

Moderator and Panelist Biographies



Tom Philpott is the food and agriculture correspondent for *Mother Jones* and author of *Perilous Bounty: The Looming Collapse of American Farming and How We Can Prevent It*, a finalist for the New York Public Library's Helen Bernstein Book Award for Excellence in Journalism. Previously, he worked as the food editor and columnist for *Grist Magazine*. His work has won numerous awards, including a Gerald Loeb Award for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism.



Jessica Almy is the Vice President of Policy at The Good Food Institute, an international nonprofit reimagining meat production. With more than 100 team members in the United States and five affiliate offices, GFI develops the roadmap for a sustainable, secure, and just protein supply. Jessica directs the U.S. policy team, which works across legislation, regulation, and litigation to ensure that alternative proteins are accessible, affordable, and delicious. Jessica previously worked at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, and holds a J.D. from New York University School of Law and an M.S. from Tufts University. She has been featured in media from NPR and USA Today to Newsweek and The Hill.



Isha Datar is the executive director of New Harvest, a nonprofit research institute that funds open, public cultured meat research. She has been pioneering cellular agriculture since 2009, driven by a passion to see transformative technology create a better world. In 2010, Isha published a review paper in the scientific journal *Innovative Food Science and Emerging Technologies*, among the first handful of papers to ever discuss cultured meat in academic literature. After co-founding Muufri (now Perfect Day Foods) and Clara Foods in 2014, she transferred her

Isha Datar (cont'd) founding equity to New Harvest and used it to establish an endowment for cell ag research. In 2015, Isha coined the term "cellular agriculture" – officially creating a category for agriculture products produced from cell cultures rather than whole plants or animals. Isha is a Shuttleworth Foundation Fellow and Director's Fellow at the MIT Media Lab. Isha holds a BSc. in cell and molecular biology from the University of Alberta and a master's in biotechnology from the University of Toronto.



Tom Neltner is the Environmental Defense Fund's Chemicals Policy Director. He leads efforts to remove or minimize hazardous chemicals from products and the marketplace through cross-cutting policy initiatives. His primary focus is on food additive safety and reducing exposure to lead in our homes and communities. He is a chemical engineer and attorney with experience in chemical safety issues in the workplace, the environment, the home, consumer products, and food.



Jim Thomas is a Co-Executive Director and Researcher with the ETC Group. He has over 25 years international experience tracking the impact of emerging technologies on human rights, biodiversity, equity and food systems, as well as engaging in governance questions around new technologies. Jim has authored or co-authored many of ETC Group's reports addressing developments in synthetic biology, geoengineering, nanotechnology, big data and other emerging technology platforms. He has been an active observer in UN processes, most closely at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, where he serves in that body's Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology. He has convened international civil society collaborations on synthetic biology and other technological developments, appeared in several documentaries and has written for a range of international media, including *The Guardian*, *New Internationalist*, *Huffington Post*, *Slate*, and *The Ecologist*.