

Main Stage

October 1 | 3:45 p.m.

Feeding Tomorrow: The Future of Food Security

The Forum

The drivers of hunger and food insecurity are complex and interconnected; crises, displacement, extreme weather, inflation, poverty - all play a part. Despite decades of effort, global hunger and food insecurity remain challenges that require both tried and tested approaches as well as new innovations. Panelists will discuss how NGOs and implementing partners can adapt to a changing donor landscape, and what a more resilient, coordinated approach to global food security could look like going forward.



Katie Lee

Vice President, Government Affairs, Farm Journal Foundation

Katie Lee is Vice President of Government Affairs at Farm Journal Foundation. Over her 17-year career in Washington, D.C., she has advanced policies and legislation that promote agriculture and global food and nutrition security, ensuring farmers both here in the U.S. and across the world can contribute to creating a safer, more food-secure world for all. Before joining Farm Journal Foundation, Katie spent six years working as a Program Officer on the U.S. Federal Government Relations team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she led the foundation's engagement with key U.S. government agencies and members of Congress. Katie directly managed over \$8 million annually in U.S. advocacy partner investments, and she developed, led, and executed strategies to advance the Gates Foundation's U.S. government resource mobilization and policy priorities on agricultural development and innovation, sustainability, global nutrition, and other issues. Prior to that, Katie led U.S. government relations on international development issues, including food security, nutrition, and the environment, at InterAction, the largest alliance of international non-governmental organizations and partners in the U.S. Katie also worked on international development issues for four years for former Indiana Senator Richard G. Lugar on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff. Katie received her bachelor's degree in political science and theatre studies from Duke University.



Matt Nims

Washington, D.C. Office Director, Wold Food Programme

Matthew Nims was named Director of WFP's Washington Office in June 2024, having most recently served as Deputy Assistant Administrator at USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). Over the previous three years, Mr. Nims represented USAID and the US government in international disaster response efforts.

through BHA. Prior to BHA's formation in 2020, Mr. Nims served as the Deputy Director of USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP), and before that, as FFP Acting Director from January 2017 to October 2018. Mr. Nims has over 24 years of international development experience. His career with USAID began in 2000 in Indonesia, where he managed emergency and development food assistance programs. He then served in Washington for four years, backstopping Asia and Latin America. In that role, he responded to the tsunami in Asia, as well as cyclones and other disasters. Mr. Nims also served with USAID in Afghanistan and Guyana, as well as several emergency response deployments. In all these roles, he worked closely with WFP. Earlier in his career, Mr. Nims was a Peace Corps volunteer, serving as a water and sanitation technician in the Dominican Republic. He has a master's degree in international public health from Emory University.

**Navyn Salem***Founder and CEO, Edesia Nutrition*

In 2009 Navyn set out to help end the crisis of global malnutrition by founding Edesia, a U.S. non-profit, social enterprise, with a mission to treat and prevent malnutrition in developing countries worldwide. Her factory in Rhode Island produces a range of fortified, peanut-based products like Plumpy'Nut for humanitarian agencies like UNICEF, World Food Programme, USAID and other NGOs working in emergency and conflict zones. Since 2010, Edesia has reached over 25 million children in 65 countries, including Somalia, Venezuela, Yemen and Syria. Navyn is a 2022 McNulty Prize Winner, was a Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year/New England in 2018, New Englander of the Year by the New England Council in 2017 and New England Business Woman of the Year by Bryant University. She was awarded honorary degrees by her alma mater, Boston College (2012) as well as Bryant University (2014), Providence College (2017), Curry College (2018), University of RI (2021) and Salve Regina University (2022). She is a Trustee of Boston College. She is a 2014 Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. Navyn's father is from Tanzania and she has four daughters, all of whom were the inspiration for the creation of Edesia.

**Christine Knudsen***Vice President, Humanitarian, InterAction*

Christine Knudsen is Vice President of the Humanitarian Team at InterAction, the largest U.S.-based alliance of international NGOs and partners. She joined in 2024, with more than 25 years of experience across NGOs and the UN system, including as global emergency director at UN-Habitat, leading humanitarian partnership with UNICEF, and as executive director of Sphere. She has deployed globally throughout her career, primarily across Africa and the North Caucasus.