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# FLOW PARTNERSHIP

## *EXPERT ADVISOR PROFILES*



*Prepared for:*

**FLOW Partnership Meeting with Expert Advisors**

**November 27 2025**

## Anne Palmer

Since 2006, Anne has worked at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (CLF) in Baltimore, currently serving as the director of practice. For several years, she oversaw the Food Policy Networks project, which aims to strengthen the capacity of food policy councils and similar groups to advance food system policies. She has conducted numerous workshops and conference presentations on the challenges and achievements of food policy councils, policy priorities, and successful processes for civic engagement and democracy. Anne is also a Senior Scientist in the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society, where she studies how multi-sector entities, such as food policy councils, tackle complex public health challenges and promote public participation in policymaking. Her research focuses on regional supply chains, food system governance and equity, networks and social change, and state and local food policy. Additionally, she co-teaches a course focused on applying systems thinking to the food system. Before joining CLF, she spent 13 years designing, developing and implementing public health communication campaigns in Asia with the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs. She holds a master's degree in international affairs from Ohio University and a bachelor's degree in sociology and women's studies from Saint Olaf College.



## Colin Anderson

Colin Anderson is Co-Director of the [UVM Institute for Agroecology](#) and is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Agriculture, Landscape and Environment. His work centers on community- and people-led processes of social transformation, grounded in a deep commitment to social justice, resilience, and well-being. He collaborates with communities, networks, institutions, and organizations confronting the intersecting crises of our food systems, as well as those reimagining and building equitable alternatives. Colin focuses on participatory research and learning that transforms knowledge into action, working collaboratively with diverse communities and partners to co-create pathways toward just transformations in food systems. His research explores themes of pedagogy and learning, innovation, financing agroecology, food system transitions, political ecology, participatory methodologies, and resilience. Colin is a co-convenor of the international platforms [Agroecology Now](#), and [Rooted Magazine](#), and teaches in the [UVM Certificate of Graduate Studies in Agroecology](#). Colin also serves as co-editor of the [Just Transformations in Food Systems](#) book series with CRC Press.

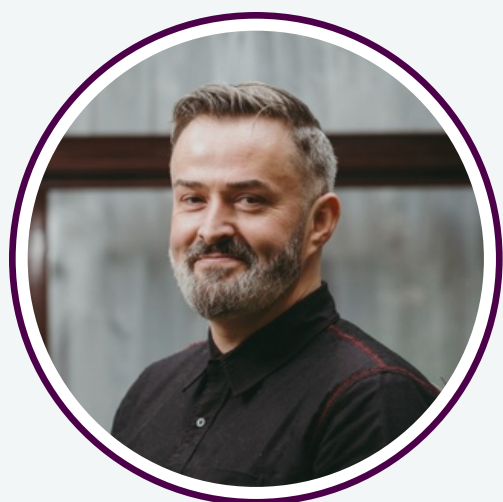




## Damien Conaré

Damien Conaré is the Secretary General of the UNESCO Chair in World Food Systems at the International Centre for Higher Education in Agricultural Sciences (L'Institut Agro) in Montpellier, France. There, he develops activities around three main areas: coordinating action-research programs, particularly on the sustainability of urban food systems and on food solidarities; developing educational training programs, mainly an Advanced Master Degree on innovations and Policies for Sustainable Food Systems; and fostering science-society dialogues through conferences, seminars, and publications.

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## David Thomas

For over a decade, David has worked at the intersection of social innovation, local food systems, and climate policy. As Executive Director of Open Food Network Canada, he leads the development of open-source digital infrastructure that strengthens regional supply chains and supports the growth of regenerative agrifood economies. He also serves on the Governance Committee of the Data Food Consortium, advancing interoperability standards for short supply chains and helping implement open protocols such as Beckn and DFC in North America. Guided by a commitment to collaboration and technological equity, David's work focuses on building the tools and partnerships needed to create a more democratic and regenerative food system.



## Eleanor Haine

Eleanor is an accomplished Policy Advisor at Environment and Climate Change Canada, where she specializes in Environment and Sustainable Development. She served as the Program Officer for Natural Sciences at the Canadian Commission for UNESCO from 2018-2023. She worked to promote UNESCO values, priorities and programs within the natural sciences sector in Canada and to ensure that Canadian voices are represented on the international stage. She has a background in ecology research, science communication, and STEM education, and is the former Executive Director of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Eastern Ontario.



## Elodie Valette

Elodie Valette is a senior research scientist at CIRAD, the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development. She holds a PhD in geography and specializes in analyzing the relationships between cities, food, and agriculture. She especially focuses on the impacts of social innovations on food systems, through the methodology Urban-driven Innovations for sustainable development).



## Faris Ahmed

Faris Ahmed is an independent consultant specializing in agroecology, biodiversity, climate resilience and sustainable food systems. He works with foundations, research institutes, civil society and governments to build strategies to shift policies, funding and programming to support agroecological transitions for more resilient and equitable food systems. Faris has recently carried out work with FAO, Agroecology Coalition, Global Alliance for the Future of Food, Biovision Foundation, Institute for Agroecology and several governments. He has played leadership roles in civil society networks such as the CSM (Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism of the Committee for World Food Security), CBD Alliance, Food Security Policy Group, and Food Secure Canada. Prior to becoming a consultant, Faris was Policy Director at SeedChange, and held senior positions at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Oxfam Canada.



## Guido Santini

Guido Santini is an Officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), where he leads a workstream on resilient agri-food systems in city regions. His work focuses on promoting sustainable crop (horticulture) production in urban and peri-urban areas and strengthening rural–urban linkages through the development of short supply chains. He holds a MSc in Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture, jointly obtained from the University of Florence (Italy) and the Technical University of Lisbon (Portugal). Guido has more than 20 years of experience in international development cooperation within the United Nations system (FAO and UNDP) and research institutions. His professional background covers programme and project design and management, policy support, and research in the areas of sustainable food systems across urban and rural contexts, sustainable crop production, and natural resources management (land and water).



## Heather McLeod-Kilmurray

Heather McLeod-Kilmurray is a Professor and former Co-Director at the Centre for Environmental Law and Global Sustainability (CELGS) at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa. Her research deals with food law including GMOs and industrial factory farming, toxic torts, environmental justice and the relationship between science and courts. She is co-author of *The Canadian Law of Toxic Torts*, and co-editor of *Canadian Food Law and Policy*. She is a former part-time member of the Ontario Environmental Review Tribunal, and a Board member of the Canadian Association of Food Law and Policy.

## Kevin Morgan



Kevin is Professor of Governance and Development in the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University. His interests include the theory, policy and practice of place-based innovation systems; multi-level governance regimes; experimental governance; sustainable food systems; and the foundational economy. Apart from his academic work he has worked with the European Commission, the OECD, and numerous governments, development agencies and civil society organisations in Europe. He is part of a Cardiff University team of researchers working on the Cardiff City Region's Challenge Fund, which is designed to promote innovative solutions in 3 targeted fields, namely: decarbonisation, health and wellbeing, and transforming communities. He is also a Co-investigator on a UKRI-funded project called RISE (Reducing Inequalities in the School food Environment), which is researching the provision, uptake and consumption of Universal Free School Meals in the 4 nations of the UK. He is co-convenor of the Centre for Innovation Policy Research.

## Lauren Baker



Lauren Baker is Deputy Director of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, where she leads program strategy and supports global initiatives focused on climate, biodiversity, food security, and equity. A systems thinker, skilled facilitator, and practical problem-solver, Lauren has worked for over 20 years in non-profit, government, academic, business, and philanthropic contexts. With Global Alliance members and partners, Lauren leads the program strategy and supports diverse organizations and initiatives including the True Cost Accounting Accelerator, Transformational Investing in Food Systems, and the Agroecology Coalition, to address global challenges related to climate, biodiversity, food security, and equity.

## Lori Stahlbrand



Lori joined George Brown College in 2019 to co-develop the Honours Bachelor of Food Studies, the first degree of its kind in Canada. She is a leading food policy analyst, known for her wide-ranging experience as an academic, a food policy specialist with the City of Toronto, and a non-profit leader. Lori holds a PhD from Wilfrid Laurier University, where she researched the role of creative public procurement in sustainable food system transformation, drawing on her own experience as a non-profit leader promoting institutional procurement of sustainable local food. Lori has worked extensively with businesses along the food chain – from farmers, processors, and distributors to chefs, foodservice managers and retailers.

## Malek Batal



Malek Batal is a Professor at the Université de Montréal's Faculty of Medicine and the Director of the WHO-Collaborating Centre on Nutrition Changes and Development (TRANSNUT). Malek holds the Canada Research Chair in Nutrition and Health Inequalities (CIENS) and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. He conducts participatory research studying the links between environment and food system health and population health, in an effort to redress health inequities. Equally important to scientific rigor is the relevance and usefulness of his research to society. This is why he collaborates as part of transdisciplinary research teams with First Nations in Canada and Indigenous and rural people internationally, prioritizing engagement with knowledge users from civil society and governments and putting his research findings at the service of public policy.

## Molly Anderson



Molly Anderson is Professor Emerita of Food Studies at Middlebury College in Vermont, where she directed the Academic Program in Food Studies for 10 years. She is also a Research Associate Professor at the University of Vermont, working with the Institute for Agroecology. She is especially interested in agroecology, food system transformation, combatting food system disinformation, human rights in the food system, and the right to food in the US and other industrialized countries. She is also interested in bridging interests and concerns of academicians, community-based activists and social movements. She is involved in food system reform and planning at the local, state and regional scales and is a member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food). She recently published *Transforming Food Systems: The Power of Narrative*.

## Nicole Claasen



Nicole Claasen has over 15 years of international experience in nutrition and food systems, combining expertise in policy, research, and development cooperation. As Head of the Sector Programme on Food and Nutrition Security, and Fisheries at the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), she provides strategic guidance on food systems transformation to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Nicole previously contributed to Cambodia's National Food Security and Nutrition Policy and Food Systems Pathways in 2021, led research on sustainable diets at North-West University in South Africa, and worked with FAO in Timor-Leste and at headquarters. Holding a PhD in Nutrition and Home Economics from the Justus-Liebig University in Giessen, Germany, Nicole brings extensive experience in multi-sectoral collaboration, capacity building, and advancing sustainable food systems across Africa, Asia, and Europe.

## Tammara Soma



Dr. Tammara Soma MCIP RPP is an Associate Professor at the School of Resource and Environmental Management (Planning program) at Simon Fraser University and Research Director of the Food Systems Lab. She is also the Faculty Lead on the Simon Fraser University- Aga Khan University, Arusha Climate Environmental Research partnership in Tanzania. She conducts research on issues pertaining to food loss and waste (FLW), food systems planning, food security and food systems resiliency, Indigenous food sovereignty, and the circular food economy in Canada and globally. She is routinely featured in international and local media on various food-related issues (The Guardian, CBC, TVO, CTV, National Observer, Chatelaine etc.) and is the co-director/ co-writer of the CBC documentary “Food is My Teacher.” Dr. Soma was selected as a committee member of the US National Academies of Sciences and co-authored the consensus study A National Strategy to Reduce Consumer Food Waste. She also served on the expert panel of the Council of Canadian Academies’ report on “Atypical Food Production Technologies for Canadian Food Security.” Most recently she was selected as a UN expert panel to be on the drafting team of a report on “Building Resilient Food Systems.” Dr. Soma is the co-editor of the Routledge Handbook of Food Waste and has been published in various academic journals including in Journal of American Planning Association, Journal of Planning Education and Research, Agriculture Human Values, Journal of Cleaner Production and more. Dr. Soma is a registered professional planner with the Canadian Institute of Planner.