

PLENARY SPEAKERS



Mike Boehm

*Vice President and Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Natural Resources,
University of Nebraska
@themikeboehm*

▶▶ *Michael Boehm joined the University of Nebraska in the dual role of Harlan Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and vice president for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska system on January 1, 2017.*

Boehm leads efforts across the University of Nebraska system for all agricultural, natural resources and related affairs. As vice president, Boehm oversees the executive directors of the Rural Futures Institute and the Daugherty Global Water for Food Institute and the dean of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis. The vice chancellor is the chief administrative officer for IANR, which includes the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the Agricultural Research Division, Nebraska Extension, and the IANR research and extension components of the College of Education and Human Sciences.

Boehm is an authority on the integrated management of turfgrass diseases and focuses on the biology, ecology and management of fungal diseases. He has also worked on the integrated management of Fusarium head blight of wheat with a focus on the development of biological control strategies for this economically important and challenging disease. He is widely published, holds five U.S. and 15 international patents related to his work on the biocontrol of Fusarium.

Plenary Speakers



Mark Edge

*Director of Collaborations for Developing Countries,
Bayer
@Bayer*

▶▶ Mark Edge leads Bayer's collaborations with public-private partnership projects to improve food security and rural livelihood among smallholder maize producers in Sub-Saharan Africa. The WEMA (Water Efficient Maize for Africa) project is the signature project he leads. The WEMA project develops new drought-tolerant and insect pest-protected maize hybrids and provides the technology royalty-free. It helps build technical capacity in Africa to use conventional and molecular breeding as well as biotechnology.

Edge grew up on a corn, soybean and livestock farm in Iowa. His background includes experience in biotech research; many aspects of managing seed business development as well as the grain export business. He has a B.S. from Iowa State University, a M.S. in Genetics from the University of California at Davis, and an MBA from Drake University.

Plenary Speakers



Jeff Fortenberry

*Congressman,
R-NE District 1
@JeffFortenberry*

▶▶ *Jeff Fortenberry represents Nebraska's First Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. He is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for the expenditures of the United States government. He serves as the Ranking Member on the House Agriculture Subcommittee and is a member of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee. In Congress, Jeff serves as co-chair of the Nuclear Security Working Group, co-chair of the International Conservation Caucus, and co-chair of the Congressional Study Group on Europe.*

Prior to serving in Congress, Jeff worked as a publishing industry executive in Lincoln, where he also served on the Lincoln City Council from 1997-2001. Jeff also has significant personal experience in small business, public policy analysis, and economic development. Jeff earned a bachelor's degree in economics and two master's degrees, one in public policy. He and his wife Celeste live in Lincoln and have five daughters. His work in Congress is rooted in the belief that the strength of our nation depends on the strength of our families and communities.

Plenary Speakers



Leonardo Góes Silva

*Secretary of Water Infrastructure and Sanitation
State of Bahia, Brazil*

▶▶ Leonardo Góes has BS in Agronomy and a MS degree in Agricultural Sciences from the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), Brazil. He is a native of Salvador and served in the Federal Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA) in Sergipe and Brasília. He joined INCRA in April 2006, becoming a Federal Agrarian Expert, and was a technical assistant, head of the Division of Land Acquisition, Program Director and Regional Superintendent for the Institute in the State of Sergipe between 2012 and 2015. In May 2016, he became the national president of INCRA serving until December of 2018. He is now the Secretary of Water Infrastructure and Sanitation, for the State of Bahia.

Plenary Speakers



Ronnie Green

*Chancellor,
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
@RonnieDGreen*

▶▶ *Ronnie D. Green became the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s 20th chancellor on May 8, 2016.*

Prior to being named chancellor, Green served for six years as the Harlan Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In this role, he also jointly served as the Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Nebraska system. In 2015-16, Green also was UNL’s Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the institution’s chief academic officer and responsible authority in the absence of the chancellor.

Green received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in animal science from Virginia Tech and Colorado State University, respectively. His doctoral program was completed jointly at the University of Nebraska and the USDA-ARS U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in animal breeding and genetics in 1988.

Green has served on the animal science faculties of Texas Tech University and Colorado State University, and as the national program leader for animal production research for the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service and executive secretary of the White House’s interagency working group on animal genomics within the National Science and Technology Council. Prior to returning to NU, Green served as senior global director of technical services for Pfizer Animal Health’s animal genomics business.

Plenary Speakers



Deborah Hamlin

*Chief Executive Officer,
Irrigation Association
@IrrigationAssoc*

▶▶ *Deborah Hamlin is chief executive officer of the Irrigation Association and executive director of the Irrigation Foundation. She has over 30 years of experience in working with professional and trade organizations.*

Deborah has been instrumental in shifting the IA’s mission to “promoting efficient irrigation.” Under her guidance, the association focuses on education and advocacy – ensuring competent professionals are designing, installing and maintaining irrigation systems and sharing the economic and environmental benefits of both agricultural and residential/commercial irrigation. Concurrently, the non-profit Foundation addresses workforce issues by “promoting careers in irrigation.”

Prior to IA, Deborah served as executive director of the International Association of Plastics Distributors for 10 years.

Deborah graduated from the New York State College at Oneonta and received her MBA from Rockhurst College in Kansas City. Deborah is a certified association executive through the American Society of Association Executives and was named an ASAE fellow in 2000. Deborah currently serves on the boards of the National Association of Manufacturers’ Council of Manufacturing Associations and the National Association of Wholesalers.

Plenary Speakers



Canisius Kanangire

*Executive Secretary,
African Ministers' Council on Water*

▶▶ *Canisius Kanangire is the Executive Secretary of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) since September 2016. He was the former Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission/East African Community. Between 2009 and 2011, he was head of strategic planning and management at the Nile Basin Initiative, and prior to that he was a regional project manager for the UN Office for Project Services, based in Cairo, Egypt. He holds a Ph.D. in aquatic biology/limnology from the University of Namur, Belgium.*

Plenary Speakers



Peter G. McCornick

*Executive Director,
Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute
@petermccornick*

▶▶ *Peter G. McCornick joined the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute (DWFI) as executive director in August 2016 after previously serving as deputy director general of research at the International Water Management Institute, one of the world's foremost institutions dedicated to improving management of water and land resources to ensure food security and reduce poverty. McCornick leads DWFI's strategic direction, building its relationships and collaborations with partners both in Nebraska and in other regions of the world.*

McCornick has dedicated his career to improving the understanding of sustainable water resources management. He has led research and development programs on water, agriculture and the environment in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the U.S. His interest areas include water and food security, the water-food-energy nexus, water reuse, irrigation management, and water and climate adaptation.

McCornick earned his doctorate in agricultural engineering from Colorado State University, is a licensed professional civil engineer in the State of Colorado, a member of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers and a senior fellow at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions.

Plenary Speakers



Sally Rockey

*Executive Director,
Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research*

▶▶ Sally Rockey became the inaugural Executive Director of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) in September 2015. Prior to this role, Dr. Rockey was a leader in Federal research, overseeing the operations of the extramural programs in both agriculture and biomedicine. She spent 19 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture where she held a number of positions within the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. Very early in her career she became the head of the competitive grants program, overseeing the extramural grants process and portfolio. In her last few years with USDA she was the Chief Information Officer, applying her breadth of government knowledge to IT. From there she moved to and spent 11 years with the National Institutes of Health. As Deputy Director for Extramural Research, Dr. Rockey oversaw the operations of the largest Federal extramural research program and led groundbreaking initiatives and activities that have and will have a lasting positive impact on the research community.

Dr. Rockey received her Ph.D. in Entomology from the Ohio State University and did postgraduate work at University of Wisconsin prior to joining the government. She has devoted her career to improving people's lives through research and will continue her mission by seeing FFAR become an essential component of the scientific enterprise.

Plenary Speakers



Mark Rosegrant

*Research Fellow Emeritus,
International Food Policy Research Institute*

▶▶ Mark W. Rosegrant is Research Fellow Emeritus, International Food Policy Research Institute. With a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Michigan, he has extensive experience in research and policy analysis in agriculture and economic development and the future of world food security, with an emphasis on water resources and other critical natural resource and agricultural policy issues as they impact food security, rural livelihoods and environmental sustainability. He is the author or editor of 15 books and over 100 refereed papers in agricultural economics, water resources and food policy analysis. Rosegrant has won numerous awards, and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and a Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.

Plenary Speakers



Jennifer Sara

*Senior Director, Water Global Practice,
World Bank Group*

▶▶ *Jennifer Sara is the Senior Director for the World Bank Group's Water Global Practice. Sara has 30 years of experience working on global water issues in the World Bank, with previous assignments including as Sector Manager for Sustainable Development based in Hanoi, Vietnam; Sector Leader in Brasilia; Lead Specialist covering Latin America & the Caribbean, Senior Specialist in Africa; as well as working for the Water and Sanitation Program in Bolivia. In her current assignment, Sara is a core member of the GP's senior management team, which drives the policy direction of the GP, oversees a portfolio of \$25 billion in water-related investments, analytical work, multi-donor trust funds and global partnerships. She holds an MSc in Environmental Management from the University of London, Wye College, and a BSc in Environmental Engineering from Brown University.*

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Tala Awada, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Associate Dean, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Mavuto Banda, Double Master’s Degree Graduate, University of Nebraska–Lincoln and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (The Netherlands)

Jennie Barron, Professor of Water Management in Agricultural Landscapes Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

Jesse Bell, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Claire M. Hubbard Professor of Health and Environment, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Rob Bertram, Chief Scientist, Bureau for Food Security, United States Agency for International Development

Hannah Birgé, Water & Agriculture Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska

Lacey Bodnar, Research Project Manager, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

Mike Boehm, Vice President and Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska

George Burba, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Global Fellow; Science & Strategy Fellow, LI-COR Biosciences

Kalechi Chibuikem, Community and Regional Planning Master’s Graduate, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Conference Speakers

Graham Christensen, President, GC Resolve, LLC

Archie Clutter, Dean of the Agricultural Research Division; Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station (IANR), University of Nebraska

Ariana Constant, Director of Programs, Clinton Development Initiative, Clinton Foundation

Selamawit Dantew Amare, World Bank, Africa Fellow

Sruti Das Choudhury, Image Analysis Specialist, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Samuel Dotun, Co-Founder, Volta Irrigation

Mark Edge, Director of Collaborations for Developing Countries, Bayer

Dean Eisenhauer, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Professor Emeritus, University of Nebraska–Lincoln; Coordinator, IHE-Delft Partnership

Regassa Ensermu Namara, Senior Water Economist, World Bank Water Global Practice

Galen Erickson, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Nebraska Cattle Industry Professor of Animal Science, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Richard Ferguson, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Vice Chancellor, Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, R-NE District 1

Conference Speakers

John Gamon, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Quantitative Remote Sensing Scientist, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Dustin Garrick, Associate Professor, School of Geography and the Environment, Oxford University

John Gates, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Global Fellow; Chief Scientist, CropMetrics

Yufeng Ge, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Assistant Professor, Biological Systems Engineering, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Leonardo Góes Silva, Secretary of Water Infrastructure and Sanitatio, State of Bahia, Brazil

Ronnie Green, Chancellor, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Shivam Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Supply Chain Management and Analytics, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Jay Ham, Professor, Environmental Physics and Micrometeorology, Colorado State University

Deborah Hamlin, CEO, Irrigation Association

Traci Hancock, Director, Maverick Innovations, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Montaha Hassan, Associate Operations Officer, International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group

Conference Speakers

Michael Hayes, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Professor, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Matthew Helmers, Director, Iowa Nutrient Research Center; Dean’s Professor, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Iowa State University

Ramsay Huntley, Vice President and Clean Technology and Innovation Philanthropy Program Officer, Wells Fargo

Tom Iseman, Director of Water Scarcity and Markets Strategy, The Nature Conservancy, Global Program

Neil Johnson, President and CEO, SmallData Tech

Canisius Kanangire, Executive Secretary African Ministers’ Council on Water

John Kastl, Sr. Director, Innovation and Intellectual Property, Valley Irrigation

Martha Kauffman, Managing Director, Northern Great Plains, World Wildlife Fund

Ravinder Kaur, Principal Scientist & Former Project Director, Water Technology Center; Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Ayse Kilic, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Professor and Remote Sensing Expert, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Oren Kind, Chief Commercial Officer and U.S. General Manager, Phyttech

Valeriy Kovalskyy, Lead Remote Sensing Scientist, Geospatial Team of The Climate Corporation

Conference Speakers

Brian Krienke, Assistant Extension Educator,
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Charles Kwarteng, CEO & Co-Founder,
Volta Irrigation

Bruce Lankford, Professor of Water and
Irrigation Policy, University of East Anglia,
United Kingdom

Cathie Lavis, Professor & Extension
Specialist, Landscape Management, Kansas
State University

Azariah Lawal, Graduate Student, School
of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–
Lincoln

Wei Liao, Associate Professor and Director,
Anaerobic Digestion Research Education
Center, Department of Biosystems & Agricultural
Engineering, Michigan State University

Martha Mamo, Daugherty Water for Food
Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Department
Head, John E. Weaver Professor of Agronomy
and Horticulture, University of Nebraska–
Lincoln

Landon Marston, Assistant Professor,
Kansas State University

Eduardo Martins, President, Research
Institute for Meteorology and Water Resources
FUNCEME, Brazil

Albert Maurin, Sales & Tactical Marketing
Manager, FieldNET, Lindsay Corporation

Peter McCornick, Executive Director,
Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

Rachael McDonnell, Daugherty Water for
Food Global Institute Global Fellow; Principal
Researcher, International Water Management
Institute

Conference Speakers

Mesfin Mekonnen, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

Yulie Meneses, Water for Food Processing Specialist, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute; Research Assistant Professor, Food Science and Technology Department, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Jacob Monti, Mechanical Engineering, Alum, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Grace Mukarasagara, Policy Consultant, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

Christopher Neale, Director of Research, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

Steve Nelson, President, Nebraska Farm Bureau

Fabien Ngoga, Rwanda Project Coordinator and Country Representative, European Cooperative for Rural Development

Aric Olson, President, Jain Irrigation, USA

J. Kalu Osiri, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Director of International Business, Associate Professor of Practice, Management, College of Business, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Chittaranjan Ray, Director, Nebraska Water Center

Martha Rhoades, Research Manager, Xenobiotics Laboratory, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Claudia Ringler, Deputy Director of Environment and Production Technology Division, International Food Policy Research Institute

Conference Speakers

Sally Rockey, Executive Director, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research

Mark Rosegrant, Research Fellow Emeritus, International Food Policy Research Institute

S. Sajeesh, Assistant Professor, Marketing, College of Business, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Jennifer Sara, Senior Director, Water Global Practice, World Bank Group

Petra Schmitter, Senior Researcher, International Water Management Institute

Mik Schulte, Coordinator for Water in Agriculture Solutions, World Bank

Kurt Schwabe, Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy, University of California Riverside

Bahman Sheikh, Independent Water Reuse Consultant

William Shyaka Bakunda, Entrepreneur and Farmer, Rwanda

Vishal Singh, CEO and Founder, QuantifiedAg

Jerry Stahr, Farmer, Nebraska

Pasquale Steduto, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute International Advisory Panelist; Regional Strategic Programme Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Mark Svoboda, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Director, Associate Research Professor, National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Conference Speakers

Monty Teeter, CEO, Dragon-Line LLC

Steve Tippery, President and CEO,
IntelliFarm

Theo Udeigwe, Director of Research and
Associate Editor, Institute for the Advancement
of Developing Economies

Marco Ugarte, Sustainability Consultant,
Antea Group

Kristan VandenHeuvel, Research
Manager, Water Research Foundation

Harkamal Walia, Daugherty Water for
Food Global Institute Faculty Fellow; Associate
Professor, Plant Physiology Crop Genomics
and Plant Molecular Physiology, Department
of Agronomy and Horticulture, University of
Nebraska–Lincoln

Richael Young, Co-Founder and CEO,
Mammoth Trading

Elisa Zancanaro Zanella, Farmer, Brazil

David Zoldoske, Director, Center for
Irrigation Technology, Fresno State