

Business at OECD Forum

**Agriculture Sustainability
and Green Growth in China**

25 June 2024 · 09:30 - 16:00 CET
OECD Conference Centre, Paris, France



BUSINESSatOECD



Business at OECD (BIAC) speaks for business at the OECD. Established in 1962, we stand for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to growth, economic development, and prosperity. Through *Business at OECD*, national business and employers' federations and their members provide expertise to the OECD and governments for competitive economies, better business, and better lives.

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09:30 - 10:00	Welcome & registration
10:00 - 10:15	Opening remarks
10:15 - 11:15	Panel 1 – China and Global Climate Governance: Boosting Green Growth and the Climate Neutrality Agenda
11:15 - 12:15	Panel 2 – Advancing China's Green Agenda through Climate Mitigation and Adaptation
12:15 - 13:30	Networking lunch
13:30 - 14:30	Panel 3 – Enhancing Innovation Infrastructure for Sustainable Input Use in China: Government-Industry Collaboration
14:40 - 14:55	Coffee break
14:55 - 15:55	Panel 4 – Public-Private Collaboration for Agricultural Innovation and Sustainable Growth (Biotechnology Focus)
15:55	Concluding remarks

Event Moderators



Alejandra Castro

VP, Global Head of Partnerships with International Organizations, Bayer Crop Science

Alejandra Castro is the VP Global Head of Partnerships with International Organizations in Bayer Crop Science, working in the Strategy and Sustainability team. She is originally from Costa Rica and is currently based in Washington DC.

Dr. Castro is an accomplished senior executive with over 20 years' experience in the life science industry. Her professional experience includes extensive knowledge in international trade negotiations, Legal General Counsel for multinational organizations, and a global public affairs and sustainability leader. She is passionate on building partnerships for the transformation of agriculture that is in harmony with nature, bringing economic and social well-being to farmers, and contributing to food security.

She has a Ph.D. in Constitutional and Information Technology Law, and a Master's Degree in Information Technology both from the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain. She is also an Intellectual Property Rights specialist at Michigan State University and has served as professor on International Trade in different Universities.

She is author of several books and articles in Intellectual Property, Biotechnology and International Trade. In 2020 she received the General Counsel Latin American Award 2020 in Diversity & Inclusion, from Chambers and Partners.



Rokas Morkūnas

Policy Manager and Member Engagement, Business at OECD (BIAC)

Rokas Morkūnas is a Policy Manager at *Business at OECD* (BIAC), where he oversees relations with its global business network and stakeholders, manages external campaigns and co-directs the corporate engagement program, which brings together multinational corporations from a wide range of sectors in support of BIAC's mission. He also leads policy initiatives on food and agriculture, health and well-being, as well as SME and entrepreneurship.

Prior to joining *Business at OECD*, Rokas gained professional experience working with the United Nations in New York and in public policy consultancy in Vilnius. Rokas holds a Master's Degree in International Security, focusing on Diplomacy and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Sciences Po Paris.

Opening Remarks

Hanni Rosenbaum is the Executive Director of *Business at OECD* (BIAC). In this role, she leads our business diplomacy efforts with the OECD and its members, guides the strategy and policy engagement of our Paris-based office, and ensures we adequately reflect the views of our national member organizations in our communications with the OECD and stakeholders. She works together with our Executive Board to drive our mission forward and oversees our budget.

She previously worked at the Nürburgring/Circuits International in Germany, the European Parliament in Brussels, and Brussels-based global recycling industry association, BIR. She holds advanced degrees in French and English, in applied economic sciences from the Hautes Etudes Commerciales in Brussels and in international relations from the Centre for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies in Paris. She joined *Business at OECD* in 1997 and held positions of increasing responsibility. She is fully fluent in English, French and German, and speaks Russian. She also has a black belt in karate and is involved in community projects teaching French for foreigners.

Julia Nielson is the Deputy Director of the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD). Ms. Nielson helps oversee work to develop and communicate evidence-based advice to governments with the aim of helping them improve the domestic and international performance of their policies in the areas of trade, food, agriculture and fisheries.

Ms. Nielson has over 20 years' experience in multilateral trade and development, strategy and management. She was previously Head of the Emerging Policy Issues Division in TAD, with responsibility for issues including digital trade, and the level playing field. Prior to that, she worked for the World Bank Group (WBG), including in the office of the then-President of the WBG, Bob Zoellick.

Ms. Nielson began her international career in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, following which she joined the OECD Trade Directorate, working on trade in services. Ms Nielson left the OECD in 2005 to join the Trade Department of the WBG. Ms Nielson holds a Bachelor of Arts Hons (1st class) and a Masters in Foreign Affairs and Trade from the Australian National University.



Hanni Rosenbaum

Executive Director,
Business at OECD (BIAC)



Julia Nielson

Deputy Director, Trade and
Agriculture Directorate,
OECD



Karim Dahou

Deputy Director, OECD Global Relations & Cooperation Directorate, Head of the China Unit

Karim Dahou is the Deputy Director of the OECD Global Relations and cooperation Directorate, where he supports the Director in implementing the OECD Global Relations Strategy. As such, he is responsible for enhancing the key partnerships with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa, as well as supporting the development of OECD Regional Programmes with Eurasia, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Southeast Asia (SEA) and Southeast Europe (SEE). He is in charge with coordinating policy support by OECD expert communities to partner countries from all over the world. In his capacity as Deputy Director and Head of the China team, Mr Dahou also oversees, together with the Director and the Legal Department, accession discussions with countries that aspire to OECD membership, as well as OECD's engagement with China across policy fields.

Mr. Dahou joined the OECD in 2006 as Senior Advisor to the Africa Partnership Forum and moved to the OECD's Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF) in 2008. He has been Deputy Head of the Investment Division, responsible for asserting OECD leadership in international investment policy and responsible business conduct. Prior to this, Mr. Dahou held several positions in DAF as Executive Manager of the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative, Head of the Green Investment Unit and Head of Programme on Investment for Development. Before joining the OECD, Mr. Dahou served as the Chief of Staff to the Executive Secretary and Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Board of the international NGO ENDA, and was founding member and managing director of the policy think-tank Enda Diapol (Policy Dialogue). His areas of expertise include investment, trade, responsible business conduct and natural resource management. Mr. Dahou taught courses on sustainable development as well as economic mutations in Africa at the Paris Institute of Political Studies.



Davide Cucino

Head of European Affairs of FINCANTIERI S.p.A & Chair of the Business at OECD China Expert Group

Davide Cucino graduated at Venice Ca' Foscari University in Oriental Studies with highest honors, he has permanently lived and worked in China for more than 30 years before moving to Brussels in early 2020. He holds the position of Vice President – Head of EU and NATO Affairs of Fincantieri. Before entering in the shipbuilding business, he has worked in the aerospace and railways sectors.

He holds the title of President Emeritus of European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) after serving from 2011 to 2014 as President elected and since January 2020 represents the EUCCC in Brussels. Since April 2022 he is chairing the Maritime Chamber of the European Commission Renewable and Low Carbon Fuels Industry Value Chain Alliance.

In May 2022 he has been elected Chairman of SEA Naval, the permanent naval shipyards group of companies at SEA Europe. In January 2020, he has also been nominated Chairman of the Paris based China Expert Group under *Business at OECD* (BIAC).

Panel 1

China and Global Climate Governance: Boosting Green Growth and the Climate Neutrality Agenda

An introductory panel focused on showcasing China's policy position around green transformation and climate change and how different partnerships are supporting the process.

Panel 1

China and Global Climate Governance: Boosting Green Growth and the Climate Neutrality Agenda



H.E. Jochem Wiers

Ambassador, Permanent
Representative of the
Netherlands to the OECD

Amb. Jochem Wiers took up his duties as Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the OECD on 30 August 2022. Mr. Wiers has over 15 years of management experience in international environments, foresight and strategy, European Union (EU), geopolitics, trade, climate, and energy. He studied Dutch law, international law and Spanish at the University of Amsterdam. He specialized in European law at the College of Europe in Bruges (LL.M.). He was a Ph.D. researcher at the European University Institute in Florence and a research fellow and lecturer at the University of Amsterdam. Mr. Wiers has published in a number of international legal journals, contributed to several legal textbooks and was associate editor of Legal Issues and Economic Integration. He has participated as a speaker in several international conferences and has taught at both graduate and undergraduate levels. Mr. Wiers was a professor by special appointment in international relations at the University of Groningen from 2016 to 2021.

Mr. Wiers started his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands in 2002 as a Senior Policy Adviser at the European Integration Department. He then moved to the Netherlands Embassy in Paris as Deputy Head of Economic Department (2006-2009) before returning to the Hague to become Head of Coordination of the Climate, Energy, Environment and Water Department (2009-2012) ; Director of Strategy Advisory Unit (2013-2016) ; Head of Interministerial Task Force Brexit (2016-2021) ; Economic Resilience and Security Coordinator (2021-22) and Project Director for Russia Sanctions Implementation (April-July 2022).



Davide Cucino

Head of European Affairs of
FINCANTIERI S.p.A & Chair of
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Jo Tyndall is Director for the Environment Directorate at the OECD where she oversees the implementation of the Directorate's programme of work, covering a broad range of environmental issues, including: green growth; climate change; biodiversity; quality of ecosystems; eco-innovation; circular economy; and, resource productivity.

Jo Tyndall was New Zealand High Commissioner (Ambassador) to Singapore from February 2019 to September 2022. Prior to that, Jo served as New Zealand's Climate Change Ambassador, commencing this role in June 2010. From 2016 to December 2018, she also co-chaired the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA). As Climate Change Ambassador, she was head of delegation to the United Nations climate negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Prior to her role as Climate Change Ambassador, Jo Tyndall was Director of the Broadcasting Unit in the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. From 1999 to 2006, she was Chief Executive of the public broadcasting funding body, NZ On Air. She has also served as Chief Executive of two screen industry organisations - the Screen Production and Development Association (SPADA) and Project Blue Sky (1994 to 1999). Jo Tyndall began her career as a multilateral trade policy specialist with the then Department of Trade and Industry and subsequently the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Jo Tyndall

Director, Environment
Directorate, OECD

Colleen King is an Associate Director for Climate and Sustainability at Eurasia Group, a geopolitical risk advisory firm. Colleen manages relationships with clients in the energy, agriculture, and commodity sectors and supports Eurasia Group's climate and sustainability work. Prior to joining Eurasia Group, she worked in the US government, serving as a political appointee in the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs and the US Mission to the United Nations during Barack Obama's administration, as well as at the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. She advanced US interests at the UN and abroad as an aide to two US ambassadors to the UN. She later served as chief of staff at the Natural Resource Governance Institute, which promotes equitable and sustainable governance of natural resources.

Colleen studied political science and poverty at the University of Notre Dame and earned a master's degree with cum laude distinction from the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po.



Colleen King

Associate Director, Climate
& Sustainability,
Eurasia Group

Panel 2

Advancing China's Green Agenda through Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

Panel focused on showcasing the benefits and promises of the Decarbonizations program in China, and how to contribute to the same goals to enable smarter farming practices and a more sustainable agriculture.

1. How can China's economy obtain long-term growth benefits from decarbonization transition
2. What are the benefits and challenges for modern agriculture when implementing carbon programs?
3. What role can sustainable agriculture have to support the National Decarbonization program in China?
4. What are the areas we need to unlock to ensure China's

Robert (Bob) Tansey is a Senior Policy Advisor, Agriculture and Food Systems at The Nature Conservancy. He also supports TNC's engagement with the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development and is co-leading sections on agriculture in a new special policy study on implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework. He was recently Co-Coordinator of a study on Managing River Basins in the Time of Climate Change. Bob has presented in China on such diverse topics as Blue Economy and the Management of Public Lands and Advancing Ecological Economy. He helped conceive and implement the 2012-2017 Mississippi-Yangtze EcoPartnership.



**Robert
(Bob) Tansey**

Senior Policy Advisor, China &
Global Policy Lead, degraded
Lands and Restoration, The
Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Globally, Bob is engaged across the Conferences of the Parties of the UN Conventions on Biodiversity and Combating Drought & Desertification, as well as the World Conservation Congress, the UN Food Systems Summit and the UN Decade for Ecosystems Restoration. He works with TNC colleagues in world regions and country teams and with the related global conservation, science, corporate engagement and communications teams to support development of the policy enabling environments, public funding and partnerships and presentation of concept and case studies at global forums to advance a shift to regenerative and sustainable approaches supporting people's needs for food and nutrition while protecting and restoring the health of natural ecosystems and advancing climate, lands and biodiversity goals through reducing the need for chemical inputs and promoting healthy soils and carbon capture and advancing resilience and long-term productivity. He leads TNC's engagements with the FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Program. Bob's efforts extend across Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Inland Fisheries.

Guillaume Gruère is Head of Agriculture and Resource Policies Division at the OECD, where he oversees the work on climate change, water and resilience in agriculture.

Prior to joining OECD, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute. He has contributed over 70 peer-reviewed publications, including two that received awards from the Agriculture and Applied Economics Association. G. Gruere holds a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California Davis and a double MS in Environment and Natural Resource Economics and Agriculture Engineering from AgroParisTech, France.



Guillaume Gruère

Head of Agriculture and Resource
Policies Division, OECD

Panel 2

Advancing China's Green Agenda through Climate Mitigation and Adaptation



Shenggen Fan

Dean of the Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), China Agricultural University, Vice Chairman of the International Agricultural Think Tank of the China Association for the Promotion of Agriculture

Dr. Shenggen Fan is Chair Professor and Dean of the Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP) at China Agricultural University (CAU). Prior to joining CAU, He served as director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) from 2009 to 2019.

His research interests include food and nutrition security, agricultural and rural development, poverty reduction, and the transformation of food systems and global food security. He is currently the CGIAR System Board member, acting board chair of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), vice board chair of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and board member of the Global Development Network (GDN). He is also a member of the advisory council at the World Food Prize Foundation and a member of the EAT-Lancet commission.

He is awarded as a Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and an Honorary Life Member of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE).



Martin Schäfer

Head of Trade & FVC Affairs,
Agricultural Solutions, BASF

Dr. Martin Schäfer is Head of Trade & FVC Affairs, Agricultural Solutions at BASF. He studied food chemistry at the University of Münster and obtained a PhD from the University of Hohenheim. Since 2004 he works for the agricultural division of BASF SE. He is Vice-Chair of the *Business at OECD* Food and Agriculture Committee.

Panel 3

Enhancing Innovation Infrastructure for Sustainable Input Use in China: Government-Industry Collaboration

Panel focused on a policy discussion around the infrastructure needed to enable innovative products, digital solutions that can optimize inputs usage, mitigate risks, and inclusive regulatory provisions (i.e: regulations on drones for ag usage, digital and machine-readable labels and self-propelled ag machines; regulatory systems that incorporate automatically data provided from Farm Management Systems, etc.).

1. How policies could be adapted to enable a regulatory environment that can leverage the sustainable agriculture and increase innovations in China?
2. How regulations on inputs usage could foster the adoption of technology by farmers, to optimize inputs usage, mitigate risks, and ensure better compliance with regulatory standards?

Panel 3

Enhancing Innovation Infrastructure for Sustainable Input Use in China: Government-Industry Collaboration



Xuewei (Barbara) Wang

General Manager of Hongyi Grain Cooperative, founder of Barbara's Coffee Estate

Xuewei (Barbara) Wang is the General Manager of Hongyi Grain Cooperative and founder of Barbara's Coffee Estate. After spending many years in Canada, Barbara returned to China to take care of the family business as General Manager of Hongyi Grain Cooperative in Heilongjiang Province of Northeast China, which is a selective supplier of rice grain to Nestle infant formula rice flour. In addition, she established a Coffee Estate to promote coffee culture, biodiversity, and Homestay Estate, as a model project of rural revitalization in Yunnan Province.

As a new generation of agriculture professional, Barbara promotes and practices sustainable agriculture in her farms. She has been actively sharing her experience and insights on agriculture sustainability. In November 2023 at the 6th China International Import Expo, she was a guest panelist for regenerative agriculture discussion. She has been taking lead in implementing a project called "From farm to fork: regenerative agriculture in rice cultivation", which started in 2023 and is currently ongoing. The project was jointly initiated by Bayer CropScience, Nestlé and Netafim Agricultural Technology to explore technical solutions to improve soil health and water conservation in rice production



Silvia Sorescu

Project Lead, Trade Facilitation, Trade Policy Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

Silvia Sorescu joined the OECD's Trade and Agriculture Directorate in 2010 and is currently the project lead for the Directorate's trade facilitation work, which includes the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators covering over 160 economies. Her work is focused on analysing the evolving policy environment for trade facilitation and linking trade facilitation issues to digital trade, global supply chains, and sustainability.

Silvia has as well in-depth country-specific experience, working on agro-food trade and domestic policy issues in economies such as China, Colombia, India, and Indonesia.

Prior to joining the OECD, she was a Research Associate at the World Economy Group, an academic research centre at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po Paris), working on various trade policy and European Union policy issues.

Dr. Huang Jikun is a renowned agricultural economist. His research areas cover agricultural policy, food security, rural development and agricultural engineering management. He has published extensively including at journals like *Science* and *Nature*. He has been ranked as No. 1 Chinese scholar by Elsevier in the field of “Economics, Econometrics and Finance”.

Huang is Member of the Expert Advisory Committee of the Rural Leading Work Group of the Central Committee of Communist Party of China and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). He is also a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences - for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS), and Fellow of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). He is a past president of Asian Society of Agricultural Economists (ASAE). Huang obtained a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of the Philippines at Los Banos.



Huang Jikun

Dean of New Rural Development
Research Institute, Changjiang,
Distinguished Professor of
School of Advanced Agricultural
Sciences, Peking University

Dr. Jian Guang Shen is Vice President and Chief Economist of JD Group, and adjunct professor at Fudan University. Previously he was the Managing Director and Chief Asia Economist of Mizuho Securities. Dr. Shen was Senior Economist at European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt, where he took the position of monitoring and analyzing the Chinese and Asian economies. Dr. Shen also held economist and senior economist positions at the IMF, OECD, China International Capital Corporation and Central Bank of Finland, in addition to being a visiting scholar at PBOC and MIT.



Shen Jian Guang

Vice President and Chief
Economist, JD Group

Panel 4

Public-Private Collaboration for Agricultural Innovation and Sustainable Growth (Biotechnology Focus)

Panel focused on the opportunities coming from innovation, biotechnology, and gene editing and the role of this innovative solutions for achieving green growth in light of climate change becoming more visible in terms of increased unpredictability of weather patterns, rising temperature and water shortages. We will also discuss about the importance of public/private partnerships and the vision of China as a major market in Asia to unlock the potential of agriculture feeding the world.

1. How biotechnology can increase the resilience of the agriculture sector and can thus contribute to a more resilient and sustainable industry
2. How regulations and collaboration with the public sector can encourage private sector investment into locally specific challenges.

Jens Lundsgaard is the Deputy Director of the OECD's Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). Jens Lundsgaard helps oversee work on digital and technology policy, productivity, science and innovation. This includes how to enable an economy-wide climate transition, and how to guide the development of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity.

From 2011 to 2017, he served as Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Business and Growth in Denmark, leading the preparation of reforms to promote productivity and sustainable growth including in sectors such as energy, water, food, life science and urban economics. From 2018 to 2022, he served as a resident member of the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London, UK, chairing the Bank's first Ethics Committee and developing strategies to transform key sectors such as food and agriculture to climate neutrality and nature-positive solutions. While being a board member, he has also been a regular economic commentator in Danish and international media.

From 2001 to 2011, Jens worked at the OECD – as Deputy Head of Division in the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, as Head of the Sweden and Denmark Unit as well as economist covering UK and Finland in the Economics Department, and as an economist on public finance and health. A Danish national, Jens holds an Economics Degree from the University of Aarhus in Denmark.



Jens Lundsgaard

Deputy Director, Directorate
for Science, Technology and
Innovation, OECD

Arthur Mol was trained in environmental sciences (MSc) and environmental social sciences (PhD). Besides chair and professor at Wageningen University he was also professor of environmental policy at Renmin University, China, at Tsinghua University, China, and at the National University of Malaysia UKM. He was joint editor of the journal Environmental Politics, and is book series editor of New Horizons in Environmental Politics and member of various journal editorial boards.

His main fields of interest and publications are in environmental studies, globalization, social theory and the environment, informational governance, ecological modernization, China, sustainable (food) production and consumption and urban environmental governance. He was Rector Magnificus and Vice-President of Wageningen University & Research until March 2024, president of the Association of European Life Science Universities (ICA) till November 2023 and chair of the Euroleague for the Life Sciences ELLS till March 2024. Currently, he is professor in Environmental Policy and member of various boards and supervisory boards



Arthur P.J. Mol

Rector Magnificus and Vice
President, Wageningen
University & Research

Panel 4

Public-Private Collaboration for Agricultural Innovation and Sustainable Growth (Biotechnology Focus)



**Khaoula
Belhaj-Fragnière**

Regulatory Affairs Manager,
International Seed Federation

Khaoula Belhaj-Fragnière is the Regulatory Affairs Manager at the International Seed Federation. She leads the ISF initiatives on market access and trade, plant breeding innovation, and international affairs. She has 15 years of experience in the fields of agricultural innovation, private sector and government affairs. Previously she served as government officer within the Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland, and then later worked as Senior Regulatory Scientist - Scientific Regulatory Affairs & Standards for Philip Morris International. In her role at the FOEN, she was responsible for law adaptation projects related to regulation of new breeding biotechnologies and synthetic biology. She also represented the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment in the United Nations (Biodiversity Convention) and in the European Food Security Authority (EFSA, GMO panel). Prior to this, Khaoula worked as a Senior Research Associate at the world-class research institute The Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich, UK where she led various projects and authored several publications on genome editing technologies, molecular mechanisms of plant-microbes' interactions, etc. Khaoula holds an agricultural engineering degree in plant production and seed biotechnology, a master's in plant breeding and a PhD in biology from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.



John Derera

Senior Director of Plant
Breeding and Pre-Breeding,
CGIAR

John Derera, a native of Zimbabwe, holds a prominent position as one of Africa's top 20 most influential plant breeders, as recognized by Southern Africa Plant Breeders Association (SAPBA) in 2020. With a career marked by leadership roles in academia, corporate, plant breeding, seed systems, and research and development across public and private sectors, John currently serves as Senior Director of Plant Breeding and Pre-Breeding at CGIAR. In this capacity, he orchestrates collaborative efforts spanning 13 CGIAR centres, dedicated to propelling crop breeding initiatives forward.

Having previously led as Head of Breeding at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Group Head of R&D at Seed Co Group, John has been instrumental in driving transformative endeavours. Noteworthy achievements include the founding of the African Plant Breeders Association and the establishment of collaborative research centres in both public and private sector; These include establishment of the CGIAR Public-Private Partnerships platform, and Collaborative Breeding Leadership Program at IITA. Moreover, as Co-Lead of the USA-sponsored Vision for Adapted Crops & Soils (VACS) breeding initiative, John significantly contributes to fortifying breeding programs for emerging and opportunity crops across Africa. Currently, John serves as the convener of CGIAR's design team for the 2025-2030 research program on genetic innovation – the largest research program in CGIAR turning 50% of its impact.

Notes



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