

IRENA Policy Talks 2022 Sustainable Bioenergy for the Energy Transition

Bios of speakers



Ms. Gauri Singh
Deputy Director-General, IRENA

Gauri Singh is the Deputy Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency. Ms. Singh brings more than 30 years of experience in policy, advocacy and project implementation within the field of renewable energy and sustainable development from India and the international system. Prior to joining IRENA, Ms. Singh worked within India's federal government and at the apex level within provincial government. Prior to that, Ms. Singh was Director, Country support and Partnerships at

IRENA where she was responsible for regional and country level initiatives and for spearheading partnerships with regional energy and economic organisations.



Dr. Ute Collier
Deputy Director, KPFC, IRENA

Ute Collier is Deputy Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre at the International Renewable Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi. She is responsible for IRENA's work on policy and renewable energy markets, covering issues such as end-use decarbonisation, green hydrogen, power sector policies, and energy access. She also co-leads IRENA's annual flagship publication, the World Energy Transition Outlook. Prior to joining IRENA in May 2021, she was Head of Energy for the development organisation

Practical Action, focusing on renewable energy solutions in energy access settings. Previously, she worked at the International Energy Agency and the UK's Climate Change Committee, as well as several public sector and non-governmental organisations earlier in her career.



Mr. Jinlei Feng
Programme Officer, KPFC, IRENA

Jinlei Feng is a Programme Officer in the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC) of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), based in Abu Dhabi. His research work at IRENA is focused on policies for the deployment of renewable energy in end uses, including heating and cooling and transport sector, policies for sustainable bioenergy, end-of-life management of solar photovoltaic and batteries, as well as policies for renewables in cities. Jinlei has 15 years of experience in renewable energy, climate

change, and sustainable development. He holds a master's degree in management from the Renmin University of China.



Dr. Adam Brown
Managing Director, Energy Insights

Adam Brown has expert knowledge of renewable energy gained through over 40 years' experience working with governments and industry internationally. He has broad experience in renewable energy technology and policy analysis and was a Senior Energy Analyst at the IEA in Paris from 2010 to 2015, focusing on renewable energy policy and technology issues. He has particular experience and expertise in bioenergy. He was Technical Coordinator for the IEA Bioenergy Technology Cooperation Programme (2006 - 2010). He was author of the IEA's Roadmaps on Biofuels for Transport (2011) and on Bioenergy for Heat and Power (2012), and led the update of these roadmaps, published in November 2017. He has also authored the bioenergy chapter of the REN21 Global Status Report on Renewables since 2016. He has worked with IRENA on a number of projects.



Dr. Johannes Baur
**Team Leader, Decarbonisation and Sustainability of Energy Sources,
Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission**

Johannes Baur is the team leader in the unit "Decarbonisation and sustainability of energy sources" in DG ENER, responsible mainly for the revision of the Renewables Energy Directive adopted in 2018. He was Head of Sector for Economic Cooperation, Energy, Transport and Environment at the EU Delegation in Ukraine from 2016-2020 and worked in the Support Group for Ukraine on energy reforms in Ukraine. Before 2014, he occupied different positions in DG ENER and DG MOVE in the area of human resources, internal markets and international relations, including for EU-Russia energy relations and the negotiations of aviation agreements with third countries. Before starting his career at the European Commission in 2000, he was working for the Foreign Ministry of Germany and in the private sector.



Mr. Toshimasa Masuyama
Advisor-Forests and Climate, Forestry Agency of Japan

Toshimasa Masuyama has been leading the work on forestry and climate at the Forestry Agency of Japan since 2021. He focuses primarily on designing national policies and programmes for a successful contribution of the forest sector to playing its part in realising net-zero targets. These include improved forest management for the enhancement of nature-based carbon sinks, national forest inventory and carbon crediting. Before, he was a bioenergy analyst at the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), during which he provided technical inputs to its bioenergy-related work and co-authored several publications. He also previously served as Japan's focal point for the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) of FAO.



Mr. Bharadwaj Kummamuru
Executive Director, World Bioenergy Association

Bharadwaj Kummamuru is the Executive Director of World Bioenergy Association (WBA). WBA is a global association promoting the sustainable development of bioenergy. WBA covers all sectors, including liquid biofuels, solid biomass, and biogas, while representing a member base of companies, associations, and researchers from more than 65 countries. Bharadwaj has been leading the association for the past 4 years in executing activities, including publications, events, projects, and collaboration with international partners. He initially joined WBA in 2014 to lead the project on bioenergy statistics after graduating with a Master of Science degree in Sustainable Energy Systems.



Ms. Irene Di Padua
Policy Director, Bioenergy Europe

Irene Di Padua is the Policy Director of Bioenergy Europe. She has a background and hands-on experience in EU public affairs and advocacy. Her professional career started in the EU sustainability field, first from a regional and industrial perspective and then with a specific focus on the energy sector and renewable heat. In her role of Policy Director at Bioenergy Europe, she coordinates all the advocacy activities related to the bioenergy sector at European and international level.



Mr. Dean Cooper
Global Lead-Energy Transition, WWF

Dean Cooper is currently the Global Lead for Energy at WWF, managing the key areas of WWF global energy strategy, including the transition from fossil fuels to renewables, energy efficiency, energy access, just energy transformation, and the link between energy and nature. He was previously the Global Energy Lead for Practical Action Consulting in the UK, Global Energy Sector Co-ordinator with SNV, and Chair of the global SEforAll Steering Committee for the Clean Energy Mini-Grids Partnership. Prior to SNV, Dean worked for UNEP, UK Energy Agency, European Commission, as well as secondment roles in the Government of South Africa and Botswana.



Dr. Maria Michela Morese

Natural Resources Officer at FAO and Executive Secretary of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)

Maria Michela Morese is Natural Resources Officer at FAO and Executive Secretary of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), which is based at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, since 2006. She has 20+ years of experience on International relations on a wide range of fields, including climate change, environment and bioenergy. Before joining FAO in 2006, she worked at the Italian Ministry of Environment as Technical Assistant to the DG for International Relations, and as Italian focal point and negotiator for international environmental processes. Her earlier assignments included acting as the Executive Assistant to the Italian Sous-Sherpa of the G8 at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the 2001 G8 Italian Presidency. She holds a PhD in Forest Ecology from “La Tuscia” University in Viterbo.



Dr. Phosiso Sola

Scientist, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)

Phosiso Sola is a Scientist at CIFOR- ICRAF working on natural resources governance, bioenergy, and development of sustainable agroforestry value chains. Her current work focuses on governance of wood fuel with aim of contributing to the development of sustainable charcoal value chains in African drylands and greening humanitarian landscapes. She is also leading integrated restoration, livelihood, and carbon initiatives in East and Southern Africa. Previously, she co-led a mega drylands development project in the Sahel and Horn of Africa aimed at improving environmental sustainability, food and water security. Phosiso has over twenty-five years work experience mostly in research, development, and management of projects on natural resources management, forest and agroforestry products commercialisation, agro market linkages and value chain development in many Africa countries. She obtained her PhD from the University of Wales, Bangor focusing on impacts of commercialisation of non-timber forest products.



Dr. Julia Tomei

Associate Professor, University College London

Julia Tomei is an Assistant Professor in Energy, Resources and Development, and Deputy Director of the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources. Her research focuses on people and policy, energy and resources and, in particular, on the ways in which resource use impacts upon communities and societies. She has a long-standing interest in how global demand for bioenergy affects land use change in diverse settings, and in understanding the consequences and potential solutions for people affected by those changes. She seeks to work collaboratively across academic disciplines and engages with a diversity of stakeholders through her work. Julia is currently engaged in projects considering the prospects for a Green Recovery in Ghana and Zambia and identifying policy pathways for Climate Compatible Growth in Kenya and Zambia.