

SPEAKERS' BIOS

PROCINORTE: Plant Health

**Fostering Agro-Ecosystem
Resilience
Utilizing Biological
Control of Pests**



Delegation in Canada • Délégation au Canada

Fostering Agro-Ecosystem Resilience Utilizing Biological Control of Pests

OPENING REMARKS

Fostering Agro-Ecosystem Resilience Utilizing Biological Control of Pests

Dr. Jean-Charles Le Vallée

Country Representative of IICA Canada

Dr. Jean-Charles Le Vallée is the IICA Country Representative for Canada, Secretary for PROCINORTE, and Coordinator for IICA's Caribbean Agritourism Network. Before joining IICA, Dr. Le Vallée was a former World Bank agricultural economist, and the first ever Coordinator for Canada's Food Security Bureau at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Dr. Le Vallée has extensive international diplomatic, leadership, teaching, research and field experience in over two dozen countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, South-East Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America, with Global Affairs Canada, USAID, the World Food Prize, IFPRI, FAO, Université Laval, Cornell and Michigan State University.

Dr. Le Vallée has written extensively on food issues, including a book on food system resilience in Belize, and a book chapter in India on political will for food security. Later on, he helped train agri-food SMEs in Colombia, Senegal and Vietnam to grow their business and increase their food trade. In Canada, he helped produce a pan-Canadian Food Strategy, and published various global food report cards (over 100+ million media impressions) across 17 OECD countries on food industry performance; agri-food trade; food safety; food security; nutrition, diseases & diets; food waste & environmental performance.



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Dr. Gilles Saindon

Assistant Deputy Minister, AAFC
President of PROCINORTE.

Dr. Saindon holds a Bachelor degree in Agronomy Science (1983) and a Masters in Plant Breeding (1986) from Laval University, as well as a Ph.D. in Plant Genetics (1988) from the University of Guelph. Dr. Saindon was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister at **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)**, Science and Technology Branch in December 2019, after serving as Associate Assistant Deputy Minister in the same Branch since 2012.

The Science and Technology Branch provides industry producers and processors a single point of access to AAFC's science and technology expertise and to sustainable solutions.

He co-chairs the Assistant Deputy Minister Committee on Science and Technologies and he serves on several interdepartmental committees coordinating activities related to Federal Science and Technologies. As Branch Head, Dr. Saindon serves as AAFC Agricultural Chief Scientist representing Canada at various international fora.

Dr. Saindon began his agricultural career when he joined AAFC in 1989 as a research scientist in Lethbridge, AB, developing new dry beans adapted to western Canada. His first appointment as a Government of Canada executive was in 1996 as Director of the AAFC Potato Research Centre in Fredericton, NB, where he was responsible for operations and the scientific program. In 2000, he was appointed Director of the Southern Crop Protection and Food Research Centre in London, Ontario with responsibilities for associated research sites in Delhi and Vineland, Ontario.

From 2004 to 2012, Dr. Saindon held several Director General responsibilities including the scientific and managerial leadership of a network of 19 research centres across the country. As Director General-Science Bureau, he was also involved in developing the AAFC Science and Innovation Strategy, released in 2006.



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SPEAKERS

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Dr. Tara Gariepy

Research Scientist
AAFC, Canada.

Dr. Tara Gariepy completed a BSc at Concordia University, followed by a Masters degree in Pest Management at Simon Fraser University. An internship at CABI-Europe Switzerland on biocontrol of invasive insect pests led to her PhD research on the use of molecular tools for non-target risk assessment in biological control (a collaboration between CABI, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and University of Saskatchewan).

Dr. Gariepy held a NSERC post-doctoral fellowship at University of Hawaii, focusing on competitive interactions between biocontrol agents of invasive aphids. This was followed by an Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation post-doctoral award at the University of Guelph and Canadian Centre for DNA Barcoding, on DNA barcoding of parasites and insect vectors of disease.

In 2011, Dr. Gariepy joined **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada** as a **Research Scientist**. Her research focuses on importation biological control of invasive insects, and development of molecular tools to detect and evaluate trophic interactions between insect pests and their natural enemies.



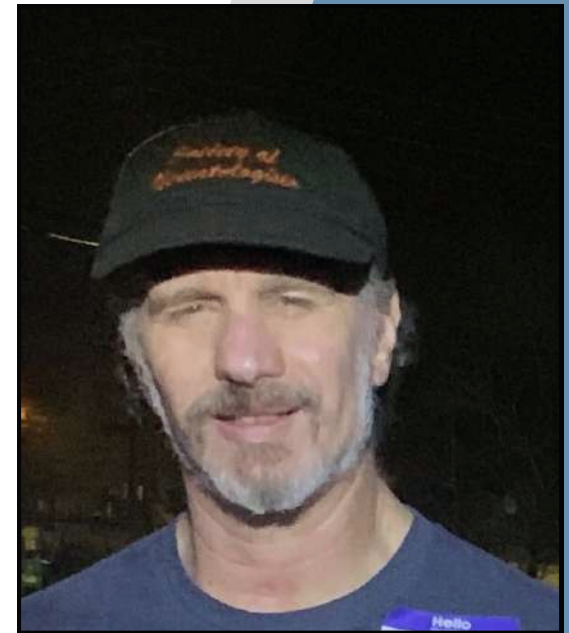
Fostering Agro-Ecosystem Resilience Utilizing Biological Control of Pests

Dr. David Shapiro-Ilan

Supervisory Research Entomologist
USDA-ARS, EEUU.

David Shapiro-Ilan is a Supervisory Research Entomologist and Research Leader at the **USDA-ARS Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Station in Byron, GA, USA**; he is also an Adjunct Professor with the University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University and Iowa State University. Dr. Shapiro-Ilan's research focuses on invertebrate pathology and microbial control with particular application to orchard systems (especially pecan and peach).

Dr. Shapiro-Ilan has published > 235 peer-reviewed journal articles plus 27 book chapters; he has co-edited 5 books and is inventor on 8 patents. He is a Fellow of the Entomological Society of America, and Fellow of the Society of Nematologists. Selected professional service has included Scientific Quality Review Officer (USDA-ARS) and Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Nematology; he currently serves as Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Invertebrate Pathology.



Fostering Agro-Ecosystem Resilience Utilizing Biological Control of Pests

Dr. Raúl Rodríguez Guerra

Research Scientist
INIFAP, Mexico.

Dr. Rodriguez graduated as a biologist from the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in 1981, obtained a master's degree in agricultural parasitology from the Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro in 1991, and a doctorate in plant biotechnology from the Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute-Irapuato Unit in 2002.

With 39 years of experience, Dr. Rodriguez has been dedicated to research at the **Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícola y Pecuarias (INIFAP)**. Since 2005, Dr Rodriguez spearheaded pioneering investigations into microorganisms with potential for biocontrol of phytopathogens, extending his focus in 2010 to combat *Diaphorina citri*. Since 2011, his efforts have centered on projects aimed at utilizing microbial diversity, meticulously selecting strains with heightened inhibition levels through antibiosis against phytopathogens affecting crucial crops. Additionally, his studies have delved into seeking technologies that enhance the effectiveness of biocontrol agents against target organisms.



CLOSING REMARKS

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Dr. Aman Deep

Director of Research Development and Technology
AAFC, Canada.

Dr. Aman Deep currently serves as the Director of Research, Development and Technology (DRDT) at the **Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC)**, overseeing the St-Jean-sur-Richelieu Research and Development Centre, Living Laboratories, and the AgroClimate, Geomatics, Earth Observation, and Agri-Environment Resilience Centre.

Furthermore, he provides national leadership to shape and advance plant health research and technological developments, thereby contributing to an agriculture and agri-food system that is environmentally sustainable, socially responsible, and economically viable.

Before assuming his current position, Aman gained a wealth of experience through various roles of escalating responsibility at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Over his decade-long tenure at CFIA, Aman played an instrumental role in advancing agency priorities across diverse domains, including operations, policy development, program implementation, international trade, and research management. Academically, Aman holds both a Master of Science and a PhD from the esteemed University of Saskatchewan, underscoring his dedication to scholarly pursuits and research excellence.

