In the framework of the 2030 Global Development Agenda Sustainable Development Goal: 2 on “Zero Hunger” aims at ending all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030. However, according to the United Nations, the world is not on track to achieve zero hunger by 2030 because the number of people facing food deprivation is increasing and food insecurity is growing. This is largely due to climate change because agriculture is most exposed and vulnerable to impacts of climate change.

Climate change is increasing severity and frequency of extreme weather events. Crops and livestock are sensitive to temperature and precipitation. Global warming, variability in rainfall patterns, frequent natural disasters, and growing diseases and pests are hurting agricultural production, disrupting food supply chains, and stressing people’s ability to access affordable food.

Agriculture-driven economic growth, food security, and poverty reduction efforts are at risk. Estimates show that the number of hungry and undernourished people will further increase in the Global South. Competing uses of scarce natural resources such as water and land are potentially threatening social stability in many countries in the Global South.

Additionally, agriculture is one of the major contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions. It accounts for more than two-thirds of freshwater water use and generates unsustainable levels of pollution and waste due to unsustainable agricultural practices including use of synthesized fertilizer and pesticides.

To discuss the important challenges facing the food system in the Global South and the obstacles that stand in the way of overcoming them, COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) is organizing a webinar on “Challenges to Agriculture and their solutions in the Global South” on Wednesday, 9th September 2020 @ 3pm (GMT+5). The purpose of holding this webinar is to gather scientists, experts, and academicians from different geographic regions to exchange their experiences and knowledge to achieve better results for the food system and to identify potential solutions facing agriculture in the Global South.

**Speakers**

**Dr. Eduardo Posada**

Dr. Eduardo Posada, Physicist, presently serving as Director of Centro Internacional de Fisica (CIF) in Bogota, Colombia and President of the Colombian Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Posada is former chairperson of COMSATS Coordinating Council.

**Dr. Mamma Sawaneh**

Dr. Mama Sawaneh is a professor at School of Agriculture and Environmental Science, University of The Gambia. (to be confirmed)

**Dr. Edward YEBOAH**

Dr. Edward YEBOAH is serving as principal research scientist and Deputy Director at Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Soil Research Institute, Ghana. His research interest focused on Managing soil with in the Nexus of Water, Energy, and Food Security in order to achieve Sustainable Development. He has also interest in unraveling the mechanism underlying nutrient and soil organic matter dynamics in tropical agro ecosystems.

Dr. YEBOAH is also member of Several international research committees i.e Global Research Alliance, Coordination for International Research Cooperation on Soil carbon Sequestration, and Soil Organic Carbon in Agriculture- International research Consortium. He is also author of 30 high impact factor research publications.
Dr. Masnat Al Hiary
Dr. Masnat Al Hiary is macroeconomic expert and currently serving as Director of Socio-Economic Research Directorate at National Agricultural Research Council of Jordan. Dr. Al Hiary is also coordinator of sub project “Jordan Valley Water Sustainability and Agribusiness Competitiveness” funded by UNFCCC.

Dr. Al Hiary earned her Ph.D on the topic Competitiveness of Jordanian Exports, of Selected Fruits and Vegetables in Arab Gulf Countries from University of Jordan in 2007. She has 22 years of research experience in the area of Agricultural Economics.

Dr. Muhammad Abid
Dr. Muhammad Abid is agricultural economist and human geographer and work as Assistant Professor at COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan. His research focuses on human-environmental interactions, climate-smart agriculture, DRR, water resource management and governance. He is the principal investigator for two international projects, “Identification and Up-Scaling of Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices in Himalaya” funded by APN-GCR and “Sustainable Bioenergy in emerging economies” funded by PSF and NSFC, China.

Dr. Abid earned his Ph.D from University of Hamburg, Germany with focus on vulnerability and adaptive capacity of farming communities in Pakistan. He authored more than 37 peer-reviewed publications and served as reviewer for several scientific journals.

Dr. Ranjith Premalal De Silva
Dr. Ranjith Premalal De Silva is a Sri Lankan Professor of Agricultural Engineering and former Vice Chancellor of the Uva Wellassa University. Presently, he is serving as Director and CEO of Hector Kobbi Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Sri Lanka with several additional positions i.e. Co-Chairperson, Presidential Task Force Force Group on Vocational and Professional Education Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovations, Competent Authority/ Vice Chancellor, University of Vocational Technology and Chairman Board of Study in Agricultural Engineering Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Dr. De Silva received his doctorate degree in Agricultural Engineering from Cranfield University, United Kingdom. He is a foundation member of Geo-Informatics Society of Sri Lanka.

Moderator
Dr. Ghulam Haider
Assistant Professor
Department of Plant Biotechnology,
National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan

Meeting Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86928189346?pwd=WGJWRUcyZWJON0Z5SDY5TkdpPc1BZdz09
Meeting ID: 869 2818 9346 Passcode: 217407

3:00-3:05 - Welcome Remarks
Ambassador Shahid Kamal, Head CCCS

03:05-03:20 - CIF's activities for mitigating the impact of climate change on agriculture in Colombia
Dr. Eduardo Posada, Director of Centro Internacional de Fisica (CIF), Bogota, Colombia.

03:20-03:35 - (to be confirmed)
Dr. Mamma Sawaneh, Professor, School of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, University of The Gambia

03:35-03:50 - Unconventional Farming Methods Could Help Smallholders Fight Back Against Climate Change
Dr. Edward YEBOAH, Principal Research Scientist and Deputy Director, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research- Soil Research Institute, Ghana.

Dr. Masnat Al-Hiary, Director of Socio-Economic Research Directorate at National Agricultural Research Council of Jordan

04:05-04:20 - Climate Change, Agriculture and Migration: Curtailing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience
Dr. Muhammad Abid, Assistant Professor Centre for Climate Research and Development, COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan

Senior Professor Ranjith Premalal De Silva, CEO of Hector Kobbi Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research Institute, Sri Lanka

04:35-04:55 - Session 3: Panel Discussion & Q/A:
Moderator: Dr. Ghulam Haider, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Biotechnology, National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan

04:55-5:00 - Session 4: Closing Remarks
Dr. Saeed A. Asad, Assistant Professor, Centre for Climate Research and Development, COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan

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