



Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

Speaker Biographies

Carlos Seré



Carlos Seré, a citizen of Uruguay, became Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in January 2002. ILRI is one of fifteen international agricultural research centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Prior to joining ILRI, Dr. Seré worked for the Latin America and Caribbean office of the International Development Research Centre (Canada), first managing a portfolio of agricultural and natural resource management projects and, since 1996, serving as regional director. From 1990 to 1994 he was an independent consultant, reviewing research and development activities such as the dairy sector in Ecuadorian Sierra, farmer development in Uruguay, soil conservation in eastern Paraguay and global livestock production systems for a major study of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Dr. Seré's expertise is broad, including tropical livestock production systems, foot-and-mouth disease, smallholder dairy farming, tropical pastures and quantification of the costs and benefits of research. Dr. Seré has a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Hohenheim, Germany.

Joachim von Braun



Joachim von Braun has been director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) since 2002. Von Braun has been in the lead of the discussions about what to do about the food price crisis. His early warnings about the emerging world food crisis and calls for actions are extensively featured in the international media, such as BBC and CNN, and in radio and print media around the world in 2007 and 2008. As IFPRI's Director General, he guides and oversees the Institute's efforts to provide research-based sustainable solutions for ending hunger and malnutrition. With about 250 staff members—two thirds of which are based in Washington DC—IFPRI is the world's premier research center on food and agriculture policy research. Before becoming IFPRI's Director General in 2002, he served as Director of the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn, Germany, and was Professor at the Institute for Agricultural Policy and Applied Economics, University of Bonn. Dr. von Braun has done economics research at global and regional levels and in Egypt, Sub Sahara Africa, China, and Russia. He has published extensively, chiefly on the topics of economic policy, agriculture change, science and technology and on policy issues relating to trade, hunger, health, and nutrition. He was President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists in 2000-2003, is a member of Academies in Germany and China, Fellow of AAAS, and serves numerous scientific societies, international organizations, and advisory councils/boards around the world. He has a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Gottingen, Germany.

Robert Zeigler



Dr. Robert S. Zeigler has held the position of director general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) since 2005. He started his career as a computer operator and laboratory assistant in botany at the University of Illinois in the early 1970s. In 1972-74, he worked as a secondary school science teacher as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Mokala, Zaire. After his graduate studies, Zeigler spent a few years at CIAT, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture. In 1992-99, he led several IRRI programmes. After serving as director of Kansas State University's Plant Biotechnology Center in 1999-2003, he joined the CGIAR Generation Challenge Programme as its director, based in Mexico for one year, before starting his current position at IRRI. Zeigler holds a BS from the University of Illinois (1972), an MS in botany from Oregon State University (1978), and a PhD in plant pathology from Cornell University (1982). Since 2007, he has been a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).