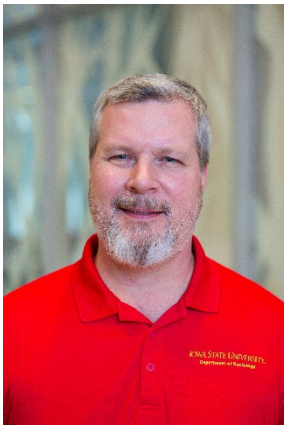
Speakers & Panelists

Jay Famiglietti is a hydrologist and Global Futures Professor at Arizona State University where he is Director of Science for the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative. Before moving to ASU, he was Executive Director of the University of Saskatchewan's Global Institute for Water Security; he was Senior Water Scientist at Caltech's NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory; he was appointed to the California State Water Boards by Governor Jerry Brown; and he held faculty positions at UC Irvine and UT Austin. His research group uses satellites to track how freshwater availability is changing around the globe. They pioneered the methods to detect groundwater depletion from space.

Dr. Caro Córdova is an Assistant Professor and Statewide Soil Health Specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. A soil scientist and trained agroecologist, she holds a PhD degree from Iowa State University. Her research emphasizes carbon sequestration, nitrogen fixation, and long-term resilience in diverse cropping systems, contributing to the advancement of regenerative agriculture globally. Dr. Córdova co-leads the Water Integrated Cropping Systems-Soil Health Team at UNL, and is a member of the Long-term Agroecosystems Research National Network (ARS-USDA), and the Nebraska Strategic Agriculture Coalition. With extensive experience in both the U.S. and Latin America, her work significantly advancing regenerative agricultural practices and soil health initiatives on regional and global scales.

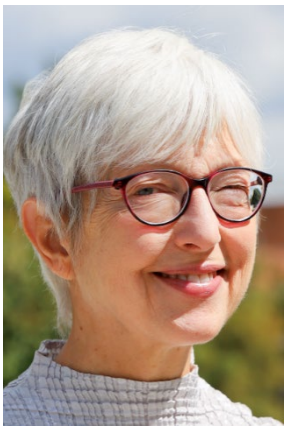
Charles (Chuck) Rice joined Kansas State University in 1988 and is a University Distinguished Professor and holds the Vanier University Professorship at Kansas State University. He is a Professor of Soil Microbiology in the Department of Agronomy. Dr. Rice teaches courses and conducts research on soil carbon and nitrogen, soil health, microbial ecology, and climate change impacts on agricultural and grassland ecosystems. He has received over $90 million in research grants, has advised over 50 graduate students and 18 post-doctorates and has over 250 publications. Internationally, he served on the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to author a report on Climate Change in 2007 and 2014 and was among scientists recognized when that work won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. He is a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America, the American Society of Agronomy, Sigma Xi, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2020, Dr. Rice received the title of "National Associate" of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Rice chaired the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources of the U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine from 2016-2022.



J. Arbuckle is a rural sociologist at Iowa State University. His research and extension efforts focus on improving the agronomic, environmental, and social performance of agricultural systems through better understanding of knowledge, attitudes, and other drivers of farmers' and agricultural stakeholders' decisions and behavior.

Dr. Madhu Khanna is the ACES Distinguished Professor of Environmental Economics in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics and Alvin H. Baum Family Chair and Director of the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received her Ph.D from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research is at the intersection of agricultural, energy and environmental economics. She has served on the USEPA Science Advisory Board for 10 years and as a Chair/member of panels and advisory committees for NIFA, USEPA and NSF and the National Academy of Sciences. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE). She is a University of Illinois Scholar, a Stanford Woods Institute of Environment Leopold Leadership Fellow, AAEA Fellow and AAEA past President, and fellow of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) and member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Agricultural Economics.

Dr. Roger Wyse is co-Founder and Managing Partner at Spruce Capital Partners, a venture capital management company investing in innovative private companies in agriculture, food and industrial biotechnology. Prior to his 25-year career in venture capital he served as a Dean at Rutgers University and then Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW Madison. His award-winning research career spanned 15 years at USDA ARS. He currently serves on numerous company and several not-for-profit boards including the NASEM Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources, BIO, and BioMade.



Valerie M. Thomas is the Anderson-Interface Chair of Natural Systems at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School of Public Policy. She specializes in industrial ecology, systems analysis, and evaluating greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts. Her research includes study of the use of biomass for fuels, chemicals and other products. Thomas has a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Cornell University and has worked at Carnegie Mellon University and Princeton University, and has served as a Congressional Science Fellow, funded by the American Physics Society.

Ermias Kebreab is the Associate Dean of Global Engagement at the University of California, Davis, and holds the Sesnon Endowed Professorship in Sustainable Animal Agriculture. He is a leading expert in climate-smart livestock systems and contributed to the 2019 IPCC update on enteric methane emissions. Dr. Kebreab has chaired UN FAO committees, serves on the Board on Natural and Agricultural Resources at the National Academy of Sciences, and has published over 300 peer-reviewed articles. His work has earned numerous honors, including recognition as one of Business Insider's top 30 global climate leaders in.