



AIARD
ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Cultivating Crisis-Proof Food Systems for a Changing Climate **Virtual AIARD Week 2021, June 7-10, 2021**

All sessions are free via Zoom, but some may require AIARD membership. Register [online](#).

As our climate continues to change, any number of crises may affect our food systems. Shifts in weather patterns and increases in extreme weather events, ongoing disease outbreaks in humans and the foods on which we rely and shifts in global migration all play a role in food access and equity.

As an association, how can AIARD help our members as they contribute to resilient food systems in the face of these various crises?

Join us during Virtual AIARD Week 2021 to answer this question, while helping to drive AIARD's activities toward Cultivating Crisis-Proof Food Systems for a Changing Climate.

Monday, June 7, 2021

12:00-1:00 PM EDT - Welcome to Virtual AIARD Week and Introduction of Future Leaders Forum Participants

We will use this session to welcome conference participants, introduce the AIARD Board and celebrate the new class of [Future Leader Forum](#) (FLF) participants.

Moderators:

Ariel Rivers, PhD – AIARD Vice President, FLF Alumna (2012); Pacific Region Representative, National Association of Conservation Districts

Nicole Lee – AIARD Board Member, FLF Alumna (2020); PhD Candidate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



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4:00-5:00 PM EDT - Lightning Talks by AIARD Members and Partners

In this session, AIARD members and partners will provide brief presentations on their work related to Cultivating Crisis-Proof Food Systems for a Changing Climate, followed by a moderated panel discussion.

Presentations:

Agricultural Cooperatives: Key Actors in Promoting Environmental Sustainability and Building Resilient Food Systems.

- Virginia Brown – Senior Program Manager, NCBA CLUSA

Gender Lensed Development: An Open Access Curriculum.

- Carmen Benson and Danette Philpot – Texas A&M University

How the U.S Benefits from Agricultural Development and Food Security Investments in Developing Countries.

- David Kraybill, PhD – Ohio State University

Strategic design of agricultural supply chains for social inclusion and resilience in Mesoamérica

- Rachael Cox – AIARD FLF Alumna (2007); EarthEmpower

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Tuesday, June 8, 2021

11:00 AM-12:00 PM EDT - Round Table Discussions

In this session, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in round table discussions. Join us to learn from experts on the role of youth in agricultural development, the prevention of postharvest losses, and agricultural productivity, growth, and resilience.

Round Tables:

Postharvest Losses, with discussion lead by:

- Alex Winter-Nelson, PhD – Professor and Director, ADM Institute for Prevention of Postharvest Loss, University of Illinois
- Jane Ambuko, PhD – Associate Professor of Horticulture and Postharvest Specialist, University of Nairobi
- Brett Rierson – Managing Director, Harvest Solutions



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- Ashu Sikri – *Product Strategist, Digital Green*

The Role of Young Professionals in Cultivating Crisis-Proof Food Systems

- Genna Tesdall – *AIARD FLF Alumna (2018); Director, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development*

Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa

- Louise Fox, PhD – *Brookings Institution*
- Clara Cohen, PhD – *USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security*

Moderators:

Russ Webster – *AIARD President; President and CEO, Food Enterprise Solutions*

Tom Gill, PhD – *AIARD Past President; Smith Chair in International Sustainable Agriculture, University of Tennessee*

Nathan Rider – *AIARD Board Member; International Fund for Agricultural Development*

Ariel Rivers, PhD – *AIARD Vice President, FLF Alumna (2012); Pacific Region Representative, National Association of Conservation Districts*

3:00-4:00 PM EDT – Panel Discussion on Early Career Opportunities in International Development

Members and FLF Only: AIARD is excited to host four Future Leader Forum alumni to share their varied experiences in the international development sector.

Panel Members:

- Samantha Alvis – *FLF Alumna (2012); Higher Education Senior Advisor, USAID*
- Sarah Eissler, PhD – *FLF Alumna (2015); Independent Consultant*
- Cedric Habiyaemye, PhD – *FLF Alumnus (2015); Research Associate at Washington State University; Research Lead at Food Systems for the Future Institute; founder and CEO of QuinoaHub Ltd.*
- Christian Man – *FLF Alumnus (2017); Policy Action Lead, Just Rural Transition*

Moderator:

Nicole Lee – *AIARD Board Member, FLF Alumna (2020); PhD Candidate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

4:00-5:00 PM EDT - International Development Career Round Table

Members and FLF Only: Each year, AIARD hosts a career panel to provide networking opportunities and guidance to early- to mid-career level members. Come hear from speakers from NGOs, USAID, and private contracting firms to discuss career paths, opportunities, and trends in the development sector.

Moderators:

Sarah Eissler, PhD – *FLF Alumna (2015); Independent Consultant*



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Chuck Chopak, PhD – *AIARD Board Member; Vice President of Development Results, DAI*

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

11:00 AM-12:00 PM EDT - Virtual Hackathon – AIARD Strategy

Members and FLF Only: *In this session, help the AIARD Board develop our strategy for engaging new members, fundraising for new programs and developing an early career mentoring program. Attendees will be divided into breakout rooms and given a prompt that they will use to help derive a product that the Board may then use to develop programs and support for our members.*

Moderators:

Russ Webster – *AIARD President; President and CEO, Food Enterprise Solutions*

Nathan Rider – *AIARD Board Member; International Fund for Agricultural Development*

Sarah Eissler, PhD – *FLF Alumna (2015); Independent Consultant*

Ariel Rivers, PhD – *AIARD Vice President, FLF Alumna (2012); Pacific Region Representative, National Association of Conservation Districts*

4:00-5:00 PM EDT - AIARD Awards Panel

During AIARD's annual conference, we normally celebrate several recipients of our awards. In this interview style panel, we'll have the opportunity to learn from the 2020 AIARD Young Professional Awardees—Drs. Sarah Eissler and Austen Moore—about their interests in international agriculture and rural development. Bring additional questions for these two stellar early-career professionals!

Moderator:

Mike McGirr, PhD – *AIARD Awards Committee; USDA-NIFA (retired)*

Thursday, June 10, 2021

11:00 AM-12:00 PM EDT - Closing Session and Coffee Hour

In this final session of Virtual AIARD Week 2021, bring a cup of coffee and any remaining questions or suggestions for the AIARD Board. This will be our final networking session of the conference, where you can connect and share any additional ideas or projects with members.

Moderators:

Russ Webster – *AIARD President; President and CEO, Food Enterprise Solutions*

Ariel Rivers, PhD – *AIARD Vice President, FLF Alumna (2012); Pacific Region Representative, National Association of Conservation Districts*

4:00-5:00 PM EDT - AIARD Business Meeting

Members Only: *The annual business meeting will be hosted by the AIARD Board.*