

Gunhild A. Stordalen Founder and executive chairperson, EAT

Dr. Gunhild A. Stordalen, a physician who also holds a PhD in Pathology/Orthopedic Surgery, and an environmentalist, is the founder and executive chair of EAT, a global, nonprofit platform for food system transformation. She sits on several boards and advises on councils including the United Nation's Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Lead Group, the World Economic Forum (WEF) Stewardship Board on Food Systems, member of Africa Europe Women Leaders Network, the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH) on Nutrition and Health working group, and the international advisory board of the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC). In addition, Gunhild is an ambassador for Friends of Ocean action, a member of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (HLP) for the Blue Economy and a part of the International Leadership Committee for a Net Zero NHS. She has also been listed among the most influential female leaders shaping the climate agenda in 2019, and powerful rankings on the top 100 leaders influencing Norwegian agriculture by Nationen. In 2019 she was the recipient of the U.N. Foundations' Global Leadership Award. Gunhild was the chair of the 2021 U.N. Food System Summit's Action Track 2: Shifting to Healthy and Sustainable Consumption Patterns.



Bruce Friedrich Founder and CEO, Good Food Institute

Bruce Friedrich is founder & CEO of the Good Food Institute (GFI), a global network of nonprofit organizations, with affiliates in the U.S., India, Israel, Brazil, Singapore and Europe (UK and EU) that works on alternative protein policy, science and corporate engagement. GFI is accelerating the production of plant-based and cultivated meat in order to bolster the global protein supply while protecting our environment, promoting global health and preventing food insecurity.

Bruce is a TED Fellow, Y Combinator alum, 2021 "American Food Hero" (EatingWell Magazine), and popular speaker on food innovation. He has penned op-eds for the Wall Street Journal, Guardian, USA Today, Los Angeles Times, Wired, CNN and many other publications. He has represented GFI on the TED Radio Hour, New Yorker Radio Hour, Recode Decode, the Ezra Klein Show, Making Sense (Sam Harris), and a variety of other podcasts and TV programs.

Bruce's 2019 TED talk has been viewed more than 2.3 million times and translated into 30 languages. He co-authored two books, contributed chapters or forewords to 10 more, and has written seven law review articles. Bruce graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown Law and also holds degrees from Johns Hopkins University, the London School of Economics and Grinnell College.



Leah Lizarando Founder and CEO, Food Rescue Hero

Leah is the CEO and founder of Food Rescue Hero and co-founder of 412 Food Rescue. The Food Rescue Hero platform has facilitated the redirection of more than 100 million pounds of food since 2016 from going to waste via technology that mobilizes over 30,000 drivers in 25 cities in the U.S. and Canada. By redirecting surplus food about to go to waste, Food Rescue Hero responds to SDG Target 12.3 - to halve per capita food waste by 2030, and it directly contributes to SDG 2, Zero Hunger. Food waste is one of the leading sources of carbon emissions. By redirecting surplus food from going to landfills, Food Rescue Hero also responds to SDG 13. The Food Rescue Hero aims to support food rescue's scale in 100 cities by 2030.

Leah has won numerous awards for her work. In March 2022, she was recognized in the Grist 50, a list of emerging leaders creating impactful solutions to climate change. In 2021, she received Carnegie Mellon University's Distinguished Alumni Award. She also received Vital Voices' Global Leadership Award in 2020. In 2020, the Food Rescue Hero technology platform won Fast Company's World Changing Ideas award.

Leah is a Rockefeller Foundation/Acumen fellow and received her graduate degree in Public Policy & Technology from Carnegie Mellon University. She was born and raised in the Philippines and currently lives in Pittsburgh, Penn.



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Lisa Palmer

National Geographic Research Professor at George Washington University, journalist, and author

Lisa Palmer is a National Geographic Research Professor at George Washington University (GWU), journalist, and author of "Hot, Hungry Planet: The Fight to Stop a Global Food Crisis in the Face of Climate Change." At GWU, she teaches science communication for science and sustainability majors and science reporting for undergraduate journalism majors and minors. She is also senior editor and education lead for Planet Forward, GWU's award-winning project of the Center for Innovative Media at the School of Media and Public Affairs.

Palmer engages in the national and international discourse on science and socio-environmental issues through writing and publishing, speaking, contributing to digital media, and offering analysis and science communications strategy to research teams. She has written for many publications, including Nature, Yale E360, The Guardian, Nautilus, The New York Times, The New Republic, Ensia, Slate and many others.

Previously, Palmer was a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., where she conducted research on global food security, resilience and policies related to sustainable agriculture. In 2018, the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center awarded her a residency on the theme of science for development. She is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists, the National Association of Science Writers and the D.C. Science Writers Association. She graduated from Boston University and Simmons College in Boston.



Kathleen Merrigan

Executive director, Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University

Kathleen A. Merrigan is an expert in food and agriculture. Currently, she serves as the Kelly and Brian Swette Professor in the School of Sustainability and executive director of the Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University. From 2009 to 2013, Merrigan was deputy secretary and chief operating officer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she led efforts to support local food systems. She is known for authoring the law establishing national standards for organic food and the federal definition of sustainable agriculture. Merrigan is a board member of Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and a Trustee of CIFOR and ICRAF. In 2010, TIME Magazine named Merrigan as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World. She is a partner in Astanor Ventures and an advisor to S2G Ventures, two firms investing in ag-tech innovation.

Merrigan holds a PhD in Public Policy and Environmental Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an MPA from University of Texas at Austin, and a BA from Williams College.



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Marta del Rio Villanueva Founder, Wasi Organics

Passionate about sustainable development and women's empowerment, Marta founded Wasi Organics, a unique Peruvian snack company based on environmental sustainability. Wasi Organics leverages the country's culinary excellence, as well as its unique biodiversity and produce from small farmers' associations, to develop healthy, organic products at a fair price.

Born in Peru, Marta studied and worked in Europe in the consumer goods, retail and financial services sectors at Procter & Gamble, L'Oreal, Mars, Burger King and American Express. In 2013, Marta founded Wasi Organics, with the belief that social impact, environmental responsibility and economic sustainability are not mutually exclusive. Marta goes to great lengths to find the most rare and special superfoods of the Andes and Amazon rainforest and blends them into delicious lifestyle snacks, integrating small farmers' associations into the company's supply chain. Their objective is to build a portfolio with a clear focus on "better for you" natural foods and lead the agenda on positive change in the food industry. Wasi Organics' first product line was awarded the Innovation Prize in the Expoalimentaria Food Fair in 2015.

Marta graduated in Economics and Business Administration and holds an MBA from INSEAD (France). She has served on the Boards of NeSSt, an international NGO, and IPAE, the leading Peruvian development think tank.



Barbara Stinson [moderator] President, World Food Prize

Barbara Stinson assumed leadership of the World Food Prize Foundation on January 4, 2020. She became the second president of the Foundation since it was established in 1986 by Dr. Norman E. Borlaug. Ms. Stinson previously served as a co-founder and senior partner of the Meridian Institute, a renowned nonprofit organization based in Dillon, CO and Washington D.C.

During her 22 years at Meridian, Ms. Stinson led programs focused on innovative approaches to agricultural development, alternative energy development, ecosystem restoration, climate change, air-quality management, natural resource management and low-level radioactive waste disposal. Ms. Stinson was responsible for executing more than 40 major collaborative problem-solving projects in these areas, involving thousands of stakeholders from diverse perspectives. Since 2011, Ms. Stinson directed the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA).

She earned a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts in environmental conservation from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

