



**International Co-operative
Agricultural Organisation (ICAO)**
A Sector of the International
Co-operative Alliance

Presentation of the Candidates

Executive Committee Members

International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO)

17 June 2022

Seville, Spain



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President



Dileep Sanghani

Nominated by: Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)

Country: India

About: Mr. Dileep Sanghani comes from ordinary farmer family from the State of Gujarat in India. Born in 1954, he has worked closely with the Indian farming community for more than five decades in various sectors like agriculture, banking, women empowerment of cooperative movement. He has held various key portfolios in public life also. He is the chairman of Indian Apex Cooperative Federation, NCUI, Agriculture Cooperative IFFCO, Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing Federation and many other cooperative organisations. He is a popular political leader and four times member of Indian Parliament. He has also been very successful State Minister with multiple portfolios.



Sung-hee Lee

Nominated by: National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF)

Country: Korea

About: Mr. Sung-hee Lee, Chairman of the NACF has been committed for more than 50 years not only to the development of NACF but also to the growth of the Korean cooperative movement from the grassroots to national level. Lee, as a pioneer for the early cooperative banking, contributed to laying the foundation for farmers' financial self-sufficiency. Also, he led the business of improving the distribution system for fertilizer and rice in order to increase farmers' income. He is currently leading the innovation of agricultural distributing system in order to create environments for farmers where they can concentrate solely on farming.



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Vice-Presidents

Africa



Lawrence Bale

Nominated by: South African National Apex Cooperative (SANACO)

Country: South Africa

About: Mr. Lawrence Bale was part of National Co-operation Association of South Africa (NCASA) whose mandate was co-operative development in South Africa. He was the deputy president of South African Federation of Burial Societies (SAFOBS) with a mandate to formalise burial societies in South Africa. Recently he participated in the ILO co-operative focus on HIV/AIDS course in Swaziland and attended a course in Italy Turin to learn more about management, conflict management, basic law as part of benchmarking on cooperatives development. He also led, direct and oversaw the quality implementation of a portfolio of projects for the job saving turnaround program.

Africa



Ivan Asiimwe

Nominated by: Uganda Cooperative Alliance Ltd. (UCA)

Country: Uganda

About: Mr. Ivan Asiimwe is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a member of (ICPAU), a professional financial cooperative manager/consultant (Moshi University- Tanzania). He holds a master of business administration from Makerere University among other qualifications. Currently, he is the general secretary and CEO of Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) after serving in different capacities. He has 19 years' experience in cooperative development and management having served the cooperative movement from financial cooperative (SACCO) up to the head of the Apex body, UCA. He also is a board chairman of Cooperative Insurance Company Africa and a board member of many other organisations.



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America



Márcio Lopes de Freitas

Nominated by: Organization of the Brazilian Cooperatives (OCB)

Country: Brazil

About: Mr. Márcio Lopes de Freitas is a farmer, coffee producer and cooperative member, born in the small Brazilian town of Patrocínio Paulista/SP. His father, Rubens de Freitas, was a renowned cooperative leader, who dedicated his life to improvement of dairy and coffee cooperatives. With a business administration degree from the University of Brasília, he has spoken on themes such as cooperatives, agriculture, innovation, and trade promotion in several Brazilian and international events. Before becoming the head of the OCB System, he was the president of OCB's branch for the State of São Paulo, the Ocesp System, from 1997 to 2001.

Asia-Pacific



Sadra Aliakbarkhani

Nominated by: Central Union of Rural & Agricultural Cooperatives of Iran (CURACI)

Country: Iran

About: Mr. Sadra Aliakbarkhani is currently the CEO of CURACI, and the head of board members in Dezfool Agro industry co., Jiroft Agro industry co., SCURA as well as National Poultry Industry Development Support Fund. He is also the vice president in board members of BETKA and the CEO of National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Iran Orchard Owners. He is familiar with rural cooperative network, agricultural production and distribution along with providing pesticides fertilizers and seeds. He has earned his master of science in governmental management and attended various academic courses such as cooperative audit, international agriculture trade and more.



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Asia-Pacific



Bahman Abdollahi

Nominated by: Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC)

Country: Iran

About: Mr. Bahman Abdollahi, holding a DBA in business management, is the president of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC), the country's apex body for the cooperative movement. Having served in the cooperative movement for over 30 years, he's been the president and board member of ICC since 2011 and CEO of the National Union of Consumers' Cooperatives since 2009. He's been working hard to develop cooperatives in Iran, exceeding 95.000 cooperatives, and to strengthen them. He's been in direct contact with the government, parliament, and all the high councils to include cooperatives in their decisions regarding social and economic issues.

Asia-Pacific



Tominori Yamashita

Nominated by: Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-Zenchu)

Country: Japan

About: Mr. Tominori Yamashita is executive director of JA-Zenchu, the apex organization of agricultural co-operatives in Japan. Agricultural cooperatives in Japan are referred as "multi-functional", conducting various activities including marketing, supplying, credit, insurance, medical service and more; everything for cooperative members. He received his bachelor of agricultural economy from Kyoto University. Since joining JA Zenchu in 1986, he has served in important positions as manager for community promotion, general manager for management guidance. He was elected as executive director of the board in 2020 and his mission includes international cooperation as his predecessor Mr. Hironori Hijioka, incumbent vice president of ICAO.



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Europe

Mieczyslaw Grodzki



Nominated by: National Co-operative Council (NCC)

Country: Poland

About: Dr. Eng. Mieczysław Grodzki was born in 1954. Graduated from Warsaw University of Technology, he has been involved in various sectors of the cooperative movement for many years. He has been chair of the supervisory council of Cooperative Bank in Piaseczno, chair of the committee for cooperatives of Business Centre Club and deputy chair of the supervisory council of Cooperative Banks Auditing Union. In 2017 he was elected as president of the NCC, the supreme body of the cooperative movement. He participated in the works of the parliamentary commission for cooperative legislation and the senate commission for budget and finances.