

# Asia-Pacific Regional E-conference on Transforming Higher Education in Agriculture, 18 December 2023

## About the Speakers

**Dr. Ravi Khetarpal**, Executive Secretary, APAARI



The Executive Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Dr Khetarpal brings over 36 years of vast, global experience in research, development, innovation, strategic planning, institutional management and policy. Previously, Dr Khetarpal served as the Head of Plant Quarantine at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); and the Regional Director and Regional Advisor in the Centre of Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), South Asia. He was also a Visiting Scientist at the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France, among others. He holds an MSc in Plant Pathology and a PhD in Life Sciences. Dr Khetarpal is currently the Chair of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAiR).

**Mr. Karim Hussein**, Senior Advisor, GFAiR



Mr. Hussein is currently the Strategic Advisor at GFAiR, advising international organizations on agricultural research and innovation, inclusive rural transformation, urban-rural linkages, fragile and conflict-affected situations. At the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), he worked as Policy and Research Advisor, a member of the core team for the 2016 Rural Development Report, and Regional Economist for Western and Central Africa (2006-2009). From 2002-2006, Mr. Hussein was Principal Administrator at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), where he performed various functions, such as leading work on the transformation of West African agriculture, food security, and conflict in the region, and working as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Secretary-General responsible for development and environment. Throughout his career, he has served as an independent expert on agricultural and rural development, and food security and nutrition at various development research centres and development-oriented institutions. Mr. Hussein is also Editor-in-Chief of the Ag4Dev (Agriculture for Development) journal published by Tropical Agriculture Association International.

**Ms. Martina Spisiakova**, Innovation and Strategy Coordinator, APAARI



Ms. Spisiakova works as Strategy and Innovation Coordinator, coordinating APAARI's Knowledge Management (KM) and Innovation programme. She has rich international experience in KM, and programme management, in the context of rural and agricultural development. Previously, she served as Knowledge Management Officer in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) based Indonesia, and before that in the IFAD, Italy, where she started her development career. Ms. Spisiakova has also been involved as an expert in the evaluation process of research and innovation networks of the European Union. She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor degree in Social Sciences with Economics.

**Dr. Nur Azura binti Adam**, Deputy Director for Programs, Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)



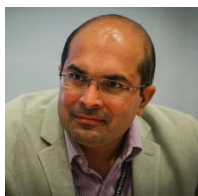
Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Nur Azura Binti Adam was the immediate former Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia. She led the management team in developing the 5-year strategic plan of the faculty that aims to become the reference hub for Southeast Asian agriculture. She established linkages and collaboration at the international level in academic programmes, which involves student academic exchange and mobility activities. Since 2020, she served as Auditor of the academic programme under the Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT) Accreditation and Panel Advisor for the Master of Science (Entomology), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Crop Agro-industry Diploma Programme, College of Vocational, Ministry of Education Malaysia. From 2008 to 2015, she received various honors and awards, such as the Excellent Service Award, Best Lecturer Award, and Publication Incentive Award.

**Dr. Narendra Shah**, Member Secretary, Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission, Government of Maharashtra, former Professor at IIT-Bombay, India



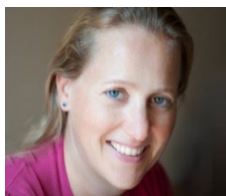
Dr. Shah is a distinguished scholar and educator, recognized for his outstanding contributions in the field of science and technology for rural development. In 2006, he received the prestigious IChE-Dorr-Oliver award for Excellence in the Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development. Later, in September 2014, he was honored with the PK Patwardhan-IIT Bombay Research Award for his groundbreaking work on Jaggery Making Technology Development. Beyond the classroom and laboratory, Dr. Shah has played a pivotal role in administration. As the Member Secretary of the Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission, Government of Maharashtra, he has contributed to the strategic development of science and technology initiatives in the state.

**Mr. Gopesh Tewari**, Head of Education, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)



Mr. Tewari is a passionate, committed, and result-oriented professional with proven leadership skills and currently heading IRRI Education. He has extensive 16 years of experience in education, capacity development, agriculture, rural Development, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and information and communication technology (ICT) for development projects. Before joining IRRI, he led various education and skills development projects in Asia and Africa as a consultant, e.g. of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), International Labour Organization (ILO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as country governments.

**Dr. Lisa van Dijk**, Co-chair of the Prolinnova Oversight Group



Dr. van Dijk is a network facilitator, rural development expert and a sheep farmer with 25 years of experience in knowledge exchange, learning and innovation with farmers and rural communities. Currently, she works for Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development in Germany and Highclere Consulting in Romania on a variety of EU projects related to multi-actor/stakeholder collaborative learning and co-creation processes. Prior to her work in Europe, she worked for over 15 years in international development in the management and coordination of complex projects and programmes related to agriculture and rural development in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

**Dr. Supawan Visetnoi**, Assistant Professor, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand



Dr. Supawan Visetnoi is an Assistant Professor in agricultural development and extension and a full-time instructor at School of Agricultural Resources, Chulalongkorn University (CUSAR). She is currently the Assistant to the Dean for Research and Academic Services at CUSAR. Her research interests are agricultural education and development policy particularly for small-holders, agricultural value-chain of cross-border trade, marketing of organic produces and extension services to farmers that focusing on farmer development and sustainability.

**Dr. Dharma Dangol**, Professor, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, Tribhuvan University, Nepal



Dr. Dangol, is a Professor in the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science of Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal. He is also chairperson and senior research scientist in the Nepalese Institute for Social and Environmental Research. Dr. Dangol is an environmental scientist specialized in ethno-botany and indigenous knowledge and practices pertaining to botanical resource use and conservation. He is a well-known expert in Botany within and outside Nepal. Dr. Dangol has published textbooks, manuals, edited books and dozens of journal and popular articles. Last year he has edited and published a book entitled “Sthaniya Anweshan: KeSikaune ra Kasari Sikaune” in Nepali language.