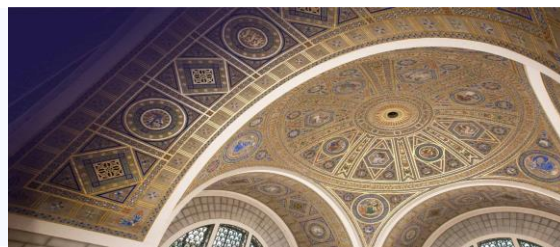


Exploring Linkages Between Soil Health and Human Health

Meeting 1 (Virtual) – April 12, 2023

Public Agenda



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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023 (ET)

Purpose Discuss statement of task with study sponsor

Open Session

2:30

Welcome

Diana H. Wall, Committee Chair & Session Moderator, Colorado State University

2:40

Committee Introductions

2:45

Overview of the National Academies Study Process

Kara Laney, Study Director, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

2:50

Sponsor Perspective on Study Statement of Task

Kevin Kephart, Deputy Director, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Sandeep Kumar, National Program Leader, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Suzanne Stluka, Deputy Director, Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

3:00

Discussion with Committee

4:30

Open Session Adjourns

SPEAKER BIOS

KEVIN KEPHART, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE–NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Dr. Kephart is the deputy director of the Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment (IBCE) in the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. With a background in federal and state public research, technology transfer, and industry R&D, Dr. Kephart has led the diverse team of talent in IBCE since September 2021. From 2017 to 2019 Kevin led strategic university collaborations and scientific communications at Indigo Ag, Inc., a company based in Boston with a mission that centers around technologies for plant microbiomes and risk

mitigation practices for field crops. From 2005 to 2016 he was vice president for research and economic development at South Dakota State University (SDSU), managing a \$70 million research portfolio and implementing initiatives such as the Sun Grant Initiative. Over the course of his 30 years at SDSU, Kephart served in a variety of leadership roles, fostering strong organizational growth through the expansion of strategic partnerships in fields such as crop breeding and genetics, biotechnology, human nutrition and the microbiome, pharmaceutical sciences, and precision agriculture. He also spearheaded SDSU's intellectual property portfolio and led the university's well-recognized work in wheat R&D through new partnerships with agricultural technology companies, conservation groups, and grower organizations. Prior to his term as vice president at SDSU, Dr. Kephart served as director of the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. He served as co-chair of the Technical Advisory Committee of the USDA/DOE Biomass R&D Initiative from 2012 to 2016, one of numerous board positions he has held. He earned a B.S. degree in agricultural sciences (soils) from Montana State University, an M.S. degree in agronomy from the University of Wyoming, and a Ph.D. in crop production and physiology from Iowa State University.

SANDEEP KUMAR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Dr. Kumar serves as a National Program Leader at NIFA, a role he took on in August 2021. Prior to joining NIFA, he worked at South Dakota State University, and before that he was working as Postdoctoral Researcher and Research Scientist at The Ohio State University. He was involved with various research projects focused on developing sustainable management systems (e.g., converting to no-till, adding cover crops, integrating crops and livestock, diversifying rotations, introducing perennial grasses on marginal lands) and their impacts on soil health, agricultural emissions, water quantity and quality. He worked with various extension specialists, social scientists, and economists to convey the importance of sustainable management systems to agricultural producers and policy makers. Dr. Kumar received his PhD in soils (2009) from University of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri, and Bachelor of Science in agriculture (2003), and Master of Science in soils (2005), both from Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur, India.

SUZANNE STLUKA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Dr. Stluka earned a B.S. in family and consumer sciences education and nutrition (dietetics) from South Dakota State University, an M.S. degree in family and consumer sciences from the University of Eastern Illinois, and a Ph.D. degree in human sciences from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is also a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Prior to joining NIFA, Dr. Stluka served over 15 years with Cooperative Extension Service as the associate director at Montana State University Extension and in several leadership roles at South Dakota State University Extension. Throughout her career she has maintained an active research and extension portfolio, exploring topics such as community resiliency, farm stress, trauma, food insecurity, nutrition education, community development, community coaching, and policy, systems, and environmental work in the areas of nutrition and physical activity; primarily conducted in and with rural, frontier, and tribal communities. In July 2020, Dr. Stluka moved to NIFA where she now serves as the deputy director for the Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition.