

PLENARY SPEAKERS



DR. RODERICK DREW

International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) President Dr. Roderick Drew is an accomplished scientist from Australia whose research interest is biotechnology of tropical and sub-tropical horticultural crops. His research expertise includes in vitro culture, plant molecular biology and gene transfer; virus elimination and virus resistance, interspecific and intergeneric hybridization, and associated embryo rescue; development of improved agronomic traits and novel crop genotypes, and selection and propagation of superior genotypes for commercial production. Likewise a brilliant educator on horticulture, plant science, plant tissue culture, plant biotechnology, and food plant science, he nurtures under his keen watch undergraduate, masters and doctorate students from Southeast Asia, Pacific Islands, the Subcontinent, Middle East, and Europe. He has published more than 150 journal papers and has led more than 40 externally funded research projects in Australia and abroad.



DR. JOHN DONOUGH HEBER KEATINGE

Dr. Dyno Keatinge is the director general of Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC) – The World Vegetable Center since 2008. An agronomist from Ireland with a doctorate in Agriculture from Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, he is also currently a visiting professor of Tropical Agriculture at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom. Dr. Keatinge has global expertise in crop agronomy having worked in various leadership positions at International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Syria, Pakistan and Turkey, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria and Cameroon, and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India and several countries in sub-Saharan Africa. He was also professor of Agricultural Systems and Management at Reading University for much of the 1990s.



DR. WILLIAM D. DAR

Dr. William Dar is an internationally multi-awarded doctor in horticulture. His extensive research and professional experience focus on crop management, farming systems development and technology sharing and upscaling. A transformational and servant leader known for championing the cause of small farmers in developing countries of Asia and Africa, he is also widely known internationally as an outstanding administrator in agriculture and rural development. A former secretary of the Philippines' Department of Agriculture and presidential adviser on Food Security, he is today the president of InangLupa Movement which champions and advocates modernizing and industrializing Philippine agriculture guided by an inclusive, science-based, resilient, and market-oriented development strategy.