



IFAD Talk: Actions for Inclusive Growth in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Date and time: Wednesday 14 February 2024, 11 a.m. (CET)

The context

The theme of the forty-seventh session of the Governing Council is innovating for a food-secure future. No innovation is more transformative or divisive than artificial intelligence (AI).

Much of the conversation around AI is about regulation and the potential negative impacts of its proliferation. There is little discussion about how it can be used for good, to improve the lives of those most marginalized and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Despite differences in opinion on whether AI is a force for good or bad, it is indisputable that AI will feature prominently in our futures – and is already a major part of our present. We must ensure that this AI revolution does not bypass the world's most marginalized people. We must harness the power of this innovation to serve humanity's most pressing needs.

The speaker

Bhaskar Chakravorti will give a keynote speech to help us navigate this future frontier and to better understand what AI can do for rural people.

A visionary in the field of AI and dedicated to the intersection between digital technology and socioeconomic development, Bhaskar's speech promises to be enlightening and inspiring, providing real-world examples of how AI is currently being used to further development in low-income countries.



GOVERNING COUNCIL 2024



The format

Following a brief introduction and the keynote speech, the moderator, H el ene Papper, and Bhaskar will discuss some key issues. Following this, the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions. The audience may be curious about:

- Examples of AI that are relevant for food security, rural development and achieving the SDGs in low-income contexts.
- Strategies that technology companies, local communities and governments could use to collaborate and ensure that advancements are not just commercially successful but also socially and environmentally beneficial.
- How AI may influence labour dynamics in small-scale agriculture and how the agricultural sector can balance the benefits of AI with the need to preserve employment and traditional farming practices.

Biographies

Bhaskar Chakravorti

Bhaskar Chakravorti is the Dean of Global Business and Executive Director at the Institute for Business in the Global Context, The Fletcher School, Tufts University. He is also founder and chair of Digital Planet, which studies the impact of technology on lives and livelihoods around the world.

His multi-year initiative, Imagining a Digital Economy for All 2030, investigates how data, digital technologies and artificial intelligence can spur inclusive growth, development and productivity.

H el ene Papper

H el ene Papper is the Director of the Global Communications and Advocacy Division, which is responsible for IFAD's global, internal and external engagement and positioning, communications and advocacy strategies and operations.



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