



REGENERATION INTERNATIONAL

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March 9: Is Healthy Soil the Solution to Global Warming? – Speaker Bios



Ms. Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle is the Director General for Economic and Environmental Performance of Enterprises, French Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. Ms. Geslain-Lanéelle returned to the Ministry of Agriculture after serving for seven years as the Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Prior to her term at EFSA, Ms. Geslain-Lanéelle was the Regional Director of Agriculture and Forestry, Ile de France, and before that the Director General of Food, French Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Dr. David C. Johnson is a molecular biologist conducting research at the *Institute for Energy and Environment in the NMSU College of Engineering*. He facilitates pilot project development and student research in fields ranging from: biogas generation, regional mine closures, advance oxidation processes for super-fund sites, water desalination processes of reverse-osmosis and electro-dialysis reversal and bio-fuel and algae production. David is also Director of the *Institute for Sustainable Agricultural Research at NMSU* currently working with local growers, Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories, Texas A&M, Arizona State University, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Thornburg Foundation exploring paths to improve food security in New Mexico, reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, and increase farm and rangeland productivity through the development of beneficial soil microbial communities.



Dr. Tim LaSalle is the research director at the Howard G. Buffett Foundation's Ukulima Farm in South Africa, where he works on soil health initiatives to improve the productivity of smallholder farmers. LaSalle is the former CEO of the Rodale Institute and has also led the Northwest Earth Institute, the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County, the Allan Savory Center for Holistic Management, and the California Agricultural Leadership Program. Earlier in his career, he was a full professor at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) San Luis Obispo, California, where he taught a range of dairy science classes.

Andre Leu is the author of *The Myths of Safe Pesticides* and the President of IFOAM - Organics International. He has over 40 years of experience in all areas of organic agriculture, from growing, pest-control, weed management, marketing and post-harvest transport to grower organizations, developing new crops and education - not only in his home country Australia, but across Asia, Europe, the Americas and Africa. He and his wife, Julia, run an organic tropical fruit orchard in Daintree, Queensland, Australia.



Dr. Kristine Nichols is a world-renowned leader in the study of soil biology, focusing her work on the life in the soil. As Chief Scientist at Rodale Institute, Dr. Nichols oversees approximately twenty research trials on organic agriculture, including the Farming Systems Trial®, the longest-running side-by-side U.S. study comparing conventional chemical agriculture with organic methods. Prior to joining the Institute, Dr. Nichols was a Research Soil Microbiologist with the USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for 11 years. Her professional achievements have focused on the impacts of cropping and grazing systems on soil microbiology, nutrient cycling, and soil aggregation to improve soil health and water quality.

Dr. Richard Teague is a research ecologist with the Texas A&M University System. He uses a systems approach in his research by working with leading conservation ranchers who are able to regenerate ecosystem function and improve their livelihoods. His aim is to determine the extent that livestock producers can use different grazing management strategies to mitigate and adapt to alternative climate change scenarios by regenerating the key ecosystem services of carbon sequestration, soil fertility and stability, water quality, net primary and secondary production, biodiversity, and the economic viability of working ranches.

