



Power Relationships Within Food Systems

Tuesday 27 July | 08:00-08:50 CEST | Online Webinar

Addressing the role of power relationships in entrenching an unsustainable and inequitable food system is key to achieving any meaningful change. This session will bring together stakeholders, or rather 'rightsholders', who represent different parts of power structures within food systems; from farmers and indigenous peoples to governments and civil society. We will consider the role of power (and its increasing consolidation) in influencing people's lived realities, and how it may constrain the realisation of each person's full capacity (e.g. through limiting access to nutrition, or income). We will also address the processes that shape power relationships as a key route to identifying how they can be changed to create greater equality.

Agenda

8:00 – 8:05 | Welcome and Introduction

- Professor Tim Benton, Research Director, Energy, Environment and Resources Programme, Chatham House

8:05 – 8:10 | Reflections from Stakeholder Workshop

- Thiago Uehara, Research Fellow, Energy, Environment and Resources Programme, Chatham House

8:10 – 8:35 | Panellist Remarks (5min each)

- Sylvia Mallari, Global Co-Chairperson, People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty
- Nitya Rao, Director, Norwich Institute for Sustainable Development, University of East Anglia
- Jay Naidoo, former Founding Trustee, Earthrise Trust; and former Chairman, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
- Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights; former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food
- Ertharin Cousin, Founder and CEO at Food Systems for the Future; Distinguished Fellow, Chicago Council on Global Affairs

8:35 – 8:45 | Audience Q&A

- Moderator: Professor Tim Benton, Research Director, Energy, Environment and Resources Programme, Chatham House

8:45 – 8:50 | Closing remarks

- Ajay Vir Jakhar, Chairman, Bharat Krishi Samaj (Farmers' Forum India)

Biographies:**Professor Tim Benton, Research Director, Energy, Environment and Resources Programme, Chatham House**

Professor Tim Benton leads the Energy, Environment and Resources programme at Chatham House. He joined Chatham House in 2016 as a distinguished visiting fellow, when he was also dean of strategic research initiatives at the University of Leeds. From 2011-2016 he was the “champion” of the UK’s Global Food Security programme which was a multi-agency partnership of the UK’s public bodies (government departments, devolved governments and research councils) with an interest in the challenges around food. He has worked with UK governments, the EU and G20. He has been a global agenda steward of the World Economic Forum and is an author of the IPCC’s *Special Report on Food, Land and Climate* (2019), and the *UK’s Climate Change Risk Assessment*. He has published more than 150 academic papers, many tackling how systems respond to environmental change.

Ajay Vir Jakhar, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj (Farmers’ Forum India)

Ajay Vir Jakhar is a farmer based in Village Maujgarh in Punjab, India. He is Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj (Farmers’ Forum India) formed in 1955. A non-political association of farmers’ advocating the crucial need to focus on farmer prosperity. Working with a diverse set of stakeholders and policymakers to develop an understanding of the complexity of the problems, attempting to shift the narrative & build a consensus to provide solutions. Regularly convene seminars and conferences on issues of relevance to rural communities. He is also the Chairman of Punjab State Farmers’ and Farm Workers’ Commission in Punjab. The Commission is the statutory body to advise the State Government of Punjab, India on improving rural livelihoods and on all matters related to those dependent on agriculture. He is a member in a village cooperative and also on the advisory board of the Eat Foundation.

Sylvia Mallari, Global Co-Chairperson, People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty

Sylvia Mallari is the Global co-chairperson of the People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty. The People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty is a growing network of various grassroots groups of small food producers particularly of peasant-farmer organizations and their support NGOs, working towards a People’s Convention on Food Sovereignty. It was established first as an Asian component of the global agri-trade network on People’s Food Sovereignty in 2001 then eventually resulted in the collaboration of those involved in the People’s Caravan 2004 process and those who participated in the Asia Pacific People’s Convention on Food Sovereignty in Dhaka, Bangladesh in November 2004. Through these significant events, the process of developing the demands of peasants, fisherfolk and other sectors on the issues of peoples’ rights to food and the protection of small producers is now concretised through a draft Convention on Food Sovereignty. During the People’s Convention in Dhaka, the name “People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty” was adopted due to the growing number of organisations beyond Asia who have been involved in the Food Sovereignty platform.

Nitya Rao, Director, Norwich Institute for Sustainable Development, University of East Anglia

Nitya oversees the strategic direction of NISD and takes a lead in representing our research and institute externally. As Professor in Gender and Development, Nitya brings deep experience and understanding of farmer livelihoods, in contexts of climate variability, economic precarity and social inequality. Driven by a commitment to social and gender justice, her work has a strong focus on the impacts of change and innovations on improving wellbeing

of people, especially ensuring food and nutrition security. At present, Nitya is a member of the Steering Group of the High Level Panel of Experts to the Committee on Global Food Security, with oversight for the 16th HLPE Report on youth engagement. Nitya is also a member of the Strategic Advisory Group to the Global Challenges Research Fund of the UK Government, engaging in policy discussions on the direction of UK aid for research and innovation in the current pandemic year, but looking into the future.

Jay Naidoo, former Founding Trustee, Earthrise Trust; and former Chairman, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Jay Naidoo is a social activist, dedicated to global voluntary work in the field of ecology, nutrition, and intergenerational partnerships. He is on the Board of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and a former Founding Trustee of the Earthrise Trust. Previously, Mr Naidoo was the Chairperson of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). He was also the founding General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the largest labour movement in South Africa, where he served three terms. Mr Naidoo served as Minister of Reconstruction and Development and Communications in President Nelson Mandela's Cabinet between 1994 and 1999. Mr Naidoo is passionate about supporting youth causes that put ecology and indigenous wisdom at their centre. He is the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights; former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Mr. De Schutter was appointed the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights by the Human Rights Council in March 2020. An expert on social and economic rights and on economic globalization and human rights, Mr. De Schutter served between 2004 and 2008 as a Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). He was then appointed the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, a mandate which he fulfilled between 2008 and 2014. He was elected a Member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which he joined in 2015 and to which he was reelected in 2019. Mr. De Schutter has published widely on economic and social rights and on the relationship between human rights and development. He has also published extensively on transnational corporations and human rights. He is the founder and Editor-in-chief of the *European Journal of Human Rights / Journal européen des droits de l'homme*. In 2013, he was awarded the prestigious Francqui Prize for his contribution to international human rights law and to the theory of governance.

Ertharin Cousin, Founder and CEO at Food Systems for the Future; Distinguished Fellow, Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Ertharin Cousin is Founder and CEO at Food Systems for the Future, a Visiting Scholar at the Center on Food Security and the Environment, and a distinguished fellow of global agriculture at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She previously served as executive director of the World Food Programme from 2012 until 2017. In this role, Cousin led the world's largest humanitarian organization with 14,000 staff serving 80 million vulnerable people across 75 countries. Cousin possesses more than 30 years of national and international nonprofit, government, and corporate leadership experience. She maintains relationships with global government, business, and community leaders. She has published numerous articles regarding agriculture, food security, and nutrition. She has been listed numerous times on the Forbes "100 Most Powerful Women" list, as the Fortune "Most Powerful Woman in Food and Drink," on TIME's "100 Most Influential People" list, and as one of the "500 Most Powerful People on the Planet" by Foreign Policy magazine.