SAFANSI Panel Discussion

Building a Platform for Food and Nutrition Security

The South Asian Food Security Initiative (SAFANSI) was initiated as a regional, action-oriented program that strives to overcome the sectoral divides in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. This panel will discuss the cross-sectoral actions that are currently being taken and that should be initiated to create the all-inclusive platforms which can achieve measurable improvements in Food and Nutrition Security.

Panel Session Schedule

- 5 minute introduction to SAFANSI (Julie McLaughlin)
- 40 minute questions directly to the panel (Moderator & Panel)
- 10-12 minutes open up questions to the audience (Moderator)
- 3-5 minutes of Final Closing Remarks (David Nabarro)

SAFANSI Spokesperson

Julie McLaughlin

Julie McLaughlin is the Sector Manager for Health, Nutrition, and Population (HNP) in the South Asia Region of the World Bank. McLaughlin, a public health specialist who has worked on HNP mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa, South and East Asia and the South Pacific, conducted her Master’s and Doctoral studies in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, and formerly worked as an epidemiologist for NGOs/PVOs on child health, disease control, and nutrition projects. Over the past fifteen years at the Bank, Ms. McLaughlin’s focus has been on health systems, health sector reform, and on strengthening approaches to development assistance for health; she has been a leader in the move towards sector-wide approaches. Prior to her appointment as Sector Manager, McLaughlin spent four years in the World Bank’s Tanzania Country Office as a Lead Health Specialist, and acted for two years as Country Manager.

Panel Moderator

Roger Morier

Roger Morier is the Advisor on Communications and Outreach in the Sustainable Development Vice Presidency (SDN) of the World Bank. As such, he is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of SDN’s external and internal communications strategies, including managing communications with a wide array of stakeholders. Prior to this assignment, he worked as Senior Communications Officer in the Infrastructure Vice Presidency and in Corporate Communications, where he helped create and lead the Internal Communications unit of the Bank Group. Mr. Morier joined the Bank Group in 2000 after a career first in broadcast journalism, subsequently in corporate communications for government and the private sector, in Canada and France. He holds separate degrees in Journalism, Political Economy, and International Relations from universities in Canada and the United States.

Panelist Profiles

Sartaj Aziz

Sartaj Aziz currently serves as Vice-Chancellor of the Beaconhouse National University in Lahore, Pakistan. Previously, Aziz served as the foreign minister in Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s cabinet after having been the finance minister. Earlier in his career, after earning a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University, he served as the Joint Secretary of the Planning Commission of Pakistan from 1967 to 1971 and then went abroad and served with distinction in the UN’s Food and Agricultural Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development from 1978 to 1984. He has written extensively on hunger and poverty, and published a collection of his essays in 2000 in a book called Hunger, Poverty and Development.
David Nabarro
David Nabarro was appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as his Special Representative on Food Security and Nutrition. In that role, Nabarro also leads the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Initiative. Immediately before that, Nabarro served as Senior United Nations System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza. His career in public health also includes serving as an Executive Director at the World Health Organization (WHO), and as Director of Human Development and Chief Health Adviser at the UK Department for International Development. Dr. Nabarro has been a physician since 1973, and spent much of his medical career working in developing countries, particularly in South Asia, focusing on international health issues. He has worked in development “hotspots” including Iraq, Darfur, and in countries affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Chet Raj Pant
Chet Raj Pant is presently a member of the National Planning Commission for the Government of Nepal where he focuses on Public Health issues. Pant received his MBBS from the Medical College in Mysore, India. He went on to receive his MD in Ophthalmology from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He also graduated with a Masters (MSc) in Health Science from Johns Hopkins University in the United States. Previously, Pant has served as a Professor of Ophthalmology in the Medical School of Kathmandu University, Nepal. Additionally, Pant has a range of work experiences in clinical medicine as well as public health throughout Nepal. Pant regularly engages in conferences and seminars throughout Nepal and the world.

K. Srinath Reddy
K. Srinath Reddy is currently the President of the Public Health Foundation of India. Reddy received his MD in 1977 from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, India. He edited the National Medical Journal of India for 10 years and is on the editorial boards of several international and national journals. Furthermore, Reddy was recently appointed the First Bernard Lown Professor of Cardiovascular Health at the Harvard School of Public Health and is also an Adjunct Professor of the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Prof. Reddy has been an active contributor to Indian and global public health movements for tobacco control. He represented India in the inter-governmental negotiations for the development of the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and was awarded the WHO Director General's Award for Global Leadership in Tobacco Control at the 56th World Health Assembly in May 2003. Reddy was also conferred the prestigious national Padma Bhushan award by the President of India in 2005.

Michal Rutkowski
Michal Rutkowski is the Sector Director of Human Development in the South Asia Region of the World Bank. Rutkowski’s department is responsible for lending and non-lending World Bank assistance to South Asia Region countries in the areas of human development, including; education, health, nutrition and population, labor markets, and social protection. Before joining the World Bank, Mr. Michal Rutkowski, was the former Director of the Office for Social Security Reform in the Government of Poland (1996-97), where he co-authored the design of the new Polish pension system. He has written extensively on pensions and safety nets and, as the current Director for the South Asian Human Development Network in the Bank, he is responsible for programs working to implement and reform social safety nets throughout the region. Mr. Rutkowski studied at the Warsaw School of Economics (Ph.D. in economics, 1987) and the London School of Economics (post-graduate studies). He also graduated from the Executive Development Program at the Harvard Business School (1999).

Tim Wheeler
Tim Wheeler is Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser and Deputy Director of Research for the UK Department for International Development. His responsibilities include ensuring that Ministers and DFID colleagues have the best scientific advice on development, engaging with those providing advice on science related matters for the UK Government, and commissioning analysis of new research relevant to DFID’s mandate. He takes the lead on research for agriculture, sustainability, climate change, and environment at DFID. Wheeler is also Professor of Crop Science in the Department of Agriculture at the University of Reading, where he has researched the effects of climate change on agriculture for the last 20 years.

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