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BIOGRAPHIES:

Aterraterra is a duo composed of Fabio Aranzulla and Luca Cinquemani working in a multidisciplinary manner at the intersection of art, agriculture, and science. Their research questions the possibility of cultivating and eating in ways that challenge dominant power structures while remaining critically aware of anthropocentrism. Aterraterra's artistic projects address issues such as multispecies relationships, forms of genetic discipline in industrial agriculture, post-agricultural and post-linguistic perspectives, foraging as a practice of resistance, and the ever-shifting cultural boundary of what is considered edible. The duo also explores the difficult heritage of food plants, the relationship between cultural institutions and non-human life forms, and the ecological transformations brought about by climate change. Among their workshops, artistic projects, and food performances: Hybridising Scentscapes (with Eliza Collin, Design Museum, London); Not From Here: Plant Migrations and Human Narratives (Museum MMK für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt); Someone told us a story about nature and purity (ZACentrale, Fondazione Merz, Palermo); Foodscape 5 (Photoforum Pasquart, Biel/Bienne).

Andrea Bach is a PhD candidate in Food Structure Engineering at ETH Zürich, where she also completed her BSc and MSc in Food Science. In 2020, during her bachelor studies, she joined Planted Foods, contributing first to the production of plant-based chicken and later to the science team, focusing on prototyping for next-generation meat alternatives. Since beginning her PhD in May 2024, her research has centered on material-processing relationships and nature-inspired methods to create healthy, scalable food products. Her current work explores freeze structuring, a technique that uses ice crystal formation to shape food structure, particularly promising for plant-based applications. Andrea is motivated by the challenge of bridging research and industry to help shape a more sustainable and adaptable global food system. Outside the lab and kitchen, she enjoys recharging in nature, either cycling, running, hiking, or simply spending time outdoors.

Giovanni Bachetoni Rossi Vaccari was born in Rome and earned a degree in history. From the very beginning, he started working in the family farm, and in 2018 he became its owner. The farm is entirely organic, and with about 70 hectares of olive trees, it handles the processing of olives into oil from October to December, inside a 17th-century villa, in the very rooms where milling took place centuries ago. The farm is also involved in livestock farming, with 400 head of cattle that, during the spring and summer months, graze on the remaining 800 hectares of the estate's pastures.

Fabio Ciconte, a writer and expert in food supply chains, is the co-founder of the environmental association Terra! and president of the Rome Food Council. He collaborates with Geo (Rai Tre) through the column "Dispensa consapevole." He has carried out several investigations and reportages and contributes to Domani, Treccani, and LifeGate. For Laterza, he has published Il grande carrello. Chi decide cosa mangiamo (with Stefano Liberti, 2019), Fragole d'inverno. Perché saper scegliere cosa mangiamo salverà il pianeta (e il clima) (2020), Chi possiede i frutti della terra (2022), and L'ipocrisia dell'abbondanza. Perché non compreremo più cibo a basso costo (2023). For Einaudi, he has published Il cibo è politica (2025).

Billie Maude Hauser started as Research & Outreach Manager at the Center in November 2023. She oversees the coordination of several of the Center's research programs and develops and implements outreach events to share and discuss research findings with practitioners, policymakers, and the wider public. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and a Master of Science in Nutrition and Health at ETH Zurich, where she focused on healthier and more sustainable diets within food systems and specialized in Food Product and Process Design. At ETH's Laboratory of Sustainable Food Processing, she contributed to projects on novel proteins and microalgae biorefinery. Prior to joining the Center, Billie was Head of Product at Even GmbH, leading conceptual design, shaping food offerings, and driving product development for plant-based gastronomy concepts, as well as spearheading projects addressing complex challenges in the food industry.

Chris Hogg is the Global Head of Public Affairs at Nestlé, based at the company's headquarters in Vevey, Switzerland. With over fourteen years of experience in corporate communications, he leads Nestlé's global engagement with stakeholders, partners, and key opinion leaders, ensuring the company's perspective is represented in policy discussions and informed by external insights. Previously, he was Head of Sustainability and Communications for Nestlé's business across Asia, Oceania, and Sub-Saharan Africa, where he implemented the company's sustainability strategy and oversaw Corporate Affairs and Communications, also serving on the Board of Food Industry Asia. Earlier, he held roles as Global Head of Content and Digital and Deputy Head of Media Relations, modernizing Nestlé's communications and media engagement. Before joining Nestlé, he spent seventeen years at the BBC as a correspondent in the UK and Asia, covering major global events and developing expertise in international affairs and storytelling.

Corinna Hawkes is Director of the Division of Agrifood Systems and Food Safety at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In this role, she leads efforts to advance a systems-based approach to transforming agrifood systems and oversees FAO's urban agrifood systems programme. Prior to joining FAO, Dr. Hawkes was Professor of Food Policy and Director of the Centre for Food Policy at City, University of London. Her career spans leadership and research roles at the International Food Policy Research Institute, the University of São Paulo, the World Health Organization, the Global Nutrition Report, and World Cancer Research Fund International. A recognized leader in the field of agrifood systems and nutrition, she co-founded the Next Gen(d)eration Leadership Collective in 2020 to foster courageous leadership and address power imbalances in nutrition and food systems.

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Virgilio Maretto graduated in Electronic Engineering from the University of Naples "Federico II." After an initial experience as a Navy Officer, in 1998 he joined Accenture, where he spent over twenty years leading digital transformation and innovation projects for major Italian and international companies, gaining extensive expertise in business processes and digital technologies across multiple industries. In 2018, he founded pOsti, a startup focused on traceability and sustainability in agri-food supply chains using IoT, blockchain, and AI to foster transparency and trust between producers and consumers. He later launched GIUSTA, a platform for ethical and sustainable food delivery, promoting fair distribution models and environmental responsibility. In 2023, he co-founded Food Innovation Broker, a purpose-driven company dedicated to establishing the first AgrifoodTech Hub in Rome, fostering innovation, research, and technological development in the agri-food sector. He collaborates with universities and agricultural schools as a lecturer and mentor, and is frequently invited as a speaker and expert in AgrifoodTech at national and international conferences and events.

H.E. Ambassador Frederick L. Matwang'a is a career civil servant who began as an Economist at the Ministry of Planning and National Development in 1995, later joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2002. Appointed Ambassador in 2022 and deployed as Ambassador/Permanent Representative to Italy in October 2023, with concurrent accreditation to Albania, Cyprus, Greece, and Malta. Reported to the Embassy in Rome in January 2024 and presented credentials to H.E. Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic, on 22 February 2024. H.E. Ambassador Frederick L. Matwang'a previously served at Kenya's Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York (2005–2010) and Geneva (2014–2018). Holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (1993) and a Master's in Economic Policy and Management (2000), along with additional professional training in IT management, public sector reform, strategic planning, negotiation, regional integration, diplomacy, and leadership for sustainable development.

Lisa Meienberger is an agricultural economist and works at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN Agencies in Rome as an academic collaborator. She holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences with a specialization in Agricultural Economics from ETH Zurich. Her work spans multilateral policy, research and civic engagement in food systems. At the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), she conducted interviews with farmers to assess the acceptance and adoption potential of sustainability measures as part of a Swiss federal project on water conservation. She was also part of the organizing team for Switzerland's first nationwide Citizens' Assembly on Food Policy, a deliberative process bringing together 80 randomly selected people — from all walks of life and across the political spectrum — to co-create recommendations for a fair and future-proof food system.

Kim Mishra is Head of Biotechnology at Planted Foods AG, where he leads research and development efforts focused on sustainable and innovative plant-based protein products. He is also a Lecturer at ETH Zurich in the Department of Health Sciences and Technology, contributing to the academic development of future food scientists. Kim holds a doctorate in Food Process Engineering from ETH Zurich. In his recent Nature Food papers, he presents a transformative approach to food processing, emphasizing the use of unrefined plant raw materials and novel structuring techniques to create healthier, more sustainable food products that preserve nutritional integrity and reduce environmental impact. He is also a co-founder of Brewdaz Brewery and actively involved in local politics.

Lynnette Neufeld is the Director of the Food and Nutrition Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, based in Rome. She leads global efforts to improve nutrition outcomes through evidence-based policy and program design. Prior to joining FAO in 2022, she served as Director of Monitoring, Learning and Research at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) as well as the Director of the Division of Nutritional Epidemiology at the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) in Mexico. Her research has focused on improving the effectiveness of nutrition interventions, particularly for vulnerable populations. Dr. Neufeld holds a doctorate and master's in International Nutrition from Cornell University. She continues to contribute to global nutrition science through advisory roles and academic collaborations

Stefania Ruggeri is Senior Scientist and Nutritionist at the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics, and Adjunct Professor of Food Design for the Circular Economy at Sapienza University of Rome. She holds a Ph.D. in Food Biotechnology and a Master's Degree in Science Communication and Scientific Journalism. During her career, she has carried out several studies on food quality and the link between eating habits, lifestyle, and human health. She has coordinated many national and international research projects. She is a member of scientific committees involved in drafting national public health documents, such as the Italian Guidelines for a Healthy Diet. In 2024, she founded the research platform Italian Food Design, dedicated to the design of healthy and sustainable foods and diets.

Christina Senn-Jakobsen is the Chief Executive Officer of Swiss Food & Nutrition Valley, a nationwide initiative that promotes innovation in sustainable food systems. With over 15 years of experience in the food industry, including leadership roles at Mondelez International, she brings expertise in R&D, innovation management, and strategic partnerships. Christina holds a Master's in European Food Studies from Wageningen University and has worked extensively with startups and corporates to foster collaboration across the Swiss and global food ecosystem. Her work focuses on transforming food systems to be more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient. Recognized as one of the "99+1 shaping Global FoodTech" in 2024, she continues to champion ecosystem-led approaches to food innovation.

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Giulia Simula is the Coordinator of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM) for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). In this role, she leads global policy processes that bring the voices of small-scale food producers, Indigenous Peoples, and civil society organizations into UN food governance spaces. Her work focuses on transforming food systems through rights-based, inclusive, and sustainable approaches, with particular attention to agroecology, territorial markets, and the right to food. Giulia holds a PhD in Development Studies from IDS at the University of Sussex, where her research explored pastoralism and uncertainty in the dairy value chains in Sardinia.

Martijn Sonnevelt joined the Center in 2017 as Executive Director. He is also currently faculty at ETH Zurich D-USYS, where he teaches on the MSc and BSc level. Martijn completed his bachelor, masters, and doctoral studies at ETH Zurich in Agricultural Economics. After spending two years as Postdoc/Lecturer at ETH, he joined FAO and coordinated a program focused on incentives for ecosystem services in agriculture. Before joining the Center, he worked as Deputy Head of the Directorate on International Affairs, Research, and Innovation at the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture. From 2020, Martijn was president of the Swiss National FAO Committee (CNS-FAO) from 2020 until its closing in February 2025.

Jeanne Tomaszewski is the Research Coordinator at the World Food System Center at ETH Zurich, where she leads the development of interdisciplinary research programs and fosters dialogue across science, policy, and practice. With a background in chemical and environmental engineering, she earned her doctorate from Stanford University and completed postdoctoral research in environmental chemistry at ETH Zurich. Jeanne has held roles in science communication and outreach, including as Science Editor and Communications Manager, and is dedicated to translating research into actionable knowledge for diverse stakeholders.

Lucca Zachmann is a Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer in the Agricultural Economics and Policy Group at ETH Zurich, Switzerland. His research focuses on farmer decision-making related to crop production and protection. Using a blend of behavioral economics and quantitative methods, he particularly investigates how supply chain dynamics shape on-farm plant protection strategies, with the aim of supporting more sustainable and effective agricultural practices.

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