

A man with dark hair, wearing a brown and white plaid shirt, is looking down at a tablet computer he is holding in his right hand. He is standing in a field of large green leafy plants, possibly a vegetable field. The background is a soft-focus green field.

**Independent Office  
of Evaluation**

 **IFAD**  
Investing in rural people

## **Programme**

# **Information and Communication Technologies for Evaluation (ICT4Eval) International Conference**

**Using Innovative Approaches to Development Evaluation**

**6 and 7 June 2017**

**IFAD headquarters, Rome, Italy**



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## Abbreviations and acronyms

3ie	International Initiative for Impact Evaluation
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FNS	food and nutrition security
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICCO	Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation
IOE	Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MEAL	monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning
NGO	non-governmental organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFV	Simulated Field Visit
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme

## Welcoming remarks



It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you to the Information and Communication Technologies for Evaluation (ICT4Eval) International Conference. The theme of the conference is “Using Innovative Approaches to Development Evaluation”.

Technological innovations drive human development. In the past years, new ways of using technologies and communication systems have been, and still are, transforming lives across the world. The field of information and communication technology (ICT) has been marked by many shifts and opportunities. New solutions embrace the fourth industrial revolution that is taking place before us. This includes machine learning and artificial intelligence, open data, open source tools, access to big data, crowdsourcing, mobile and wireless communication - all of which were either not available or were not economical until a decade ago.

In the field of development evaluation, ICTs show great potential in contributing to the quality of the work that evaluators perform, and are critical to strengthening evidence-based policymaking that relies on evaluation. This means devising new methods of gathering, analysing and disseminating data, and enhancing the evaluation process.

In this new era, IFAD intends to be at the forefront of using ICTs in innovative ways to improve its work to combat rural poverty, and this conference is a step in that direction. Organized along the three stages of the knowledge-creation chain –

data collection, data analysis and knowledge dissemination – the conference seeks to address the following questions:

- Are ICTs increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of evaluations?
- How can ICT tools contribute to enhance evaluation rigor, now and in the future?
- How can innovative approaches to dissemination enhance learning and strengthen impact?

The 2030 universal Agenda introduced 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that seek a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive in peace and prosperity. It is a call for transformative change. ICTs are a fundamental part of this transformative change. They are critical to strengthening the quality of the work that evaluators perform.

We are delighted to provide this forum for experts and technical staff from across the development field to learn and share their knowledge and experience. The conference enjoys the presence of a wide range of partners who play a pivotal role in the evaluation of development initiatives across the globe.

This booklet will provide you with information about the conference, the agenda, short biographies of the speakers, and brief descriptions of the Tech Fair exhibitors.

I sincerely hope you will enjoy the conference. Candidly sharing your experiences will provide us with new ideas and approaches to meet the needs of poor people around the world. This is ICT4Eval.

Thank you for your participation in this conference!

A blue ink signature of Oscar A. Garcia, written in a cursive style.

OSCAR A. GARCIA  
Director  
Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD



# Agenda

## DAY 1 Tuesday, 6 June 2017

8:00-9:00	Registration and coffee		
9:00-9:30 <b>Italian Room</b>	<p>Opening address by <b>Gilbert F. Hounbo</b>, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</p> <p>Welcome remarks by <b>Oscar A. Garcia</b>, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) and Chair of the Evaluation Cooperation Group of multilateral development banks</p>		
9:30-10:30 <b>Italian Room</b>	<p><b>PLENARY ADDRESSES: How can ICTs promote innovations in development evaluation to benefit a more inclusive and sustainable rural transformation?</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Roxanna Samii</b>, Chief Digital Strategy, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Haishan Fu</b>, Director, World Bank's Development Data Group</li> <li>• <b>Jyrki Pulkkinen</b>, Director of Development Evaluation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A session</b></p>		
10:30-11:00	Coffee break and photo		
11:00-12:00	<p><b>ICTs APPLIED TO DATA COLLECTION: Are they increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of evaluations?</b></p> <div> <div> <p><b>Oval Room Breakout session 1.</b> Simulated field visits in fragile and conflict environments: A case of Save the Children in Somalia</p> </div> <div> <p><b>Italian Room Breakout session 2.</b> Using geospatial analysis for impact evaluations</p> </div> <div> <p><b>Qatar Room Breakout session 3.</b> Using earth observation to support the evaluation of an income enhancement project in Georgia</p> </div> </div>		
12:00-13:00	<p><b>ICTs APPLIED TO DATA COLLECTION (Sessions continued)</b></p> <div> <div> <p><b>Oval Room Breakout Session 4.</b> Collect Earth: Innovative and free multi-purpose land monitoring through remote sensing data</p> </div> <div> <p><b>Italian Room Breakout Session 5.</b> Mobile-based data collection tools for programme monitoring and evaluation</p> </div> </div>		
13:00-14:30	Lunch		
14:30-15:30 <b>Italian Room</b>	<p><b>PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSION: Big data and their applications for governance, development and evaluation</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Roxanna Samii</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Michael Bamberger</b>, independent consultant and author of UN Global Pulse report on "Integrating Big Data into Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Programmes"</li> <li>• <b>Paula Hidalgo-Sanchis</b>, Manager, UN Global Pulse Lab-Kampala</li> <li>• <b>Edoardo Masset</b>, Deputy Director, Syntheses and Review Office, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)</li> <li>• <b>Thomas Bousios</b>, Director, Information and Communications Technology Division, IFAD</li> </ul>		
15:30-15:45	Coffee break		
15:45-16:45	<p><b>ICTs APPLIED TO DATA ANALYSIS: How can ICT tools contribute to enhance evaluation rigour and what potential do they hold for the future?</b></p> <div> <div> <p><b>Executive Dining Room Breakout session 6.</b> Improving systematic reviews and evidence gap maps by text mining and machine learning</p> </div> <div> <p><b>Italian Room Breakout session 7.</b> Mapping poverty with satellite imagery and machine learning</p> </div> <div> <p><b>Oval Room Breakout session 8.</b> Machine learning and causal inference: How machine learning methods might help to improve the rigour of quantitative impact evaluations</p> </div> </div>		

16:45-17:45	<b>ICTs APPLIED TO DATA ANALYSIS</b> (Sessions continued)	
	<b>Italian Room Breakout session 9.</b> Advances in qualitative data analysis: Humans and machines learning together	<b>Oval Room Breakout session 10.</b> Analysing stories of change: Engaging beneficiaries to make sense of data
17:45-18:15 <b>Italian Room</b>	<b>PLENARY POPCORN SESSION: Day One Takeaways</b>	
18:15	Reception for all participants, hosted by IOE - Executive Dining Room	

## DAY 2 Wednesday, 7 June 2017

8:30	Coffee break	
9:00-10:30 <b>Italian Room</b>	<b>PLENARY ADDRESS: Technology – a facilitator of development or an additional barrier?</b>  Moderator: <b>Roxanna Samii</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dave Snowden</b>, Director, Cynefin Centre for Applied Complexity, Bangor University, Wales</li> </ul> <b>Q&amp;A session</b>	
10:30-11:30	<b>TECH FAIR OPENING</b>	
11:30-12:30	<b>DISSEMINATION AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES: How can innovative approaches to dissemination enhance learning and strengthen impact?</b>  <div> <b>Oval Room Breakout session 11.</b> Enabling community participation and validation of digitally collected data through real-time feedback               <b>Italian Room Breakout session 12.</b> Exploring the soft side: Ethics, protection and inclusion in ICT4Eval               <b>Executive Dining Room Breakout session 13.</b> How to use social media to positively impact development projects             </div>	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00 <b>Italian Room</b>	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION: Impactful visualization or data distortion?</b>  Moderator: <b>Roxanna Samii</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jan Willem Tulp</b>, Data Experience Designer, TULP interactive</li> <li>• <b>Elisabetta Carfagna</b>, Full Professor of Statistics, University of Bologna</li> <li>• <b>Benoit Thierry</b>, Country Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Division, IFAD</li> </ul>	
15:00-16:00	<b>DISSEMINATION AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES</b> (Sessions continued)  <div> <b>Italian Room Breakout session 14.</b> From data to decision: How to collect, analyse and use high-quality data to increase impact               <b>Oval Room Breakout session 15.</b> Open data and dissemination: Has the time come for common reporting standards for evaluations?             </div>	
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-17:30 <b>Italian Room</b>	<b>PLENARY CLOSING SESSION</b>  Moderator: <b>Roxanna Samii</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popcorn with breakout session leaders and rapporteurs</li> <li>• Reflections for the future by <b>Caroline Heider</b>, Director General and Senior Vice President, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank Group; and <b>Marco Segone</b>, Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UN Women</li> <li>• Concluding remarks by <b>Oscar A. Garcia</b></li> </ul>	

## Introduction

A decade ago, a large segment of the world's population lived beyond the reach of ICTs. Today, these technologies are everywhere, from urban metropolitan centres to rural villages, and covers a wide range of forms and purposes. Even though the capacity of computer hard- and software has increased, leading to an increasing level of automation and integration of data collection and analysis, experience confirms that evaluators are still facing recurring challenges related to data gathering and analysis in the field. These include lack of reliable monitoring and evaluation (M&E) data and limited resources.

Since these challenges are old, and many development actors have been using data collection tools for years, it is vital that we ask ourselves what can we learn from our collective experiences, and whether we are using ICT tools to their full capacity to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our evaluations.

## Purpose

This conference will explore and discuss the latest innovative approaches to using ICTs in development evaluation and seek to establish whether recent innovations in ICTs have demonstrable benefits in the intersecting fields of development evaluation and rural transformation. It will feature best practices that have emerged from the experiences of development organizations and the private sector across the world and explore what is possible today, and what the future holds.

The conference will also encourage discussions about the theoretical concerns in evaluation methodology relating to the use of ICTs – for example, the ethics of using ICTs and their possible impact on sampling bias, exclusion, data security and privacy.

## Structure

The two-day conference will be organized along three tracks, one for each of the principal topics.

1. ICTs applied to data collection
2. ICTs applied to data analysis
3. ICTs applied to data dissemination

Plenary sessions on each of the principal topics will be supplemented with presentations on groundbreaking technologies and approaches to conducting evaluations. On the second day of the conference, 7 June, a Tech Fair will be hosted to allow participants to explore some of the technologies discussed throughout the conference.



## Sessions - Day 1 (6 June)

### ICTs APPLIED TO DATA COLLECTION:

Are they increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of evaluations?

#### Breakout session 1 – Simulated field visits in fragile and conflict environments: A case of Save the Children in Somalia

Presenters:

- **Monica Zikusooka**, Regional Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Manager, Save the Children-East and Southern Africa Region
- **Hassan Ileli**, Information Technology Manager, Save the Children-Somalia

Rapporteur:

- **Xiaozhe Zhang**, Evaluation Research Analyst, IOE, IFAD

South and Central Somalia is characterized by a precarious security environment and is inaccessible for non-Somali staff and in some cases even Somali staff from other locations do not have access to certain locations. In 2013, Save the Children needed to undertake a review of its nutrition programme in Puntland and Hiran with the review team comprised of headquarters and regional staff, among others. While the review team was able to conduct field visits in Puntland, it was not possible to undertake similar visits in Hiran due to security limitations. To ensure that the review in Hiran was conducted to a similar level of depth as the face-to-face review in Puntland, a creative method combining the use of pictures, scanned documents and skype interviews was developed and later evolved into the Simulated Field Visit (SFV). The “SFV” involves two or three days of reviewing photos of site activities and checklists, auditing treatment cards that are collected following specific guidelines ahead of the SFV, and conducting interviews with the field team. The process concludes with a final debriefing with the

field team and an SFV trip report. This session will talk about the SFV, how the approach works, and the value added by technology in remotely monitoring programme areas that are inaccessible due to conflict.

**Oval Room, 11:00-12:00**

#### Breakout session 2 – Using geospatial analysis for impact evaluations

Presenters:

- **Juha Ilari Uitto**, Director, Independent Evaluation Office, Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- **Malte Lech**, Evaluator, German Institute for Development Evaluation

Rapporteur:

- **Sven Harten**, Head of Competence Centre for Evaluation Methodology/ Deputy Director, German Institute for Development Evaluation

Impact evaluations have become increasingly prevalent in development evaluation. However, with their proliferation they are being undertaken in increasingly complex environments and are expected to measure increasingly complex development impacts. In such a context, newer means, such as geospatial analysis, are being employed to assist in impact evaluations. In this session, we will hear from the experiences of GEF and the German Institute for Development Evaluation on their work in collecting and using geospatial data combined with other methods of analysis for impact evaluations.

#### *Session 2a - Leveraging big data and interdisciplinary analytics skills to overcome the “too big to evaluate” (2B2E) challenge of complex development interventions – German Institute for Development Evaluation*

Environmental risks and other challenging context conditions pose obstacles to evaluating programmes in many developing countries. Leveraging big data, such as satellite information, and interdisciplinary

data analytics skills, including geo-analytical methods, evaluation teams have powerful tools at hand to provide answers to complex issues that were previously considered “too big to evaluate” (2B2E). While the integration of geographic data can be used to increase the internal validity of collected survey data, geospatial analysis allows for the measurement of additional (large-scale) impacts, to control for confounding external effects, as well as context factors, and thus helps to increase the robustness of evaluation findings. By demonstrating the practical application and value of integrating geographic analysis into a quasi-experimental impact evaluation in the Philippines, the team will show how challenging framework conditions can be tackled by relying on an approach of systematic method integration supported by geographic data and methods.

***Session 2b – Evaluating environmental impact using technology – Independent Evaluation Office, GEF***

In this presentation, we discuss experiences, emerging lessons, and challenges in using cutting-edge technology for environmental evaluation at the Independent Evaluation Office of GEF. We draw from evaluations focusing on impact and value-for-money in the Biodiversity, Land Degradation, and International Waters focal areas to exemplify the use of the state-of-the-art geospatial technology, machine learning, and econometric methods. We discuss the use of these data and methods for counterfactual selection, assessing factors influencing environmental outcomes, identifying drivers of environmental degradation, and estimating co-benefits generated from these projects. Our work demonstrates the utility of satellite-derived indicators and geospatial methods for impact assessment and valuation of various ecosystem services. The presentation concludes with a discussion on how technology-intensive methods complement traditional evaluation approaches and the potential for future work in this direction.

**Italian Room, 11:00-12:00**

**Breakout session 3 – Using earth observation to support the evaluation of an income enhancement project in Georgia**

Presenters:

- **Hansdeep Khaira**, Evaluation Officer, IOE, IFAD
- **Giancarlo Pini**, independent consultant, World Food Programme (WFP) - Vulnerability Analysis Mapping (IFAD-WFP Joint Climate Analysis Partnership)

Rapporteur:

- **Rima Alcadi**, Grant Portfolio Adviser, Quality Assurance Group, IFAD

Conducting ex-post impact evaluations based on recall data gathered from household surveys always heightens concerns about data quality. In addition, measuring agricultural productivity also faces challenges stemming from measurable errors due to self-reported data quality and different measurement units in rural settings. IOE, in collaboration with IFAD’s Environment and Climate Division, has piloted a study as part of its impact evaluation of a project that aims to improve agricultural incomes. Besides assisting in triangulating findings from the household survey, the study measures the impact of the intervention by using 250-m MODIS and 30-m Landsat remote sensing data. The study consists of a comparative method that analyses the temporal variations (before and after the intervention) of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index of the intervention area with respect to multiple control sites that are similar to the intervention area. This method, which can also take relevant geographic factors into consideration, can be applied relatively quickly and inexpensively. In order to improve the performance of the methodology, the team also included a rapid survey to collect information on crop types and crop rotations, with ground-truthing to verify the data obtained from satellite images.

**Qatar Room, 11:00-12:00**

#### Breakout session 4 - Collect Earth: innovative and free multi-purpose land monitoring through remote sensing data

Presenters:

- **Danilo Mollicone**, Forestry Officer and Project Lead Technical Officer, Forestry Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- **Giulio Marchi**, Geospatial Forestry Officer, Forestry Department, FAO

Rapporteur:

- **Hansdeep Khaira**, Evaluation Officer, IOE, IFAD

Collect Earth is an innovative Free and Open Source Software that was developed by the Forestry Department of FAO for land assessment and monitoring integrating Google technologies and freely available satellite images. The project is supported by the International Climate Initiative of the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany and it works closely with Google Earth Outreach, the non-profit programme of Google. Through the power and ease of use of Google Earth, Earth Engine, Earth Engine Code Editor and other sources of images at high and very high resolution, a visual augmented interpretation of historical land changes can be assessed without prior remote sensing experience. The system benefits from and leverages the availability of freely available images started with the Landsat open data policy in 2008, eventually embraced by other providers of satellite images such as the European Space Agency, and greatly enhanced and facilitated a few years ago by the Google Earth Engine portal of Google. The free and open source approach to the software development and the reliance on open data strongly foster the sustainability of project activities and their replicability in different contexts. Mainly developed for the assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry, the system has been applied to different scenarios, country assessments, international initiatives

and project evaluations. The system has also been adopted in projects of the US Geological Survey, US Forest Service, NASA SERVIR, World Resources Institute and IFAD. This session will provide a first-hand introduction to the open source system and its functionalities in demystifying remote sensing for evaluators and development practitioners at large.

**Oval Room, 12:00-13:00**

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#### Breakout session 5 – Mobile-based data collection tools for programme monitoring and evaluation

Presenters:

- **Dieffi Tchifou Miltiade**, CEO, Open-IT and Information Systems Designer
- **Wael Attia**, Lead Information and Knowledge Management Officer, Analysis and Trends Service, Program and Policy Division, WFP
- **Richard Pelrine**, Regional Economist, West and Central Africa Division, IFAD

Rapporteur:

- **Qais Aljoan**, Technical Adviser to the Vice President for Arab Funds, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Office, IFAD

Mobile and tablet-based data collection tools have been gaining increased momentum for the collection of M&E data; paper-based data collection is fast becoming a thing of the past! These tools have significantly improved the efficiency, accuracy and efficacy of data collection. This session will discuss the experiences of different organizations, including:

- What mobile and tablet-based data collection tools are, how they work, how are they better than paper-based data collection, and principles of designing effective Open Data Kit-based surveys in developing countries.
- WFP's experience in using mobile-based data collection for emergency programmes.

- IFAD's experience and lessons as a first-time user of mobile- and tablet-based data collection tools for development programmes.

Drawing experiences from three different profiles of users of mobile- and tablet-based data collection tools, the session will set the stage for a panel discussion on the benefits and constraints of using such tools.

**Italian Room, 12:00-13:00**

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### **ICTs APPLIED TO DATA ANALYSIS:**

How can ICT tools contribute to enhance evaluation rigour and what potential do they hold for the future?

#### **Breakout session 6 – Improving systematic reviews and evidence gap maps by text mining and machine learning**

Presenter:

- **Edoardo Masset**, Deputy Director, Syntheses and Review Office, 3ie

Rapporteur:

- **Constanza Di Nucci**, Technical Specialist, Global Engagement, Knowledge and Strategy Division, IFAD

Systematic reviews of evidence and evidence gap maps are popular tools that summarize the available evidence on a particular topic or area of work with the goal of informing policies. Systematic reviews and evidence maps rely on an extensive search of all available evidence from databases, libraries and other repositories. The literature search and the screening of the valid literature are normally conducted by independent reviewers working through thousands of titles and papers' abstracts. Search and screening of the literature is time-consuming and normally takes several months, thus severely delaying the completion of systematic reviews. Recent developments in computer power and the application of machine learning methods are opening up new possibilities to conduct systematic reviews more rapidly. This

session presents the current practice in the use of electronic sources and databases by authors of systematic reviews and the standard search and screening approaches used. New theoretical developments in the search and screening of the literature by text mining and machine learning methods will be introduced, and example applications will be presented of these new approaches to updating and conducting systematic reviews that were experimented by the 3ie office in London. The session will conclude with a discussion of the future potential developments in this area for research and practice.

**Executive Dinning Room, 15:45-16:45**

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#### **Breakout session 7 – Mapping poverty with satellite imagery and machine learning**

Presenter:

- **Neal Jean**, Researcher, Stanford University

Rapporteur:

- **Rogerio Bonifacio**, Senior Earth Observation and Climate Analyst, Analysis and Trends Service, Program and Policy Division, WFP

Timely and accurate measurements of socio-economic indicators are fundamental requirements for both sound research and effective policy. However, reliable data on these outcomes remain scarce in much of the developing world, slowing efforts to understand the drivers of growth and to implement policies that will improve human livelihoods. The session will demonstrate an accurate, inexpensive and scalable method for predicting granular measures of poverty and wealth from high-resolution satellite imagery. Using survey and satellite data, machine learning models are trained to identify informative image features that can then be used to predict localized wealth measures such as consumption expenditures and assets. This method, which uses only publicly available data, could dramatically improve efforts to track and target poverty in developing countries.

**Italian Room, 15:45-16:45**

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### Breakout session 8 – Machine learning and causal inference: How machine learning methods might help to improve the rigour of quantitative impact evaluations

Presenter:

- **Paul Jasper**, Consultant, M&E Portfolio, and Deputy Portfolio Leader, Cross-Cutting Portfolio, Oxford Policy Management

Rapporteur:

- **Alessandra Garbero**, Senior Econometrician, Research and Impact Assessment Division, IFAD

Machine learning is everywhere these days: Netflix uses it to predict the next movie you will be watching. The World Health Organization is testing it to predict outbreaks of epidemics. And financial institutions analyse the uptake of mobile money services using similar approaches. But what about evaluations in international development? This session will explore what machine learning techniques and methods exist, how they might improve the way in which we conduct quantitative impact evaluations, and what the potential risks around this are. The session will mainly focus on quantitative (experimental and quasi-experimental) impact evaluations. Paul will explain his understanding of machine learning, discuss how this relates to issues around identifying causality, and look at what methodological work is currently being implemented to improve impact evaluations using machine learning techniques, also drawing on applications within the context of his work in the Quantitative Impact Evaluation hub at Oxford Policy Management.

**Oval Room, 15:45-16:45**

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### Breakout session 9 – Advances in qualitative data analysis: Humans and machines learning together

Presenter:

- **Stuart Shulman**, Founder and CEO, Texifter LLC

Rapporteur:

- **Kelly Feenan**, Change Management Team Administrator, Information and Communications Technology Division, IFAD

Traditional qualitative methods grew out of pen and paper activities. Coloured pencils or pens were used for underlining, highlighting, categorizing, linking, and writing notes in the margins. For decades this constituted the primary means for researchers to engage deeply with text. The data, often based on interviews, focus groups or survey open-ends, required the analyst to stay very close to a limited amount of content. Beginning in the 1980s, the use of computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software emerged. Researchers had to negotiate trade-offs when the new tools provided a framework for much larger datasets, including controversial features, such as auto-coding and co-occurrence discovery. Questions arose about the bias inherent in the assumptions driving the tools.

Over time, the scope and nature of unstructured data evolved dramatically. The genius of the Internet unleashes massive amounts of user-generated content on a daily basis. Blogs, YouTube, and Twitter are among the top generators of new forms of publically-available data. Instead of 6-14 interviews, or 4-6 focus groups, researchers now have access to thousands and possibly millions of public comments. This presentation highlights the transition from traditional qualitative data analysis to a new paradigm of humans and machines learning and working together.

Dr Shulman argues there is an inescapable human element in the use of even the most sophisticated machine learning



techniques. Older theories and methods remain relevant, and serve as an important guide when we design and implement any text classification research. Perhaps most importantly, the evaluator can never escape a classic conundrum identified by Plato: if you create categories, the work of applying them will invariably be frustrating. Software cannot eliminate this reality, but it can help to bring the many dimensions of the data to the surface more quickly.

**Italian Room, 16:45-17:45**

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### **Breakout session 10 – Analysing stories of change: Engaging beneficiaries to make sense of data**

Presenters:

- **Michael Carbon**, Senior Evaluation Officer, IOE, IFAD
- **Hamdi Ahmedou**, Evaluation Research Analyst, Consultant, IOE, IFAD

Rapporteur:

- **Tala Talae**, Evaluation Analyst, Office of Evaluation, FAO

Normally data collection and analysis is dictated by the evaluator's own perception and understanding of the situation. Getting feedback from direct beneficiaries on a project and their own perception of its impact can be challenging given their large number and geographical dispersion, and the limited time and resources available for evaluators. How can we give voice to "people who matter", namely the beneficiaries, in an evaluation process?

As part of the Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation in the Republic of Cameroon, IOE sought to assess the relevance, effectiveness and gender- and age-specific impact of support provided to farmer organizations in two IFAD-funded value chain projects. To this end, it tested a SenseMaker<sup>1</sup> approach, complementing other data collection and analysis tools. SenseMaker® combines elements of quantitative and qualitative methods. Based

on the theory of change of the projects, a large number of short stories about meaningful change collected from project beneficiaries, and a common signification framework, the approach allows for strong involvement of project beneficiaries in giving sense to the data.

Numerous lessons were learned from this first experience using SenseMaker® in an IFAD evaluation. This session will present the experience of IOE in piloting use of SenseMaker® suite and its participatory approach to data analysis.

**Oval Room, 16:45-17:45**

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<sup>1</sup> SenseMaker is a trademark of Cognitive Edge.

## Sessions - Day 2 (7 June)

### DISSEMINATION AND CROSS-

**CUTTING ISSUES:** How can innovative approaches to dissemination enhance learning and strengthen impact?

#### Breakout session 11 – Enabling community participation and validation of digitally collected data through real-time feedback

Presenters:

- **Simone Lombardini**, Global Impact Evaluation Adviser, Oxfam GB
- **Emily Tomkys**, ICT in Programme Officer, Oxfam GB

Rapporteur:

- **Maya Vijayaraghavan**, Senior Evaluation Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Since 2011, Oxfam GB has been conducting rigorous impact evaluations – Effectiveness Reviews – to help understand and provide evidence of whether its work is resulting in positive change in the lives of the women and men with whom and for whom it works. Where previously Oxfam has relied on a paper-based survey data collection process, in 2015 it piloted digital surveying using Computer Assisted Personal Interview. From the pilots, Oxfam has since successfully scaled to all of its Effectiveness Reviews being conducted digitally. This has enabled the team of Impact Evaluator Advisers to increase data quality, improve knowledge on questionnaire design, and increase participation and accountability.

This presentation will focus on how digital data collection has the potential to increase participation and accountability. As digital data collection does not require data entry and allows real-time data analysis, it is possible to incorporate community feedbacks during the household survey. Sharing summary data collected during the survey has a number of potential

advantages. First, it shares useful information with communities, which can then be used for learning; second, it enables greater engagement and reduces the feeling of household surveys being an extractive process; and finally, it allows findings coming from the data to be validated and better understood.

Oxfam piloted this process during two Effectiveness Reviews in Thailand and Zambia. The presentation will describe the different approaches used in the two countries and will present the learning and considerations coming as a result of this experience.

**Oval Room, 11:30-12:30**

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#### Breakout session 12 – Exploring the soft side: Ethics, protection and inclusion in ICT4Eval

Presenters:

- **Michael Bamberger**, independent consultant and author of UN Global Pulse report on “Integrating Big Data into Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Programmes”
- **Linda Raftree**, independent consultant

Rapporteur:

- **Deidre Walker**, Senior Audit Officer, Office of Audit and Oversight, IFAD

Digital data and new ICTs offer a number of benefits to the area of evaluation. We can collect data more quickly and cheaply and gather higher-quality data. We can access large data sets that have already been collected by others. We can capture and analyse “data exhaust” produced on a regular basis through digital devices and platforms. Remote data collection becomes a possibility, enabling work in fragile and conflict zones or other areas that are difficult to reach. We can expand opportunities for previously marginalized voices to be integrated into our M&E processes, and for sharing data back with those who have provided them. Automation and visualization of data become easier and we are able to collect and analyse

more complex data from multiple sources to help better understand non-linear development processes.

While reaping these benefits, however, we need to address the new “soft side” challenges that arise from the use of these new tools – in other words, the software is just as important as the ‘hardware.’ These soft-side issues include ethical, cultural, operational, behavioural and methodological challenges, and the development sector is still working to resolve them. At this participatory session, we will discuss the exciting possibilities that ICTs and digital data generate while raising some precautions and sharing recommendations on addressing core challenges and ensuring inclusiveness and ethical integration of new types of data and new tools in the evaluation process.

**Italian Room, 11:30-12:30**

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### **Breakout session 13 – How to use social media to positively impact development projects**

Presenter:

- **Alberto Souviron**, Digital Media Specialist

Rapporteur:

- **Clare O'Farrell**, Communication and Knowledge Management Officer, Investment Centre, FAO

Since its emergence in the first decade of the 21st Century, social media has changed completely the way we communicate. Journalists have lost the monopoly of information; businesses now have to listen to their clients or risk to lose their reputation in a matter of seconds, and the political world trembled to the power of social networks.

The disruption is total, and the capability of social media to mobilize is massive. The balance is definitely on the side of the individual.

New challenges emerged: loss of privacy, fake news, cyberbullying and virtual tribalism are some of the negative impacts.

However, there are also enormous opportunities. Social media has proved its influence to mobilize people for good causes, to improve education, to increase collaboration at all levels.

How can social media change how development research is shared and used? How can it be used to achieve the maximum of development projects?

Social technologies today are having a massive impact on society changing all type of industries from pharmacy to energy. From a development perspective, they can also be used and offer huge opportunities to measure the real impact of projects with real insights from the communities they are trying to help.

With a well planned social media strategy, development evaluators can benefit from understanding better the communities they are seeking to help and providing a more efficient assessment, with the individual at the centre.

**Executive Dining Room, 11:30-12:30**

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### **Breakout session 14 – From data to decision: How to collect, analyse and use high quality data to increase impact**

Presenters:

- **Stefan Kraus**, Programme Manager, Akvo South East Asia
- **Charlotte Soedjak**, Project Manager, Akvo Foundation
- **Marijke de Graaf**, Food Security Strategy and Policy Advisor, Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO)

Rapporteur:

- **Tomoo Ueda**, Principal Evaluation Specialist, Asian Development Bank

The SDGs are driving demand for high quality, disaggregated monitoring data. Yet, many organizations lack the tools, capacity or processes to transform diverse data into actionable information for decision-making. The increasing number of tools means

data are often collected inconsistently and located in fragmented sources. While new technologies have simplified data collection, analysis and use often remain a bottleneck and shared-learning has not reached its full potential.

This session demonstrates two examples how data can help organizations increase their impact. We will examine innovative web and mobile tools and processes that support “data to decision”.

Case 1 explores ICCO’s standardized survey methodologies to collect food security data, which are combined with other datasets to find patterns and trends, informing programme design and resource allocation. In case 2, Akvo presents lessons learned by MARS from the introduction of innovative data collection, analysis and mapping tools to support its rice suppliers in Asia. The tools are used to monitor water use, farmer income and compliance with the Sustainable Rice Platform standard.

**Italian Room, 15:00-16:00**

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the attention they deserve. This session will describe the growing availability of financial data on development and make some suggestions for how the data might be extended to results and evaluations, drawing on the research of Publish What You Fund and collaborating organizations.

**Oval Room, 15:00-16:00**

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### **Breakout session 15 – Open data and dissemination: Has the time come for common reporting standards on evaluations?**

Presenter:

- **Rupert Simons**, CEO, Publish What You Fund

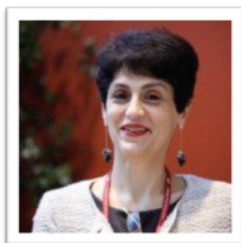
Rapporteur:

- **Alena Lappo**, Evaluation Analyst, Office of Evaluation, FAO

In the past six years, a growing number of development organizations have begun sharing data in open formats. Many donors publish project and financial information using open data standards like the International Aid Transparency Initiative. Many organizations also maintain repositories of evaluations. However, it is difficult to join up data on aid projects with structured data on results. The consequence is that donors are not doing enough to learn from each other, while valuable evaluations do not receive

## Moderator

### Roxanna SAMII



*Chief Digital Strategy, UNEP*

Ms Samii is a communication professional with more than 30 years of experience in developing and implementing strategic communication plans using traditional and new media. She joined UNEP from IFAD, where she led the design and implementation of IFAD's digital presence, providing policy and strategic direction in the areas of web management, social media, knowledge management, and communication for development. Ms Samii also led the development of IFAD's knowledge management strategy, providing guidance on how and when to use and apply knowledge

management methods and tools to address rural development challenges, influence policy and bring about change and transformation. With a degree in social sciences and an interest in media studies, she is also an Information and Communication Technologies for Development scholar-practitioner, and spent the 2015 spring semester at University of California Berkeley's School of Information as a Visiting Scholar.

## Speakers

### Michael BAMBERGER



*Independent consultant and author of UN Global Pulse report on "Integrating Big Data into Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Programmes"*

Mr Bamberger has been involved in development evaluation for fifty years. Beginning in Latin America where he worked in urban community development and evaluation for over a decade, he became interested in the coping strategies of low-income communities, how they were affected by and how they influenced development efforts. During 20 years with the World Bank he

worked as M&E advisor for the Urban Development Department, evaluation training coordinator with the Economic Development Department and Senior Sociologist in the Gender and Development Department. After retiring from the Bank in 2001 he has worked as a development evaluation consultant with more than 10 United Nations (UN) agencies as well as development banks, bilateral development agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and foundations. Since 2001 he has been on the faculty of the International Program for Development Evaluation Training.

### Thomas BOUSIOS



*Director, Information and Communications Technology Division, IFAD*

Mr Bousios oversees all aspects of ICT, security management, communication systems, and data analytics platforms. He joined IFAD from the European Union and the European Defence Agency, where he led ICT activities and was responsible for ICT collaboration tools, classified systems and networks, information management platforms and extranets serving security analysts across Europe. Prior to these positions, he served as Group Leader ICT at Fusion for Energy, leading the European Union's ICT activities for the ITER nuclear fusion project.



Mr Bousios started his career in the private sector and at Citibank, followed by a strong track record in management consulting worldwide as Team Leader/Manager at Deloitte and at Ernst & Young Global Client Consulting. Mr Bousios holds an Master's in Business Administration and a Master's in Business Informatics from the Rotterdam School of Management and completed the Innovative Chief Information Officer Programme at Stanford University.

## Elisabetta CARFAGNA



*Full Professor of Statistics, University of Bologna*

Full professor of statistics since 2005 and delegate of the Rector for EXPO 2015, she started her academic career after having reached a managerial position in the research and development department of a leading Italian company. Professor Carfagna has designed and started up the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, the most relevant research and capacity development programme promoted by the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, FAO,

IFAD, World Bank and others, which was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the European Commission. Since 1993, she has led international research projects, in collaboration with several organizations, such as the Chinese Institute of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning, Ethiopian Central Statistics Office, EUROSTAT, FAO, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United States Department of Agriculture.

## Haishan FU



*Director, Development Data Group, World Bank*

Ms Fu oversees the Group's development monitoring and open data initiatives, surveys and other technical services, and global statistical programs such as the International Comparison Program. She also leads and coordinates the development and implementation of the Bank's development data agenda. Ms Fu has been an active leader in the global statistical community, having served on the UN Secretary General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. Previously she led the statistics program at the the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Development

Programme's (UNDP's) Human Development Report Office and worked as a senior researcher. Ms Fu holds a Ph.D. in Demography from Princeton University and a B.A. in Economics from Peking University.

## Caroline HEIDER



*Director General and Senior Vice President, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank*

Ms Heider has held her current position since 2011. She has dedicated the last 30 years of her career to evaluating the work of development and humanitarian organizations, transforming findings into lessons and promoting innovative ways for institutions to apply the knowledge derived from evaluations towards accelerating development effectiveness. As a senior leader, Ms Heider has a proven track record in leading change, strengthening institutions,

and building evaluation capacity through testing new methods to obtain better evidence and greater insights. She has first-hand experience evaluating policies and programmes in over 30 countries around the world.

Ms Heider is a leading voice in the international evaluation community. She is a life-time member of the International Development Evaluation Association and a member of the American Evaluation Association. She chaired the Global Evaluation Advisory Committee of UN Women for the first years of its existence. In the past, she has been a member of the Australasian Evaluation Society and served a two-year term as Vice-Chair of the United Nations Evaluation Group.

Before joining the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group, Ms Heider headed the Office of Evaluation at WFP. She has also held leading positions in the evaluation offices of the Asian Development Bank and several UN agencies, including IFAD, UNDP and UN Industrial Development Organization.

## Paula HIDALGO-SANCHIS



*Manager, UN Global Pulse Lab-Kampala*

Dr Hidalgo-Sanchis has worked as a humanitarian and development practitioner in more than 20 countries for over 16 years. She has served as manager on innovations initiatives, social policy advisor and M&E expert working for the UN and based in Central America, Africa and Asia. Before joining the UN, Dr Hidalgo-Sanchis worked with an NGO in the field. She has a strong technical background with specialized studies and professional expertise in evaluations of international assistance programmes. She holds a PhD in Geography and is the author of an awarded PhD thesis entitled "Vulnerability

Analysis and International Assistance". An expert on geographical analysis, she is passionate about promoting the use of big data and big data analytics for human development.

## Edoardo MASSET



*Deputy Director, Syntheses and Review Office, 3ie*

Mr Masset is an agriculture and development economist with more than ten years of senior management experience in international development and impact evaluation. Prior to joining 3ie, he was a research fellow at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) of the University of Sussex, where he taught courses in development economics and impact evaluation. While at IDS, he also designed and implemented a number of experimental and quasi-experimental impact evaluations of complex development interventions and conducted several influential systematic reviews of evidence. Mr Masset has also worked at the Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank, where he was involved in impact evaluations

in the fields of education, nutrition, irrigation and poverty reduction. He has significant experience in methods of impact evaluation and evidence synthesis and has sector-specific knowledge in agricultural development, poverty, nutrition and education.

During the ICT4Eval international conference, Mr Masset will also be the presenter for breakout session number 6 on improving systematic reviews and evidence gap maps by text mining and machine learning.

## Jyrki PULKKINEN



*Director of Development Evaluation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland*

Dr Pulkkinen is the Director of Development Evaluation at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Previously he was a senior adviser responsible for Information Society, Science, Technology and Innovations for Development. He was also the elected Chair of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization International Programme for Development and Communication Intergovernmental Council in 2012-2014 and the CEO of a World Summit on the Information Society/

UN ICT Taskforce-initiated international organization GESCI (Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative) in 2008-2011, based in Dublin and Nairobi. Prior to joining the Ministry, Dr Pulkkinen worked as a research manager, an assistant professor and a lecturer for 15 years on behavioral sciences and educational technologies at the University of Oulu, Finland, where he also finished his PhD on e-learning. During the Oulu years he was seconded to the Department of Education of South Africa as an ICT in education expert in 2000-2001.

## Marco SEGONE



*Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UN Women*

Mr Segone was responsible for the decentralized evaluation function as well as the national evaluation capacity development portfolios at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Evaluation Office; Regional Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation in the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia; Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; Brazil Country Office, and Niger Country Office. Mr Segone also worked in international NGOs in Albania, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand and Uganda. He has authored numerous publications including Evaluation for Equitable Development Results and How to Design and Manage Equity-Focused Evaluations.

## Dave SNOWDEN



*Director, Cynefin Centre for Applied Complexity, Bangor University, Wales*

Professor Snowden pioneered a natural science-based approach to organizations, drawing on anthropology, neuroscience and complex adaptive systems theory. He holds visiting Chairs at the Universities of Bangor, Hull and Stellenbosch. Professor Snowden previously worked for IBM where he was a Director of the Institution for Knowledge Management and founded the Cynefin Centre for

Organizational Complexity; during that period he was selected by IBM as one of six "on-demand" thinkers for a worldwide advertising campaign. Prior to that he worked in a range of strategic and management roles in the service sector. He is the originator of SenseMaker®, the first example of a distributed ethnographic and decision support/evaluation system.

## Benoit THIERRY



*Country Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Division, IFAD*

Mr Thierry is an agro-economist based in IFAD Rome. He graduated as an engineer in Tropical Agricultural Economy (School of International Agro-Development, France, 1987) and obtained a French *Diplôme d'études Approfondies* in Human Geography (Sorbonne University, 1988).

In the early 1990s, after being a project manager in Bolivia and Western Mali, he became regional representative of the *Groupe de Recherche et de Réalisation pour le Développement Rural dans le Tiers Monde*, specialized in remittances. From 1996, as UNDP Advisor in Cambodia,

he was monitoring the Cambodia Resettlement and Reintegration Programme and developing its knowledge portal. In 2000, as Portfolio Manager with the United Nations Office for Project Services-Kenya he supervised IFAD-supported projects in East and Southern Africa. Mr Thierry joined IFAD in 2004. As IFAD Country Programme Manager, he was in charge of Comoros, Madagascar, Rwanda and Zimbabwe, managing country programmes and promoting online management systems. In 2011, he moved to the Asia and the Pacific Division (APR), taking charge successively of Bhutan, Nepal, Thailand, Philippines, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia, and supporting the farmers organization network in Asia and the Pacific. From 2014 to 2016, he established the first out-posted IFAD Hub covering southeast Asia. Presently, Mr Thierry is back in Rome as a Country Programme Manager for Bangladesh and Cambodia and serving the function of Knowledge Management Officer for APR (IFADAsia web platform).

## Jan Willem TULP



*Data Experience Designer, TULP interactive*

Mr Tulp is an award-winning data experience designer from the Netherlands. With his one-man company ,TULP interactive, he creates custom data visualizations. Mr Tulp has created visualizations for organizations such as European Space Agency, Google, Nature, Philips, Popular Science, Scientific American, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Children's Fund and World Economic Forum. He speaks regularly at international conferences, and teaches a workshop on data visualization design. His work has been published in books and

magazines and has been exhibited internationally. He has been a judge on visualization contests, such as National Science Foundation vizzies (USA) and Malofiej (Spain).

## Presenters

### Hamdi AHMEDOU



*Evaluation Research Analyst, Consultant, IOE, IFAD*

Mr Ahmedou joined IOE in December 2015. He has been involved in various country-level evaluations in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Egypt. He provides support in different phases of the evaluation process, from design to data collection and analysis. Mr Ahmedou is also a fourth-year PhD candidate in Development Studies at Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne University. His doctoral research explores the links between land conflicts, citizenship and forced migration in Mauritania.

## Wael ATTIA



*Lead Information and Knowledge Management Officer, Analysis and Trends Service, Program and Policy Division, WFP*

Mr Attia joined WFP, Rome, Italy, in 2004. He is in charge of the continued development of innovative, robust and secure information technology solutions. These include data governance, managing databases and delivering information technology products for humanitarian decision-making. He is also building open data platforms and automated data visualizations. He holds a Master's degree in Information Systems Management.

## Michael CARBON



*Senior Evaluation Officer, IOE, IFAD*

Mr Carbon has worked in evaluation since 2005, first for IFAD, Rome and later for UNEP, Nairobi. He led a great variety of ex-post evaluations in Africa, Asia and Latin America, including evaluations of the UNEP disasters and conflicts, climate change and chemicals and waste sub-programmes, the UNEP Sudan Country Programme, the IFAD Democratic Republic of Congo Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation, and numerous evaluations of environmental and rural development projects and programmes. Before starting his evaluation career, Mr Carbon worked in northern Viet Nam as a technical assistant and later as a project coordinator in the field of rural extension and farmer organizations. He obtained an MSc in Bio-engineering, specializing in Forestry, Nature Conservation and Tropical Agriculture from *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven* (Leuven, Belgium), an Engineering Diploma in Tropical Agronomy from *Centre National d'Etudes Agronomiques des Régions Chaudes* (Montpellier, France) and a PhD Preparatory Studies Degree in Geography and Development Practice from *Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon* (Paris). He recently returned to the IFAD Independent Evaluation Office as a Senior Evaluation Officer.

## Marijke de GRAAF



*Food Security Strategy and Policy Advisor, ICCO Cooperation*

Ms de Graaf counts with broad, hands-on experience with food and nutrition security (FNS) projects and programmes, gathered in a UN, NGO and Consultancy firm setting. She provides advice on FNS related strategies and policies as well as guidance on design, fund mobilization, planning and implementation of specific FNS projects. In addition she has experience with mainstreaming FNS objectives into general development projects, making these food and nutrition sensitive.

Having been responsible for elaborating as well as reviewing project proposals she has hands-on experience with developing theories of change, project result frameworks and related impact, outcome and output indicators plus data collection grid. She is involved in project-level baseline surveys and development of monitoring systems including quantitative as well as qualitative methods of data collection and use (AKVO FLOW, focus groups discussions and SenseMaker®) in for example Kenya, Uganda and Bangladesh.



## Hassan ILELI



### *Information Technology Manager, Save the Children-Somalia*

Mr ILELI is an accomplished professional with over ten years of experience in corporate and humanitarian sectors. He is responsible for implementing information systems strategies that enable the country office integration of technology in programme development and response in humanitarian aid. He specializes in digital technologies for social change, project management, data analysis and software development. He served as ICT supervisor for Chase Bank Limited Kenya, and Technical Associate at Computer Revolution Africa, where he was responsible for the smooth running of ICT systems as well as ensuring effective management of the IT portfolio through achievable business results and growth. Mr ILELI holds a Master's degree in Information Management from Nairobi University and a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Kabarak University, Kenya. He is certified in Information Technology Infrastructure Library and various Microsoft professional certifications.

## Paul JASPER



### *Consultant, M&E Portfolio, and Deputy Portfolio Leader, Cross-Cutting Portfolio, Oxford Policy Management*

Mr Jasper is a development economist with extensive experience in survey work, quantitative research, experimental and quasi-experimental quantitative evaluation methodologies, and statistical analysis. His recent work includes analysis of large household surveys and designing and implementing quantitative impact evaluations in a variety of thematic areas. He has also been involved in designing M&E systems for large multi-year public programmes. He is particularly interested in methodological advances related to quantitative impact evaluations and applications of big data analysis in public policy. Before joining the Oxford Policy Management, Mr Jasper worked for several research institutes, including the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, the Africa Rice Centre in Benin, and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. He holds a Masters of Public Administration/Public Policy dual degree from the London School of Economics and the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, an MSc in Development Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Dresden University.

## Neal JEAN



### *School of Engineering, Stanford University*

Mr Jean is a researcher at Stanford University, working with Professor Stefano Ermon in the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. Before starting his PhD, Mr Jean studied math and economics at Duke University and electrical engineering at Georgia Tech. His research interests include computational sustainability and semi-supervised and unsupervised machine learning.

## Hansdeep KHAIRA



*Evaluation Officer, IOE, IFAD*

Mr Khaira has been working in development since 2002. He started his career with FAO in Rome, where he worked in research, analysis, statistics and capacity-building related to agriculture and food security. For the past four years, he has been at IFAD, where he worked in the Programme Management Department on monitoring, evaluation and performance analysis of development projects. Before joining IOE, he worked on corporate results monitoring and strategic planning in the Strategy and Knowledge Department.

Mr Khaira has a Bachelor's degree in Commerce (accounting and auditing) and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Bombay, and a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

## Stefan KRAUS

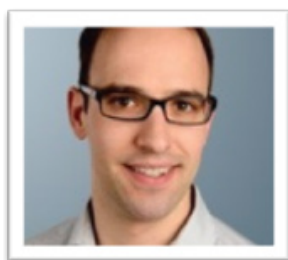


*Programme Manager, Akvo South East Asia*

Mr Kraus supports the management of Akvo's programmes in the region, overseeing existing partnerships and facilitating engagement with new partners. He is also responsible for helping build Akvo's operations in Australia and the Pacific. He has worked in roles across government, academia and NGOs in areas such as environmental policy, public health and sustainability. His most recent role prior to joining Akvo was as assistant manager focusing on international sustainability issues in the Australian Government Department of the Environment.

Mr Kraus has a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Economics degree from Australian National University, Canberra and completed the Fenner School of Environment and Society Honours Program. He has also spent time living and working in the Netherlands and Germany, and as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development in Cambodia. He is based in Australia.

## Malte LECH



*Evaluator, German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval)*

Mr Lech joined DEval as an evaluator in March 2016. From 2006 to 2011, he studied geography, sociology and urban and regional planning, majoring in Economic Geography at Leibniz University Hannover and Aalborg University, Denmark. Following his studies, Mr Lech worked as a research associate for the Institute of Economic and Cultural Geography at Leibniz University and in 2015 completed his PhD thesis on technological upgrading and regional economic change in the electronic industry of the Chinese Pearl River Delta.

Before joining DEval, he worked as an interim study coordinator for geodesy and geoinformatics at Leibniz University Hannover as well as regional planner for a county planning administration in Lower Saxony (Germany).

## Simone LOMBARDINI



*Global Impact Evaluation Adviser, Oxfam GB*

Mr Lombardini is a development economist and impact evaluator with eight years of experience in over 14 countries. He is managing a team of impact evaluation advisers in Oxfam GB, and conducting a range of impact evaluations of Oxfam's projects in order to capture the organization's effectiveness and to promote evidence-based learning. His area of expertise includes designing and conducting experimental and quasi-experimental impact evaluations. Mr Lombardini leads the measuring Women's Empowerment stream for Oxfam GB, developing new tools and methods for measuring this hard-to-measure outcome area. He also provides technical advice on evaluation design, sampling techniques, questionnaire design, data and econometric analysis. He graduated in economics from the University of Milan-Bicocca and holds an MSc in development economics from the University of Sussex.

## Giulio MARCHI



*Geospatial Forestry Officer, Forestry Department, FAO*

Mr Marchi's background is in remote sensing for natural resources evaluation. He has been working in FAO headquarters and field offices for around ten years in geospatial information management and publishing, with a parenthesis at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission as spatial data analyst and experiences in the US Geological Survey and Italian research institutions. He is supporter of free and open source solutions.

## Dieffi Tchifou MILTIADÉ



*CEO, Open-IT and Information Systems Designer*

Mr Miltiade is a computer science engineer specialized in networks and multimedia applications. He is working on the design and development of simplified tools for data collection and analysis, such as mobile and web-based data collection tools. He also has experience in network administration, database management, design of mobile data collection tools and data analysis design of communication tools such as websites and social networks. Mr Miltiade is one of the two African winners of the best presentation at Evaluation Week organized by the Independent Development Evaluation of the African Development Bank. He graduated from the University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon, with an MSc in Networks and Multimedia Applications.

## Danilo MOLLICONE



*Forestry Officer and Project Lead Technical Officer, Forestry Department, FAO*

Dr Mollicone is a forest ecologist working in the Forestry Department of FAO. Prior to joining FAO, he was working as a scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry and at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission conducting research activities on boreal, temperate and tropical forests. At FAO he has coordinated several projects on land use and forest monitoring and various REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and

forest degradation)-related activities. In the context of the Open Foris Initiative, he is inspiring the development of new open-source applications to support forest monitoring and management.

## Richard PELRINE



*Regional Economist, West and Central Africa Division, IFAD*

Mr Pelrine is responsible for the analysis of economic trends and strategic planning for IFAD's investments, oversight of policy dialogue, and management of strategic partnerships. He also supports the division and the organization on issues pertinent to rural finance and private sector engagement. Before joining IFAD, Mr Pelrine was a senior rural finance consultant, fund manager and banking professional. He worked for over 20 years directly in the financial sector or as a consultant to financiers and donors across Africa, with long-term engagements in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. He specialized in analysis of agribusiness markets for value chain investments, agribusiness finance, risk management, training of financiers, product development and start-up institutions.

## Giancarlo PINI



*Independent consultant, WFP*

Mr Pini joined the Food Security Analysis and Trends Service at WFP in 2013 as remote sensing and climate analysis expert. He is operating the IFAD-WFP Joint Climate Analysis Partnership aimed at i) producing country climate analysis and ii) supporting IFAD in the integration of remote sensing and spatial analysis in project phases.

Previous experiences with the Monitoring Agricultural Resources Unit of the European Union-Joint Research Center, IBIMeT (Italian National Research Council) and Italian Development Cooperation. He holds a MSc in Tropical Agronomy and a Master in Remote Sensing and Natural Resources.

## Linda RAFTREE



*Independent consultant*

Ms Raftree supports digital strategy, programme design, policy, and research for international development initiatives. She currently consults with Girl Effect Mobile on digital safety, security, privacy, strategy, and learning, and advises the Rockefeller Foundation's Evaluation Office on the use of ICTs in M&E. Ms Raftree organizes Monitoring, Evaluation, Resolution and Learning Tech and other discussion and learning events through Kurante, a company she co-founded. She is also a co-founder of Regarding Humanity, which encourages debate and dialogue around

the portrayal of the poor in the media, social impact work, and non-profit marketing. Ms Raftree runs Technology Salons in New York City and advocates for ethical approaches to using ICTs and digital data in the humanitarian and development spaces. Prior to becoming an independent consultant, she worked for 16 years with Plan International. Ms Raftree blogs about technology and development at "Wait... What?"

## Stuart SHULMAN



### *Founder and CEO, Texifter LLC*

Dr Shulman is the sole inventor of the Coding Analysis Toolkit, an open source, web-based collaborative text analysis software project, as well as the commercial analytic network known as DiscoverText and the historical Twitter tool Sifter. He is currently the founder & CEO of Texifter. He was a Research Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the founding Director of the Qualitative Data Analysis Program at the University of Pittsburgh and at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr Shulman is Editor Emeritus

of the Journal of Information Technology and Politics, the official journal of the Information Technology and Politics section of the American Political Science Association. He was the Principal Investigator and Project Director for ten US National Science Foundation-funded research projects focusing on electronic rulemaking, human language technologies, manual annotation, digital citizenship, and service-learning efforts.

## Rupert SIMONS



### *CEO, Publish What You Fund*

Publish What You Fund is a global campaign for aid transparency that works towards transparency and availability of information for aid and development in order to create effective decision-making, public accountability and lasting change. Before joining Publish What You Fund in 2015, Mr Simons worked for the Tony Blair Africa Governance Initiative as country head. He started his career in the private sector and spent five years as a consultant for McKinsey & Company, where he worked on projects in a range of areas, including agriculture,

climate change and development. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford and a Master of Public Administration in International Development from Harvard's Kennedy School.

## Charlotte SOEDJAK



### *Project Manager, Akvo Foundation*

Ms Soedjak is a project manager for Akvo in Amsterdam since 2012, and in this role is responsible for managing a range of existing partnerships and programmes, as well as engaging with new partners. In addition, she supports partners with implementing Akvo tools and services, and she facilitates training workshops on the use of Akvo tools around data collection, monitoring and results reporting (including IATI). Charlotte has an MSc in Sustainable Tourism and Environment from Wageningen University. Prior to working for Akvo she finalized a research project for World Wildlife Fund for Nature Indonesia, focusing on participatory

tourism development in the Wakatobi Marine National Park in Sulawesi. Charlotte has spent time living and working in Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia.



## Alberto SOUVIRON



### *Digital Media Specialist*

Mr Souviron has a strong background in leading, guiding and supporting multimedia and multicultural organizations in the implementation of social media, online journalism, digital marketing and corporate communications at regional and global levels.

He focuses on developing digital and social media strategies for corporations, publishers and small businesses, as well as on training multimedia teams.

## Emily TOMKYS



### *ICT in Programme Officer, Oxfam GB*

Ms Tomkys specializes in mobile data collection and mobile case management, and coordinates Oxfam's work on how ICTs can be used in MEAL. She is also exploring how to improve applying MEAL to projects that use ICTs to maximize organizational learning and programme quality. Before this role, she worked as a research analyst, first in the Insights Team and later the Protection Team.

## Juha Ilari UITTO



### *Director, Independent Evaluation Office, GEF*

Dr Uitto came to his current position in September 2014 after being the Deputy Director of the Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP from 2009 to 2014. He has conducted and managed a large number of programmatic and thematic evaluations of international cooperation at the global, regional and country levels, in particular related to environmental management and poverty-environment linkages. Dr Uitto has extensive experience within academia and international development, including the United Nations University, the Nordic Africa

Institute, and IFAD. He has authored/edited several books and published more than 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on topics related to the environment and evaluation.

## Monica ZIKUSOOKA



### *Regional Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Manager, Save the Children-East and Southern Africa Region*

Ms Zikusooka's work profile focuses on MEAL systems-building, results monitoring and evidence generation, capacity-building, cross-country learning, and linking the region to Save the Children's global MEAL strategy and work streams. She has over 12 years of experience in programme development, monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning, strategy leadership, programme design and performance measurement, remote monitoring, staff capacity-building and programme-related research. She also has a keen interest in evaluation research and other research based on large-scale secondary data.

## Tech Fair Exhibitors

The Tech Fair will serve as an opportunity for interaction and networking between development evaluators and service providers of IT tools. The conference will feature 12 vendors who will demonstrate their products and services. This will provide an opportunity to anchor the discussion during the breakout sessions in a hands-on approach to seeing what ICT4Eval tools look like and what their usage means. Following is a description of the participants in the Tech Fair and a summary of their products and services on display.

### Akvo Foundation

**Representatives: Stefan Kraus, Programme Manager, Akvo South East Asia; Charlotte Soedjak Project Manager, Akvo Foundation; Marijke de Graaf, Food Security Strategy and Policy Advisor, ICCO Cooperation**

It is clear that the post-2015 sustainable development agenda is driving a large demand for high-quality, disaggregated monitoring data. However, many organizations involved in international development do not have the capacity or support to transform data into compelling information that can help them allocate resources and make good, timely decisions. Furthermore, the increasing number of new and unsupported tools means that data are often collected using inconsistent methodologies and located in fragmented sources.

At our booth we will demonstrate a range of the latest technologies that can help you get the most out of your data, as well as practical examples of how they are being used. These include water-quality testing using a smartphone, and an online data transformation, analysis and visualization platform.

Akvo is a global not-for-profit foundation that builds open-source mobile and web-

based tools to capture, analyse and share data, coupled with regional training and support services.

ICCO Cooperation is an international NGO supporting smallholder farmers in Africa, Asia and South America to boost their productivity and to improve the food security of their communities.

We are looking forward to meeting you at our stand, where we are keen to exchange experiences and provide further information.

### Aptivate

**Representatives: Ian Hallworth and Alan McNeil Jackson**

Aptivate is an international software design collective with a twist: we believe participation is the only fair and successful way to create software. If you want IT to have a positive impact on your programme then come and talk to Alan and Ian about how we do that.

We are developing “Kashana”, an open source, collaborative, logframe management tool. If you have an inbox full of logframe spreadsheets and you’re not sure which one to use then Kashana is your friend.

We are building “EvalC3” for Rick Davies to implement his algorithm for cross-programme analysis. It predicts the key success criteria for projects. Come to our stall if you would like a demonstration.

We work with organizations both large and small such as Africa’s Voices, Christian Blind Mission, United Kingdom Department for International Development, FAO, International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Overseas Development Institute, Save the Children, WaterAid, World Health Organization, WFP, UN Habitat, and the World Bank.

## Development Gateway

### Representative: Taryn Davis, Senior Associate

What are you doing with your Maya Embedded Language (MEL) data? In the past few years, there have been great jumps in the use and reach of ICTs for data collection and analysis. These new data sources have led to more data but have they led to more data use? We have created lightweight, iterative, and customizable suite of digital tools for Monitoring, Evaluation, Resolution and Learning data management, sharing, and use. AdaptMIS has customized reports and dashboards that allow users to understand and interpret the data collected through ICT tools. The multi-database integration and Application Programming Interface development allow users to access multiple data sources without reporting duplication. AdaptMIS is flexible, with the ability to use various indicator libraries or custom indicators, and is both modular and agile, allowing for both organization- or project-wide MEL support.

Development Gateway will demonstrate AdaptMIS, including dashboards, reporting, and survey capabilities.

## Dobility (SurveyCTO)

### Representative: Alexis Ditzkowski, Business and Community Strategy

SurveyCTO is an Open Data Kit-based data collection platform that has been used to collect millions of submissions in over 130 countries by organizations such as the Innovations for Poverty Action, International Food Policy Research Institute, Harvard University, Oxfam, the World Bank, and many others committed to rigorous evaluation in rural economic development, agriculture, health, education, and other sectors.

The booth will include demonstrations of our field-tested, offline capable technology – and the data flow from device to server to monitoring dashboard, with examples

of how to make subsets of data visible to different end-users. We will highlight our robust data security features, which include easy generation and attachment of public/private key pairs to survey forms and the ability to view and visualize encrypted data in our built-in Data Explorer. We will provide resources on data security best practices at each stage of the data collection process.

We will also demonstrate our industry-leading quality control features, which include random audio audits, text audits, and automated quality checks, and our most popular features, which include media-rich field types, the ability to preload and stream data, case management, GPS capture, and easy toggling between languages.

In tandem with demonstrations of the SurveyCTO platform and related integrations, we will share lessons from our users, who have worked – and continue to work – relentlessly to improve their data collection practices in low-resource settings. Our users have also made strides in their practices around disseminating research and sharing best practices, which we will discuss as well. Visitors will be able to test the technology with a computer, monitor, tablet and phone that will be on display.

## Echo Mobile

### Representative: Boris Maguire, Head of Deployment

Echo Mobile's mission is to empower organizations with mobile tools to enable data-driven decisions. We operate a cloud-based, mobile-enabled data collection and customer engagement platform. Our clients include companies, non-profits, and government agencies working in diverse sectors such as agriculture, education, finance, health and manufacturing.

In emerging markets, organizations have to surmount immense barriers to effectively communicate with and understand the remote markets they serve. To address these barriers, the Echo platform was

developed to allow organizations to leverage the ubiquitous mobile phone in order to engage in two-way communication with their clients and better understand their needs and improve the services and products they provide.

The Echo Mobile platform uses a variety of 2G (SMS, automated voice calls, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data) and 3G (Android apps, sensors) channels to easily collect and disseminate information. Using the platform's simple point-and-click survey builder tool, Echo's users set up flexible, automated conversations, which can be triggered by incoming messages or scheduled for delivery. Through these toll-free mobile conversations, individual customer profiles are created, enabling organizations to precisely target future client communication and services.

For the IFAD ICT4Eval Conference, the Echo Mobile booth will highlight how our technology works, and share examples and best practices from current deployments in the agriculture sector. To illustrate the platform's functionality, participants will be invited to take part in an SMS survey at the booth. Booth visitors will be asked to use their cell phone to trigger a three-question survey about their involvement within ICTs and agriculture work. On a screen setup at the booth, participants will see their answers on the Echo Mobile platform as the data are collected in real time.

Through this interaction, participants will be able to experience both the "end user"/farmer experience via text-based conversation, as well as that of the platform user. Participants will see the value of real-time data aggregation and will be able to discuss strategies for how they can use these tools in their own organization to engage those they serve, receive feedback, and use the information collected to drive data-driven decisions.

This demonstration dovetails with the conference themes of ICT for data collection (collecting data via SMS), data dissemination (sending farmers

information regarding planting, harvesting, disease control, etc.) and also data analysis (showing how the Echo Platform aggregates and visualizes data to make analysis quite simple).

## **Energypedia Consult GmbH**

**Representative: Robert Heine,  
Managing Director**

Did you join the international development workforce to spend your days reading e-mails and looking for pieces of information? True, we need IT-solutions to communicate, coordinate and manage our daily tasks. But do you use the right IT-solution and do you think the IT provider understands your problems?

We, the developers of WebMo, are development practitioners ourselves and understand that your work in this sector requires an appropriate software solution that is flexible, economic and fair. Software should not be yet another time-killer, but should save time for what really matters in our jobs.

This is the reason why we developed WebMo. WebMo is the perfect software toolkit for results-based monitoring, reporting, knowledge management and more. It is very flexible and follows a total open approach. It is designed for organizations and projects in the field of development cooperation. It helps you to manage your monitoring data in a single user-friendly system. With WebMo you always have all relevant information at hand for management decisions, project management as well as reporting and evaluation.

And WebMo supports you even with your day-to-day work. WebMo helps you to coordinate your team and to quickly find the information that you are looking for. There is a better way than e-mails to share publications, lessons learned, workshop results and new ideas. WebMo offers a wide range of applications to tackle the challenges of project and knowledge management.

## Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Representative: Giulio Marchi, Geospatial Forestry Officer, Forestry Department, FAO**

Accurate and timely land monitoring can support project evaluation when the characteristics to be evaluated can be assessed from satellite images and derived data such as vegetation indexes. Collect Earth is a free and open source software, based on freely available images, with an easy interface and allowing powerful features of data collection and analysis. The demo booth will be set-up to accommodate two laptops and one additional monitor or projector per laptop. Attendees will have the opportunity to test first-hand the features of the system and to be guided in a sampling exercise.

## Gnucoop Soc. Coop

**Representatives: Giuditta Caimi, Social Media Manager and Andrea M. Bertolazzi, Sysadmin and Trainer**

Gnucoop is a team of engineers, experts in information technology and professionals in the field of development and cooperation. Two working tools will be exhibited at the fair:

- **Twine**, a new data collection and reporting application, developed for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Health Information System;
- **Parsifal**, an M&E web platform to plan and monitor indicators throughout the duration of a project.

### Twine

Twine is a web-based platform currently being used by UNHCR in refugee operations for data collection and reporting. Gnucoop first approached this system in order to analyse its weaknesses and to come up with suggestions for developing a new high-performing and user-friendly application.

Our application is being designed from scratch, including a total review of the current system architecture and the development of a mobile application for a unique data collection tool that represents the greatest innovation of the project. This application allows users to collect data (through web and mobile app) and compile entry forms in a user-friendly way, visualize data, and analyse and generate reports at different levels: from refugee camps worldwide to country offices up to regional and headquarters level. The type of information concerns healthcare, water and sanitation, nutrition and food security sectors.

Twine is easily learned, which is quite beneficial for UNHCR at all levels because it allows the standardization and the acceleration of several operations: it has just one interface for data entry; it offers the possibility of working offline and synchronizing when connection is available; and it allows selected users to create and modify forms for data collection.

During the Tech Fair the interested visitors will be provided with a tablet to test the application in its various functionalities, from data collecting to data analysis.

### Parsifal

In 2014, Gnucoop developed an M&E web platform based on the logical framework approach, allowing project staff to systematically plan and monitor indicators throughout the duration of the project.

The next phase of this project is the integration of a mobile-phone data collection tool into the current system. We plan to release the source code under a free (as in speech) software license and it will be available probably through a GitHub repository, to trace changes and developments over time.

During the Fair, tablets will be made available to the participants to test the platform.



## Relief Applications/Tropical Health

**Representatives: Federica Basadonne, Business Development; Raphael Bonnaud, CEO; and Arturo Garcia Fernandez, Co-founder and Chief Technical Officer**

Relief Applications is a European-based organization serving the international humanitarian and development sectors. Founded in 2014 by two humanitarian workers, the organization provides a variety of services bridging humanitarian and development work with cutting-edge technology. As humanitarian experts, we are experienced in doing M&E of projects directly ourselves, emphasizing a working culture of readiness and flexibility to provide the best support possible for our partners with a wide range of tools. Thanks to our heterogeneous team of humanitarians and IT experts we can provide a vast range of services from data manipulation to web and app development, field training, program implementation, data collection and ICT evaluation.

Tropical Health is an international consultancy company specializing in the M&E of international aid programmes with a focus on health in Asia and Africa, in partnership with institutions such as World Health Organization, United States Agency for International Development, United Nations Children's Emergency Fund and many more.

Our two organizations have partnered in the past couple of years, implementing together an extensive three-year research on mosquito net durability monitoring in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania, integrating the research design and implementation with the design and application of ICT solutions for mobile data collection. To date, 14 data collection rounds were undertaken in nine different sites across the four countries; 22 further data collection rounds will be supported until 2019.

Our joint efforts are aimed at looking for new methods of gathering and

disseminating data to change the way evaluations are conducted. For example, we designed a tailored technical solution for the implementation phase of the durability monitoring project, developing an Open Data Kit survey, providing training to local GPS and Open Data Kit staff, and managing the collection of data in a secure and confidential manner with a special focus on project sustainability.

Often new technologies already exist on the field, providing many opportunities in data collection and management, but are still almost never used, mainly because of lack of understanding of the advantages they offer to humanitarian workers.

Our idea and objective is to improve existing IT tools, create new ones and promote their extended use in the humanitarian community. We believe that new IT tools, even simple ones, can significantly increase the efficiency of the outcome work of an organization, and by doing so improve the impact of its programs in favour of those in need. Our goal is to offer the most relevant, state-of-the-art technological tools to humanitarian organizations.

## TechnoServe, Inc.

**Representatives: David Galaty, Director, Research and Innovation-East Africa and Paul Ngugi, Regional Analyst, Innovations in Outcome Measurement, TechnoServe East Africa**

The application of drone technology (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) for remote sensing in agriculture promises to revolutionize the agriculture sector by providing timely, low-cost, precise and actionable agricultural data, improved efficiency in agricultural investment, greater returns, lower risks and a direct, significant and rapid contribution to SDGs 1, 2 and 6 (No Hunger, Zero Poverty and Clean Water and Sanitation).

Accurate and timely assessments of certain key variables that contribute to crop and livestock production and low



cost not only enable better and faster business decisions and have capacity to revolutionize all sectors of the economy, but are important elements of food security, rural, urban and infrastructural decision-making for both public and private sector actors. Analysis of these variables would help to understand the impact they have on probable outcomes and to develop a guiding framework for decision-making not just at production but also at macro-economic level.

The Innovations in Outcome Measurement project is a two-year partnership between Technoserve, Inc. and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that aims to bridge the information gap between researchers and others involved in the development of innovations in agricultural measurement and transformation.

The project has initiated the use of drone technology in the East African region. In 2017, in collaboration with local partners (the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, private sector remote sensing firms GeoGecko and Earth Consult, and agribusinesses Equator Seed, SAB Miller and Earth Consult), the project executed drone missions (overflights) in Uganda regarding various agricultural activities: barley and sorghum farming, commercial maize seed production and water infrastructure development/planning.

Analysis of the data will be completed by mid-May and the outcome of this effort will be an in-depth understanding of the effectiveness of drone technology as a tool for decision-making around key variables. For instance, we shall be able to automatically calculate the volumes of water in valley-tanks in Karamoja, Uganda, under scenarios associated with construction of dams at various locations and at various heights, which will enable and inform long-term investments in improving community water access at less than 1 per cent of the cost and time taken using alternative methods. Additionally, agricultural field data collected using drones provides highly precise and

low-cost data on key variables such as area/crop under cultivation, Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, application of agricultural practices (e.g. row planting, soil health, fertilizer application, weeding and post-harvest handling practices, and yield projections). At the Tech Fair, we plan to present visual and video representations of the collection and analysis of these data, the cost/time savings, the improved decision-making benefits associated with using these techniques, and the projected end-results of those improved decisions under various scenarios.

### **Texifter**

**Representative: Dr Stuart Shulman, Founder and CEO**

The Texifter booth will show how to use measurement tools to improve and rank human and machine performance, classifying text data over time. Dr Shulman will be on hand to talk about how to substantiate inferences about text using a theoretical and applied model informed by a decade of National Science Foundation-funded research. Texifter builds tools in a web-based platform for adjudicating the work of multiple coders assigned to a labelling task. Adjudication allows a review of the way a group labels data to decide who was right or wrong. It is especially useful for surfacing boundary cases that confound the analytical model. Iterative validation cycles create a “gold standard” and over time create a score of the likelihood that an individual coder will create an accurate observation. Visit our booth at the Tech Fair to learn how and why to apply “CoderRank” when creating training sets for machine-learning.

### **VECO International**

**Representative: Steff Deprez, independent consultant**

The IB-scan is a narrative-based monitoring and decision-making tool (powered by SenseMaker® that provides real-time feedback on the complex business relations

between farmers and their organizations and/or buyers. The IB-scan is based on the collection of large amounts of micro-narratives from smallholder farmers that are self-interpreted at the point of origin through a unique index system (signification framework). Pattern detection software renders the original narrative material into visual patterns and statistical data which allow users to gain quick insights about the inclusivity of a particular business model.

The IB-scan offers companies, service providers and development actors a hands-on monitoring tool that provides fast and efficient feedback from smallholder producers in value chain interventions. The IB-scan comes as a tailor-made implementation package aligned with the needs of the end-users.

**akvo.org**  
See it happen

AptIVATE



**Dobility**

**SurveyCTO**



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**Gnucoop**

**Relief**   
applications



**TROPICAL  
HEALTH**



**TECHNOSERVE**  
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY

 **texifter**



A better  
deal for  
farmers

## Logistics

### Lost and found

The Security Unit keeps a record of items that are lost and found in IFAD. Lost items will be kept initially at the main guardhouse. If not collected during the event, they will be delivered to the Pass & ID office behind the reception desk.

Queries can be addressed directly to the Security Unit, on ext. 2538 or by e-mail to [security@ifad.org](mailto:security@ifad.org).

### Lunch

The IFAD cafeteria is located on the ground floor and is open from 7:30 to 17:30. It offers cold and hot beverages, sandwiches and pastries, and it operates as a self-service restaurant serving hot and cold meals from 12:00 to 14:30.

Just across the IFAD gate, there are many cafeterias and restaurants.

Vending machines with refreshments and snacks are available in the conference area and on the second and fifth floor.

### Social media

To stimulate the conversation, live tweets will be displayed on the Twitter wall in the Italian Room during the plenaries. You are encouraged to share your ideas, views and insights via social media channels using the hashtag **#ICT4Eval**.

### Webcast

The conference can be followed via webcast at the following link:

[https://webcasting.ifad.org/it\\_evaluation](https://webcasting.ifad.org/it_evaluation)

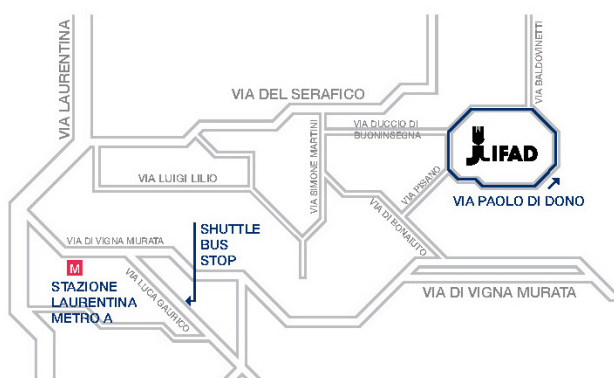
### WiFi

WiFi facilities are available in all meeting rooms. You can connect to the **ifad\_guest** network using **ifadguest** as the password and use the computers provided in the Internet cafe located in the -1 conference area.

### Shuttle bus

The shuttle bus service between Laurentina metro station and IFAD headquarters is available, every 15 minutes, from 7.40 to 9.25 in the morning and from 16.45 to 18.50 in the evening. On 6 July it will also be available at 19:15 and 19:45.

The pick-up and drop-off point at Laurentina metro is Viale Luca Gaurico 9-11, on the main road behind the station. The IFAD drop-off and pick-up point is the yellow bus stop adjacent to the main entrance of the guardhouse (between Via Paolo di Dono 50 and 44).



### Shuttle bus service schedule

Departing from **Laurentina - viale Luca Gaurico 9-11**:

07:40 - 07:55 - 08:10 - 08:25 - 08:40 -  
08:55 - 09:10 - 09:25

Departing from **IFAD - via Paolo di Dono 44-82**:

16:45 - 17:05 - 17:20 - 17:35 - 17:50 -  
18:05 - 18:20 - 18:35 - 18:50

Only on 6 July: 19:15 - 19:45

### Other transportation

**Public bus.** The public bus #764, which takes to the Laurentina Metro station, can be taken at the bus stop across from the IFAD entrance, in Via Baldovinetti.

**Taxi.** You may ask the IFAD guard house at the main entrance to call a taxi for you, or call for one (Telephone number: 6644). You can also book a private taxi service (Blue Car: +39 348-359-0087, English spoken).

## NOTES













*The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience. Since 1978, we have provided US\$18.5 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached about 464 million people. IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized United Nations agency based in Rome – the UN's food and agriculture hub.*

*The Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) conducts evaluations of IFAD-financed policies, strategies and operations to promote accountability and learning. The main purpose is to contribute to improving IFAD's and its partners' performance in supporting rural transformation in developing Member countries. IOE's independent evaluations assess the impact of IFAD-funded activities and give an analysis of successes and shortcomings – to tell it the way it is – as well as identify factors affecting performance. Based on the key insights and recommendations drawn from evaluation findings, IOE communicates and shares IFAD's knowledge and experience in agriculture and rural development with a wider audience.*

**Independent Office  
of Evaluation**



Investing in rural people

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All evaluation reports are disclosed to the public at:  
**[www.ifad.org/evaluation](http://www.ifad.org/evaluation)**

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