

# Planning for Research Utilization

October 7, 2021

## Moderator

**Sutherland Miller III, Project Director, Research Technical Assistance Center, administered by NORC at the University of Chicago**



Sutherland Miller III has extensive experience in international development, program design, and management, working with multiple donors, private clients, and U.S. and foreign agencies. He has particular expertise in trade and investment policy and promotion; enabling environment policy reform and competitiveness; knowledge management and organizational learning; monitoring and evaluation; public sector management and capacity building; regional integration; civil society and business association strategic planning, advocacy, and capacity building; and donor coordination.

Presently he serves as the Project Director/Chief of Party of the Research Technical Assistance Center (RTAC), a five-year \$24 million project designed to leverage the academic community to provide evidence-based research and technical assistance for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). RTAC seeks to program technical and academic experts from across the globe to conduct action-oriented research studies, provide technical training, convene high-level development and policy panels, and produce research translation and communications products across all technical areas in which USAID works, including agriculture, democracy and governance, economic growth, education, environment, and health.

Sutherland earned a B.A. from Brown University in political science and film and a MALD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts and Harvard Universities, in economics and public management. Additional education includes bachelors-level studies at the University of Vermont and masters-level courses at the American University in Cairo as well as additional course work in management and leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and in leadership and communications at the University of Chicago.

## Presenters

**Rachael Jackson, Research Scientist, NORC at the University of Chicago**



Rachael Jackson is a Research Scientist at NORC at the University of Chicago. Ms. Jackson is an evaluator and survey methodologist with over ten years of experience designing, managing, analyzing, and communicating results of mixed methods evaluations and interdisciplinary research. Most of her evaluation/research work has focused on vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, and she specializes in gaining community buy-in by using community-based participatory approaches. For the past five years, she has worked with teams in South Asia, Asia Pacific, Africa, Latin America, and North America to evaluate programs related to human trafficking, violence against women and children, and justice system performance. Ms. Jackson has an M.P.H. from the University of North Texas Health Science Center and is currently working on a Ph.D. in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland, College Park.

## **Marlene Lee, Associate Vice President (International Programs), Population Reference Bureau**



Marlene Lee is Associate Vice President in International Programs at the Population Reference Bureau (PRB). Marlene works with research networks, developing country governments, and non-governmental organizations to strengthen links between decision-making and emerging evidence. She has been PRB's lead on the Research Technical Assistance Center project since January 2020, providing technical assistance with research-to-action planning and coordinating the development of the RTAC Research Translation Toolkit. At PRB, Marlene's research translation projects have been diverse. Their thematic areas include women's economic empowerment, the care economy, the economics and demography of aging, and the economic demography of reproductive health. Marlene previously worked at the University of Louisiana and the University of Wisconsin and was an Associate Peace Corps Director, a Peace Corps Fellow, and a Peace Corps Volunteer. Marlene holds a Ph.D.

from Cornell University, an MPA from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and a bachelor's from Yale University, with specializations in international development, family demography, and public policy analysis.

## **Discussants**

### **Asri Adisasmita, Professor of Epidemiology, Universitas Indonesia**



Dr. Asri Adisasmita is a Professor at the Department of Epidemiology, Faculty of Public Health, Universitas Indonesia. Apart from teaching, she currently serves as the Vice Dean for Human Resources, General Administration, Collaboration, and Venture. Her research activity has been mainly on maternal and newborn health. She has also been assisting the Indonesian Ministry of Health in maternal death surveillance, as well as birth defect surveillance. She was involved in a research project funded by PEER/USAID on Kangaroo Mother Care, which led to her recent Research-to-Action project in 2019.

She received her Ph.D. in perinatal epidemiology and an M.P.H. in chronic disease epidemiology from Yale University. She received her medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia.

### **Sangeeta Chopra, Principal Scientist, Indian Agricultural Research Institute**



Dr. Sangeeta Chopra is a scientist at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, India. She graduated with a degree in Electrical/Power Electronics Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee and Kharagpur, and has a doctorate in Energy Science and Technology from Punjab Agricultural University (PAU). She has worked on evaporatively cooled structures for perishables storage and livestock comfort and on pulse electric field pretreatment of herbs for essential oil extraction.

She has gained international research experience working with Michigan State University (MSU) in 2014 and 2017. She received a grant for an IARI-MSU collaborative project *Low-Carbon Footprint Cool Storage Structures to Empower Farmers: Improving Storage and Enabling Processing of Perishable Produce*, from the USAID Global Center for Food Systems Innovation (GCFSI) in an international competition. She is an awardee of the Fulbright-Nehru Academic

and Professional Excellence grant for "using finite element analysis to improve the design of cool rooms for the storage of perishables on smallholder farms."

She has received funding for her work with farmers and affordable clean energy cooling storage solutions. This involved transferring and testing the Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) structures in three villages, one in each of three different states in India. In this project, her team at IARI in conjunction with Michigan State University (MSU) has

developed a one-of-a-kind off-grid batteryless [SunFridge](#). The SunFridge can serve as the initial and final link in the cool chain of perishables for smallholder farmers.

**Basant Giri, Senior Scientist and Director of International Relations, Kathmandu Institute of Applied Sciences (KIAS)**



Dr. Basant Giri is a Nepali chemist. He is a co-founder of the Kathmandu Institute of Applied Sciences (KIAS) and works as a senior scientist and director of international relations at KIAS. He completed his education at Tribhuvan University, Nepal (B.Sc. and M.Sc.), Oregon State University, U.S. (M.S.) and, the University of Wyoming, U.S. (Ph.D.). Dr. Giri's research interests include the development of new measurement technologies appropriate in resource-limited settings. He has several years of teaching experience in high school, undergraduate, and graduate levels in Nepal and the U.S. as a faculty and teaching assistant, respectively. Dr. Giri has (co-)authored more than two dozen peer-reviewed research articles including the papers on COVID-19 detection methods and efficiency of face masks. Further, he has (co-)authored two books in addition to giving more than 50 talks domestically and abroad. His research works in Nepal have been funded by numerous entities, including the International

Foundation for Science (Sweden); The World Academy of Science (Italy); and National Science Foundation (U.S.) and USAID; GCRF, UK; and European Commission. He serves as a founding chair of the National Young Academy of Nepal (NaYAN). Dr. Giri has received several prestigious awards including the recent TWAS Atta-ur-Rahman Award in Chemistry 2020.

**Caroline Marie B. Jaraula, Assistant Professor, Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman**



Dr. Caroline Marie B. Jaraula is an Assistant Professor of the Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman. Her research focus includes environmental biogeochemistry. Dr. Jaraula completed her Ph.D. in Earth and Environmental Sciences with a focus on Organic Geochemistry at the University of Illinois, Chicago, U.S. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia. Since 2016, Dr. Jaraula has lead the Organic and Stable Isotope Geochemistry Laboratory (OASIS Geochem lab). She now mentors seven graduate students and three other Research Assistants in three interdisciplinary projects, including the USAID PEER PEOPLES project that recently finished its Research-to-Action planning in April 2021.