



Cascadia
Innovation
Corridor

2020 VIRTUAL FORUMS

SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOODS AND AGRI-TECH IN CASCADIA

NOVEMBER 20, 2020

10:00AM – 11:30AM

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The **Sustainable Agri-foods and Agri-tech in Cascadia** forum will explore COVID-19's impact on local food supply chains and how the growing agri-tech sector is expanding opportunities for local farmers. The session will be hosted by the Co-chairs of the Cascadia Innovation Corridor sub committee on sustainable agriculture, **Dr. Rickey Yada**, Dean of UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems and **Chad Kruger**, Director, Washington State University Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center and Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources.

AGENDA

10:00am	Welcome	Governor Christine Gregoire , CEO, Challenge Seattle
10:05 am	Introduction:	Dr. Rickey Yada, Ph.D. , Professor and Dean, Faculty of Land and Food Systems, University of British Columbia, and Co-chair, Cascadia Innovation Corridor Sustainable Agriculture Sub-committee
10:12 am	Panel: Impacts of COVID-19 on Agriculture and Food Supply in Cascadia	Parm Bains , President and CEO, Westberry Farms Ltd. Meeru Dhalwala , Cookbook Author and Co-owner Vij's and Rangoli Restaurants Derek Sandison , Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture Moderated by Dr. Rickey Yada
10:37 am	Presentation: Global Centre for Regenerative Agriculture	Karn Manhas , Founder and CEO, Terramera
10:47 am	Panel Introduction:	Chad Kruger , Director, Washington State University Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center and Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Co-chair, Cascadia Innovation Corridor Sustainable Agriculture Sub-committee

10:52 am	Panel: Growing Ag-Tech in Cascadia	Steve Mantle , Founder and CEO, innov8.ag Kirti Rajagopalan , Assistant Professor, Biological Systems Engineering, Washington State University Moderated by Chad Kruger
11:17 am	Discussion and Audience Q&A <i>Please use the Microsoft Teams chat function to pose your questions</i>	Moderated by Dr. Rickey Yada
11:27 am	Closing Remarks	Greg D'Avignon , President and CEO, Business Council of British Columbia

SPEAKERS



Parm Bains, President and CEO, Westberry Farms Ltd.

Parm Bains graduated from UBC with a B.Sc. in Agricultural Sciences in 1979. Parm has worked for the Ministry of Agriculture, the private sector and as a consultant, and has served on many industry boards that are local, national, and international in scope. In 1989, the family purchased a blueberry farm in Abbotsford and in 1997, Parm set up Westberry Farms – a processor/packer of blueberries that now markets fresh, frozen, and other blueberry products globally. In 2009, Parm was recognized by the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) for his contributions in philanthropy and building community networks with an honorary Doctorate. From 2004 to 2006, Parm chaired and was instrumental in the effort to develop the B.C. Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development, and the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at UFV. In 2006, Parm was the catalyst to initiate and develop a Centre for India-Canada Studies at Panjab University in Chandigarh, India.

www.westberryfarms.com

www.connectcascadia.com

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Meeru Dhalwala, Cookbook Author and Co-owner Vij's and Rangoli Restaurants

Meeru Dhalwala's vision is for each person to connect him/herself (body and soul) to the 3 pillars: culture, personal nutrition/health, and the impact of agriculture and eating choices on the environment.

Meeru was born in India and moved to Washington, D.C. at a young age with her parents. In D.C., she worked with various international non-profit organizations on human rights and economic development projects. She received her M.Sc. degree in Development Studies from Bath University in England. She also holds Honorary Doctorates from the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University for her community and professional work. Meeru is fluent in English, Hindi, and Punjabi.

Meeru is currently on the board of IC-IMPACTS (the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability). This is joint project between Universities of British Columbia, Toronto, and Alberta. Meeru is also a board member of MOSAIC, an organization that assists new immigrants and refugees to adjust and learn necessary skills for their new lives in B.C.

vijs.ca



Chad Kruger, Director, Washington State University Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center and Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Co-chair, Cascadia Innovation Corridor Sustainable Agriculture Subcommittee

Dr. Chad Kruger directs WSU's Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (NWREC) in Mount Vernon, the Puyallup Research and Extension Center, and the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR). He received a B.A. in Philosophy and History (1997) and an Academic Certificate in Eco-intensive Agriculture Technologies (1998) from Northwest College in Kirkland, Washington, and he completed an M.S. (2003) in Land Resources from the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. He was an Au Sable Graduate Fellow at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

He has served on the 2007/2008 Washington State Climate Action Team, co-chairing the Agriculture Sector Carbon Market Workgroup; the 2010 Washington State Climate Change Working Lands Technical Advisory Group; the Washington State Energy Strategy Technical Experts Panel; the Northwest Regional Biocarbon Initiative, and was a Commissioner on the Douglas County Water Conservancy Board. He is currently a member of the Washington Department of Natural Resources Expert Council on Climate Change, a steering committee member for the USDA Northwest Climate Hub, a board member for the Northwest Ag Business Center, and serves on the Advisory Board of the Northwest Environmental Forum.

cahnrs.wsu.edu

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Karn Manhas, Founder and CEO, Terramera

Founder and CEO of Terramera, Karn Manhas is an entrepreneur with over 15 years of experience in leadership roles in government, project management, community, and business development. Karn is responsible for the vision and strategic direction of Terramera, and has raised over US\$82M to build, scale and execute on that plan.

He is a frequent speaker on issues of sustainability, making clean food affordable, feeding the world, and building innovative organizations, including at TEDx and Singularity University in Vancouver.

Karn has led several companies and has a diverse set of experiences including being elected the youngest Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in the Province of British Columbia. He is a member of YPO, and in 2012 was named one of Business in Vancouver's top Forty Under 40 businesspeople. Karn holds a Juris Doctor in Law from the University of British Columbia and a B.Sc. in Biology (Genetics) and Biotechnology from McGill University.

terramera.com



Steve Mantle, Founder and CEO, innov8.ag

Steve is the founder of innov8.ag, a Walla Walla Washington-based agtech start-up and Microsoft-partnered company. Prior to embarking on the start-up, Steve spent 12 years at Microsoft where he most recently focused on Microsoft's fastest growing product line, Azure Cloud. His leadership skills contributed to growing Azure from a \$100M to a \$10B+ per year business over 6 years. After his time spent at the Microsoft headquarters in Seattle, Steve decided to relocate

his family of four to Walla Walla, Washington, in the summer of 2018. He envisions this location as the perfect base for ag start-ups given the convergence of progressive farmers and three colleges with strengths in agriculture, engineering, science, established ag manufacturers, strong connectivity providers, and a highly collaborative business climate. An Australian by birth, Steve has his MBA from the University of Washington.

www.innov8.ag



Kirti Rajagopalan, Assistant Professor, Biological Systems Engineering, Washington State University

Kirti Rajagopalan is an assistant professor with the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at Washington State University. Her lab develops and utilizes a variety of modeling approaches to better understand and manage water and agricultural resources at regional scales. Prior to WSU she has worked at Deere and Company, and as an independent Marketing Analytics consultant.

bsyse.wsu.edu

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Derek Sandison, Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture

Derek Sandison was appointed director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture by Gov. Jay Inslee effective June 15, 2015. As WSDA director, Derek oversees an agency responsible for animal health, plant inspections, food safety, fruit and grain inspection and certification, weights and measures, pesticide registration and marketing the state's agricultural products regionally and globally. Derek is familiar to many in the agriculture industry from his previous role as director of the state Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River, where he oversaw numerous water supply development projects important to farmers and ranchers. He was also a principal architect of the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan and has played a key role in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Project.

agr.wa.gov



Dr. Rickey Yada, Ph.D., Professor and Dean, Faculty of Land and Food Systems, University of British Columbia, and Co-chair, Cascadia Innovation Corridor Sustainable Agriculture Sub-committee

In 2014, Professor Rickey Yada was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C. Prior to UBC, Dr. Yada was at the University of Guelph where he held numerous leadership roles, including Assistant Vice President Research, Canada Research Chair in Food Protein Structure, Scientific Director of the Advanced Foods and Materials Network (Networks of Centres of Excellence), and Founding Member of the Food Institute. He is, currently, the North American Editor of Trends in Food Science and Technology as well as serving on the editorial board of several journals. His areas of research include: the structure – function relationships of enzymes (aspartic proteases) and carbohydrate biochemistry as related to nutrition and food quality. Dr. Yada serves in a leadership capacity to several research and industry organizations, some of which include Chair of the Board of Trustees, International Life Science Institute – North America; Board of Bioenterprise Inc.; Advisory Committee Member – Arrell Food Institute and Seeding Food Innovation Grant Program (George Weston Loblaws); Member of the Scientific Advisory Panel – Riddet Institute (New Zealand); and a Member of the Advisory Panel – AgResearch (New Zealand). He is also a Past President and Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology and the International Academy of the International Union of Food Science and Technology and is also a fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists. Dr. Yada has an honorary D.Sc. from the University of Guelph and was the 2019 Harraways 1867 Visiting Professor, University of Otago, New Zealand.

www.landfood.ubc.ca

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Governor Christine Gregoire, CEO, Challenge Seattle, Former Governor, Washington State and Co-Chair, Cascadia Innovation Corridor

Christine Gregoire is the CEO for Challenge Seattle. Challenge Seattle is an alliance of CEOs from 17 of the region’s largest private-sector employers who work together to ensure the Greater Seattle area continues to thrive as one of the most vibrant, innovative, and globally competitive regions in the world.

Previously, Chris served for two terms as Governor of the State of Washington with a \$32B biennial budget and over 60,000 employees. She led historical investment in strategically significant infrastructure, an historic number of trade missions, reformed the foster care system to protect children, and was among the first to lead in health care reform. Prior to becoming Governor, Chris served for three terms as Washington State’s Attorney General.

Chris is a Member and former chair of the Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center, Member of the National Bipartisan Governor’s Council. She served as Chair of the National Export-Import Bank Advisory Board 2013 – 2016.

www.challengeseattle.com



Greg D’Avignon, President and CEO, Business Council of British Columbia, Co-Chair, Cascadia Innovation Corridor

Greg D’Avignon is the President and CEO of the Business Council of B.C., a 260-member driven policy and advocacy organization comprised of the province’s leading businesses in every sector of the provincial economy and B.C.’s post-secondary institutions. A fourth generation British Columbian, Greg has held senior private and public sectors leadership positions over the last 25 years,

including serving the Prime Minister of Canada.

Greg is the immediate past-Chair of the B.C. Cancer Foundation and former Chair of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. He is a current member of the Board of the YMCA of Greater Vancouver, the Premier’s Indigenous Business Investment Council, the B.C. Academic Health Science Network, and the Pacific Autism Family Centre Foundation.

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