director, Information Technology Services Division. Under his leadership, FSA justified its need for increased IT funding to modernize business practices and IT systems. He joined the Agency in 1984 as a Washington, D.C.-based program specialist charged to automate the acreage reporting business process. Since then, he has worked on numerous projects that apply innovations in information technology to business processes. He led the project team that deployed the Agency's first public-facing electronic government business process in 2002. Today, Mr. Sanders is a key executive sponsor on USDA's Web-based Supply Chain Management project focused on installing a new enterprise-class, commercial off-the-shelf business solution for domestic and international food acquisition and distribution.



Mr. Sanders is an engineering college graduate from Ohio State University, where he specialized in agricultural machinery design. He and his family currently reside in Kansas City, Missouri.

[www.fsa.usda.gov/fsa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fsa)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Sheri M. Schellhaass

Vice President, Research and Development  
General Mills, Inc.

Sheri Schellhaass is Vice President of Research and Development for General Mills, Inc. She leads research and development for the Bakeries & Food Service Division and Pillsbury Baking Institute.

Dr. Schellhaass joined General Mills in 1983 after receiving her Ph.D. in Food Science from the University of Minnesota. She progressed through a variety of positions in research and development across the company's businesses, including Director of the Big G Cereal and Yoplait Divisions and Vice President of the Bell Institute of Health & Nutrition, Agricultural Research, and the Grain Center of Excellence.



Dr. Schellhaass is the President of the Institute of Food Technologists. She serves on the Advisory Boards for the University of Minnesota Food Science and Nutrition Department, the Center of Excellence for Women, Science and Technology at the College of St. Catherine, and Sustain. She is a member of the American Association of Cereal Chemists, and the American Association of Dairy Scientists, the Women's Foodservice Forum, and the Research Chef's Association.

[www.generalmills.com](http://www.generalmills.com)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Janine Schooley

Project Concern International

Ms. Schooley is Vice President for Technical Services and Program Development at PCI, overseeing all technical aspects of programming in thirteen developing countries, as well as all new business development. She is a faculty member at University of California-San Diego's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, and at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Since 2002, Ms. Schooley has been on the Board of Directors of the CORE Group and is a Co-Chair of its HIV/AIDS Working Group.



Ms. Schooley obtained her MPH with an emphasis on maternal and child health from San Diego State University in 1985. She has spent more than twenty years in leadership positions with two local non-profit international health and development organizations, Wellstart International from 1985-2000 and Project Concern International since 2000. Ms. Schooley is a specialist in NGO/PVO leadership, with emphasis on program design, management, and evaluation, including capacity building and behavior change aspects of integrated, community-based programming.

[www.projectconcern.org](http://www.projectconcern.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Ron W. Shaw

Director of the Commodity Management Unit  
Save the Children

Mr. Shaw's experience includes:

- Canadian Hunger Foundation 1974-1975 (Niger)
- CARE 1977-1985 (Bangladesh, Tchad, Jordan, Cameroon)
- USAID 1985-1988 (Cameroon)
- Medical Care Development International 1988-1989 (USA)
- ACDI 1989-1991 (Uganda)
- Marine Overseas Service Inc. 1991-1994 (Washington)
- Save the Children 1994-Present (Angola, South Africa, USA)

In addition, he has had short-term assignments or consultancies in numerous countries within Africa, Asia, and South America.

[www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Patricia R. Sheikh

Deputy Administrator  
Office of Capacity Building and Development  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Ms. Sheikh is currently serving as Acting Deputy Under Secretary for the Foreign Agricultural Service, and Acting General Sales Manager for the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Ms. Sheikh was selected as the Deputy Administrator for the Office of Capacity Building and Development in November 2006. She is the architect of USDA's Africa Strategy, and was the key architect of USDA's North Asia trade policy strategy. She assumed this position after having a distinguished career of leading the Department's efforts to resolve trade policy issues for well over a decade.

In her new capacity, Ms. Sheikh is charged with overseeing all capacity building endeavors, including those associated with food assistance thereby employing a "holistic approach" to development. She also coordinates the Government's foreign policy objectives as they relate to capacity building endeavors. Her extensive work in agricultural affairs puts her in a unique position to assume her new duties. Her work experience also includes serving as Director of the agency's Trade Policy Division for Asia and Americas from 1993 – 1997. From 1989 - 1993, she led the Cotton Analysis Section of FAS's (then) Tobacco, Cotton and Seeds Division, focusing on China.

Ms. Sheikh worked as an agricultural economist in the agency's (then) Foreign Production Estimates Division from 1983 - 1989, after having worked as an agricultural economist in its Grain and Feed Division from 1978 - 1983. From 1977 - 1978, she was an international economist in the Office of Foreign and Economic Policy in the U.S. Department of Labor.

A native of Maryland, Ms. Sheikh holds a B.A. degree in history and political science and a minor in economics from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in Baltimore, and an M.A. degree in international relations from the School of Advanced International Relations in Washington, DC at Johns Hopkins University.

[www.fas.usda.gov/](http://www.fas.usda.gov/)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Emmy Bartz Simmons

Board Member  
Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa

Emmy Simmons is currently an independent consultant on international development issues, with a focus on food, agriculture, and Africa. She serves on the boards of several organizations engaged in international agriculture and global development more broadly: the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the Washington chapter of the Society for International Development (SID), and the Africa Center for Health and Human Security at George Washington University. Ms. Simmons also co-chairs the Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability at the National Academies of Science and leads a Roundtable working group on Partnerships for Sustainability.

Ms. Simmons completed a career of nearly 30 years with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2005, having served since 2002 as the Assistant Administrator for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade, a Presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed position. Prior to joining USAID, she worked in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs in Monrovia, Liberia and taught and conducted research at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria. She began her international career as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines from 1962-64. She holds an M.S. degree in agricultural economics from Cornell University and a B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

[www.africanhunger.org](http://www.africanhunger.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Luis Eduardo Siteo

Counselor (Commercial)  
Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique

Mr. Luis Eduardo Siteo joined the Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique in Washington, DC as Commercial Counselor in 2006. Prior to his posting to the United States, Mr. Siteo served in the Ministry of Industry and Trade successively as Director for Commerce, Director for Industries and Director for International Relations. As Director for Commerce, he led the inter-ministerial working group on food aid and negotiated several MOUs and agreements on food aid, including with USAID and USDA. He was the Chief Trade Negotiator for Mozambique in the SADC regional integration process, as well as in the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement.



Mr. Siteo represented Mozambique in various international bodies including, but not limited to the Amsterdam based Common Fund for Commodities and the Standing Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Istanbul, Turkey. He also served as national focal point for Mozambique for the WTO co-ordinated Integrated Framework for Trade Related Technical Assistance. Mr. Siteo served as board member of several government development agencies and programs.

Mr. Siteo joined the civil service in 1979 and he was awarded two Diplomas of Honor in recognition of his Outstanding Accomplishments and Dedication in Public service by the Minister of Industry and Trade, and by Chairperson of National Energy Fund (FUNAE). He holds an associate degree in Business Management from the Fachschule fuer Binnenhandel in Blankeburg, Germany and a Licentiate degree in Economics from Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo. Mr. Siteo is member of the Mozambican Association of Economists and he is married with three children.

[www.embamoc-usa.org](http://www.embamoc-usa.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### David Tschirley

Professor of International Development  
Core Faculty Member of the Center for Advanced Study of International Development  
and the African Studies Center  
Michigan State University

Dr. David Tschirley is Professor of International Development and a member of the CASID and African Studies Center core faculty at Michigan State University (MSU). He is co-principal investigator on a number of the Department's research and training projects in Africa, and has lived and worked long-term for MSU in Ecuador (1987-90) and Mozambique (1995-98). Dr. Tschirley has served as an advisor to the Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, and U.S. Agency for International Development. His current work focuses primarily on East and Southern Africa.

[www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Laura Turner

Government Relations Program Officer  
U.S. Relations Office (Washington)  
World Food Program

Prior to becoming a Government Relations Program Officer in Washington, Ms. Turner recently completed two years in Sudan managing the United Nations World Food Programme's relief and recovery programs in the Three Areas and Eastern Sudan.

She has worked for The United Nations since 1994, working with the World Food Program (WFP), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Development Program (UNDP) in Italy, Kosovo, Switzerland, Congo/Brazzaville, Cyprus, New York, Somalia and Sudan.

Ms. Turner holds a Masters with distinction in Sustainable Development from The University of Edinburgh and a BA in Chemistry from the University of Iowa.

[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Tom Vilsack

Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Tom Vilsack was sworn in as the 30th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on January 21, 2009. Appointed by President Barack Obama, Vilsack received unanimous support for his confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

Secretary Vilsack has served in the public sector at nearly every level of government, beginning as mayor of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa in 1987, and then as state senator in 1992. In 1998, he was the first Democrat elected Governor of Iowa in more than 30 years, an office he held for two terms.

Throughout his campaign for Governor, Vilsack articulated a vision for making Iowa the Food Capital of the World and focusing on creating economic opportunity in rural communities and small towns through value-added agriculture. As Governor, he created the Iowa Food Policy Council to advance local food systems, enhance family farm profitability, and combat hunger and malnutrition. He led trade missions to foreign countries to market agricultural products and attended the Seattle meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to push for expanded agricultural trade negotiations. In addition, he worked to support independent farmers and ranchers by enacting livestock market reform and mandatory price reporting legislation in 1999.

Vilsack was a leader among his colleagues. In addition to serving on the National Governors Association Executive Committee, he also served as chair of the Governors Ethanol Coalition, chair of the Democratic Governors Association, and founding member and chair of the Governors Biotechnology Partnership. As chair of the National Governors Association Committee on Natural Resources, Vilsack promoted private lands conservation and advanced the concept of tying farm payments to conservation commodities. Vilsack's national Private Lands, Public Benefits conference focused attention on the need to address conservation challenges by providing incentives to private landowners to implement conservation practices resulting in clean air, clean water, and enhanced wildlife habitat. He also created a comprehensive conservation program in Iowa to encourage and assist landowners in installing buffer strips, restoring wetlands, and rewarding good conservation practices.





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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

During his tenure as Governor, Tom Vilsack initiated a comprehensive effort to increase economic opportunity and create good-paying jobs. He started Vision Iowa, a program to invest in cultural and recreational infrastructure throughout the state. A combination of venture capital initiatives created an entrepreneurial environment for innovation and new ideas to get started; and the Iowa Values Fund provided an economic growth strategy focused on creating and retaining jobs in targeted sectors including life sciences, financial services, and advanced manufacturing. Each of these initiatives created under Vilsack's administration contributed to the rebuilding of local economies in small towns and rural communities across the state.

In addition to state economic investment, Vilsack's leadership and vision were instrumental in transforming Iowa to an energy state. His policies led to the construction of Iowa's first power facility in two decades and made Iowa a leader in alternative energy and renewable fuels. Vilsack created a regulatory and financial environment in Iowa for wind energy to develop to the point that it now makes up 5.5 percent of the state's generation, the largest percentage of any state. Iowa also emerged as a leader in the production of ethanol and biodiesel during his tenure.

Throughout his public service, Tom Vilsack has pursued an agenda dedicated to the principles of opportunity, responsibility, and security. He is recognized as an innovator on children's issues and education, economic and healthcare policy, and efforts to make government more efficient and accessible. Iowa is known for its strong K-12 education system in part due to Vilsack's initiatives. He developed aggressive early childhood programs, reduced class sizes, created a first-in-the-nation salary initiative to improve teacher quality and student achievement, and enacted a more rigorous high school curriculum. His leadership also led to Iowa becoming a national leader in health insurance coverage, with more than 90 percent of children covered.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Vilsack was born into an orphanage and adopted in 1951. He received a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, in 1972 and earned his law degree from Albany Law School in 1975. He moved to Mt. Pleasant - his wife, Christie's, hometown - where he practiced law. The Vilsacks have two adult sons, Jess and Doug, who both grew up in Mt. Pleasant, and a daughter-in-law, Kate, who's married to Jess.

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Patrick Webb

Dean for Academic Affairs, and  
Alexander MacFarlane Professor of Public Policy  
Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy  
Tufts University

Patrick Webb is Dean for Academic Affairs, and Alexander MacFarlane Professor of Public Policy, at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts. He holds honorar professor status at the University of Hohenheim (Stuttgart in Germany). Dr. Webb worked for several years as Chief of Nutrition for the World Food Programme (WFP). While at WFP, he helped build a nutrition department with global responsibilities for emergency food interventions, overseeing maternal and child programs in 30 developing countries, and elaborating policies and procedures for micronutrient fortification of food aid. He worked on inter-agency coordination and policy harmonization, including service on the Hunger Task Force of the Millennium Project.



His current research focuses on nutrition-disease interactions (including in the context of HIV programming), the role of the private sector in humanitarian relief, and measure of diet quality (micronutrient issues) in emergency settings. Earlier, he spent 9 years with the International Food Policy Research Institute, stationed for most of that time in Ethiopia, Niger, and The Gambia. His co-authored book on Famine in Africa (published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 1999), sold out of its first edition and went into a second run. Other publications include 20 book chapters and almost 50 peer-reviewed journal articles.

<http://www.tufts.edu/>



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Gene White

President  
Global Child Nutrition Foundation

Ms. White joined the Global Child Nutrition Foundation when it was first organized in 2006. She brings to the Foundation a 30-year career as a specialist in the administration, management, and operation of school nutrition programs.

She is the former Assistant Superintendent and Director of Child Nutrition Programs, California State Department of Education. In this position she directed federal and state child nutrition programs that served daily over 2.5 million meals to children in schools and other agencies. Prior to this, Ms. White was Director of School Food and Nutrition Programs, Sierra Sands Unified School District, Ridgecrest California. She has also worked as administrative dietitian in a general hospital and faculty in colleges and universities.

Ms. White is past-President of both the School Nutrition Association and the California School Nutrition Association. She has served in numerous leadership positions to advance nutrition education, state and federal legislation for child nutrition programs, and program quality standards.

Although much of her work has focused on child nutrition programs in the United States, she has also been actively involved in assisting developing countries establish school feeding programs. She has worked in Tunisia on a USAID project, in Paraguay on a World Food Program assignment, and throughout Latin America helping establish the Latin America School Feeding Network.

Ms. White lives on Whidbey Island, Washington State, where her volunteer work includes helping local school districts develop wellness policies to prevent obesity and promote student health.

A native of Ohio, Ms. White received her undergraduate degree in Food and Nutrition from Miami University in Ohio and a Masters Degree in Nutrition from Ohio State University. She is a registered dietitian, American Dietetic Association and a credentialed School Nutrition Specialist, School Nutrition Association.

[www.gcnf.org](http://www.gcnf.org)



## USDA & USAID International Food Aid Conference

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### Sandra G. Wood

Assistant Deputy Administrator  
Commodity Operations  
Farm Service Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Ms. Wood is currently Acting Deputy Administrator and in this position oversees Commodity Operations: the Commodity Operations Division in Washington, DC and the Kansas City Commodity Office.

In 2006, Ms. Wood became a Branch Chief in the Commodity Operations Division, the organization that she has broad responsibility for now and which began her career in international food aid. She became the Assistant Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations in 2008, assuming in January 2009 the Acting Deputy Administrator position she holds now.

Ms. Wood began her Federal government career at the USDA Farm Service Agency in the Virginia County Operations Trainee Program and progressed into other positions, including as a County Executive Director and then a District Director overseeing eighteen counties. During this tenure, she was also an Equal Employment Opportunity, Civil Rights and Sexual Harassment instructor where she trained others across the state and nationally; Virginia State Civil Rights Coordinator; obtained her Farm Loan approval authority, which allows her the ability to work loan dockets in any banking or financial institution; and was a National Advanced Facilitator for District Directors, facilitating training and development for District Directors all over the country,

Ms. Wood attended Saint Paul's College, located in Lawrenceville Virginia, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, concentrating in the field of Management. She is also a graduate of the Graduate School's Executive Leadership Program.

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)