

Gilman Foreign Policy in Focus: Global Food Security Virtual Seminar Series

Seminar 4: Government and Global Food Security



Deanna Behring

Assistant Dean and Director of Ag Sciences Global, Faculty Affiliate, School of International Affairs, The Pennsylvania State University

Deanna Behring is responsible for leading and coordinating the College of Agricultural Science's growing portfolio of international research and educational programs. She joined the college in 2000 after more than a decade of experience in Washington, D.C., including an appointment to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy under the Clinton administration as the assistant director for international affairs. She has also worked for the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Commerce, as well as on projects for the U.S. Trade Representative and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Dr. Behring speaks Chinese and French.



Ram Neupane

Ph.D. Student in Plant Pathology, The Pennsylvania State University

Ram Neupane is a Ph.D. student in Plant Pathology with a dual degree in International Agriculture and Development at The Pennsylvania State University. His research interests include plant health, agriculture policy, and international agriculture and development. Ram is a Young Scientists Member of the World Food Forum (WFF) hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and works closely with policymakers in global forums to enhance youth involvement in agriculture. Ram has over seven years of experience in non-profit organizations, international agencies, academia, and industry. Ram has lived and worked in Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal, and the USA, which has given him a unique perspective in understanding the agriculture and development in both the global south and north.





Hazel Velasco Palacios

Research Assistant and Ph. D Candidate, Rural Sociology and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies., The Pennsylvania State University

Hazel Velasco Palacios is a Research Assistant and Ph.D. Candidate in Rural Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her research explores the intersections of Gender and Development, Sociology of Agriculture and Food Systems, and Migration and Labor Relations. In the past, she has conducted extensive research both within the Central American region and the United States.



Olanrewaju Shittu

Ph. D Candidate, Plant Pathology and International Agriculture and Development, The Pennsylvania State University

Olanrewaju Shittu is currently a Ph.D. candidate with a dual title in Plant Pathology and International Agriculture and Development (INTAD). He earned his Bachelor's degree in Botany and his Master's degree in Plant Pathology from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He developed a keen interest in understanding the link between scientific knowledge and its practical application in society, which led him to pursue a second Master's degree in Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture from the University of Exeter, England. Olanrewaju's current research work focuses on farmers' interaction with a decision support system designed to manage Fusarium Head Blight disease in wheat and the socioeconomic factors that influence their decisions. In his free time, he enjoys listening to music, exercising, and running track.

