

SPEAKER PROFILES

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The role of the public sector in the assimilation process of innovative agro-technologies: The Israeli model

ODED FORER

Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel



Oded Forer is the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel and the Minister for the Development of the Periphery, the Negev, and the Galilee. Previously Minister Forer served as a member of Knesset on behalf of the Israel Beiteinu party and as the chairman of the Finance Committee and the Committee for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality in the Knesset, and worked to legislate and promote the fight against domestic violence. Minister Forer also chaired the Knesset's Small and Medium Business Lobby. In 2013, he was appointed as the Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Immigrant Absorption where he successfully initiated a special plan to absorb immigrants from France and led the government initiative for a national programme to promote the integration of Ethiopian immigrants. Minister Forer was the founder and Director-General of CEO Strategy, an organizational development company that serves as a consultant to various Public-Private Partnership projects (PPP). He also served as Captain in the Israel Defence Forces Navy Reserves as Commanding Officer of 6 "Dabur" boat patrol unit,

and as training officer at the naval academy. He is an advocate by profession and holds a bachelor's degree (B.A) in government and an LL.B in Law from IDC and an M.A. in political communication from Tel Aviv University. Minister Forer is married and has three daughters.

DOMINIK ZILLER

Vice-President, IFAD



Dominik Ziller is Vice-President of IFAD. He gives strategic direction to the institution, and promotes corporate approaches and solutions. He has direct oversight of the budget, quality assurance and ethics offices. Prior to joining IFAD, Ziller was Director General for International Development Cooperation for International Development Policy at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. His responsibilities included the European Union's development cooperation, United Nations, World Bank Group, regional development banks, OECD, development processes of the G7 and the G20, the World Trade Organization and topics of financing for development and effectiveness/transparency. During Germany's G20 Presidency, Ziller chaired the Development Working Group. Previously, he held various senior positions at the BMZ, including head of the Directorate for Asia and head of the

Budget Division. Between 2011 and 2013, he worked for Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), where he was a member of the Executive Management Committee. He holds a Law Degree from the Ludwig Maximilian Universität München and Practical Law Degree from the Federal German State of Bavaria.

YAKOV POLEG

Senior Deputy Director General and Head of the Centre for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation (CFTIC), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Israel



Yakov Poleg is Senior Deputy Director General and Head of the Centre for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation (CFTIC) at Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

Prior to that, he was Head of the Centre for International Agricultural Development Cooperation (CINADCO) at MARD; served for three years (2006-2009) as the Agricultural and Scientific Attaché at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., and was appointed as the Ministry's representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO), representing Israel agricultural policy at the WTO negotiations on agreements on agriculture. He holds a LL. B Law Bachelor, from the Netanya Academic College (member of the Israeli Bar Association); an M.A in Public Policy, The Open University of Israel; and a B.TEC (Science), from the South London College. In addition to his position at MARD, he is the Chairman of the Israeli Honey Production Board.

MICHAL LEVY

Acting Chief Scientist & Senior Deputy Director-General of Agricultural Innovation, Israeli Ministry of Agriculture



Dr. Levy is the acting Chief Scientist & Senior Deputy Director-General of Agricultural Innovation at the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture where she helps promote research, development, entrepreneurship and innovation in the Israeli Agtech academic institutes and industry. After years of academic research at UC Davis, CA and The Weizmann Institute, Dr. Levy transitioned to the business world combining her in-depth understanding of technology with the markets' business needs. Prior to her appointment as the Senior Deputy Director-General, Agricultural Innovation, Dr. Levy served as VP, Head of Business Development Agritech, Veterinary & Environment at Yissum,

the Technology Transfer Company of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Between 2010–2018, Dr. Levy served as the Deputy Mayor of Oranit (volunteer position) and as a board member in the "Oranit Municipal Financial Corporation".

ROSSANA POLASTRI

Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC), IFAD



Rossana Polastri is the Regional Director for the Latin America and the Caribbean Division at IFAD. Appointed in January 2019, Polastri brings to IFAD a wide and diversified work experience as Peru's Vice-Minister for Finance and, more recently, as Vice President and Executive Board Member of the Bank of the Nation of Peru (Banco de la Nación). She has also worked for the World Bank as Country Manager for Paraguay, and as Advisor to the Development Economics Vice Presidency. Polastri, a national of Peru, holds a master's degree in economics from the Polytechnic Institute of Virginia State University, United States, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from Universidad del Pacífico, Lima, Peru.

SHIRAN MOSTOVOY

GrowingIL Community Manager at Israel Innovation Institute



Shiran Mostovoy is the Community Manager at the Israel Innovation Authority. She has extensive experience in event planning, marketing, public relations and social media as well as business management. After spending a few years living in New York city and working as a community manager at the Israeli American Council, spearheading events for thousands of attendees at Pier34 and South by Southwest, she is now leading the agriculture community for the GrowingIL initiative. She holds a BA in Communication and Business Management from the College of Management Academic Studies and an MA in Environmental Studies from Tel-Aviv University.

HAGIT SCHWIMMER

Senior Director, Health, Food, Agriculture, Energy, Environment, Climate, Mobility and Research Infrastructures, ISERD, Israel Innovation Authority



Hagit Schwimmer is a Senior Director in Israel-Europe Research and Innovation Directorate (ISERD), in charge of health, agriculture, environment, climate, energy and mobility. Previously, she worked at the Ministry of Science and Technology, as the Deputy Chief Scientist and Scientific Director of Biomedical Sciences. She holds a PhD in Environmental Physiology from Hebrew University and obtained a Post Doctorate fellowship from Stanford University, studying sleep physiology.

MARC PEREL

Head, AgriMeteo, Ministry of Agriculture of Israel



Marc Perel has been the head of the meteorological department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel since 2004. The department of agro-meteorology specializes in tailor-made weather forecasts for farmers, online meteorology data and warnings, and climate change adaptation.

NOA ISRALOWITZ

Operations Manager, InNegev- Innovative Technology Incubator



Noa Isralowitz is Operations Manager at InNegev Incubator. InNegev provides early stage startups in the areas of agri-food, cleantech, and industry 4.0 with an optimal environment to foster their success. She holds a BSc (Ag) in Soil and Water Sciences from Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment. In her previous role as Head of the AgTech Sector at the Israel Export Institute, she created a number of successful strategic partnerships between the Israeli agricultural industry and various international entities and government agencies. One of the companies that were part of this programme were acquired by Valmont in May 2021 for USD\$300 million.

SIMCHA SHORE

Founder & CEO at AgroScout



Simcha Shore founded AgroScout in 2017, and was previously CEO of Idrone-Insights. He has more than 25 years of experience in developing new technologies including remote sensing computer vision, deep learning drones, and AI. He is a consultant and lecturer in the area of drone technology, and a drone technology expert. He holds an MA from the University of Haifa.

GLADYS H. MORALES

Senior Innovation Adviser, Change, Delivery and Innovation Unit (CDI), IFAD



Gladys H. Morales is Senior Innovation Adviser at the Change Delivery and Innovation Unit at IFAD. She has led the digital transformation of Government and UN agencies' projects in Latin America, Asia and Europe. She is also familiar with the startup eco-system having worked in a management position for a digital advertising startup while she was living in Indonesia and founding her own startup in Italy. Before joining IFAD, Morales was an Advisor at the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) where she led the design of digital platforms and established partnerships and knowledge networks for the Global Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth (GPIG) Portal. She is the Regional Ambassador in Italy of the Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC). She is a graduate from the Executive Programme on Digital Business Leadership at Columbia Business School, Columbia University in New York, has a Master in Development Economics and International Cooperation from University of Rome, Tor Vergata and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and International Economics from Georgetown University.