



HYBRID

AGROTECHNOLOGY
CONFERENCE

Rebranding Agriculture:
Farming Solutions for Global Challenges

February 21, 2022

Speakers Bios
in Alphabetical Order

Organizer



Broadening Horizons™





Petros Alexandris

Journalist & Chief Editor
Agro24

Petros Alexandris, Chief Editor in AGRO24, is a journalist specialized in agriculture since 2004 and PhD candidate at the Communication & Mass Media Faculty of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. He began his career at the “Food & Beverages” magazine in 1998 and at “Exousia” newspaper in 2000. In the agricultural sector he entered at first as an editor in Agronews and Agrenda. Afterwards he became Chief Editor in Agrenda for 5 years. In 2014 he became Chief Editor in the newly founded news portal Agro24. Between September 2018 and July 2019 he was working at the Greek Ministry of Agriculture Press Office. He is vice-president in the temporary founding committee of the Greek Agrifood Journalist Association (GAJA-member of ENAJ).



Nikolaos Alfieris

Founder & CEO
Farmvent

Nikolaos Alfieris - Founder & CEO of Farmvent. Nikolaos is a Biosystems Engineer with expertise in the field of Indoor Farming technologies and robotics. He is doing a master's degree in Biosystems Engineering and in Management, Economics, and Consumer Studies at Wageningen University & Research (WUR). Nikolaos brings engineering experience in programming, product hardware design, and the development of robotics for indoor agriculture and Internet of things technologies. Located in the Food Valley of the Netherlands, Farmvent is revolutionizing in-store vertical farming by building cutting-edge technologically advanced farms for indoor cultivation through innovations in automation, AI and plant science.



Nikolaos Bakatselos

President
American-Hellenic Chamber of
Commerce

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the President & CEO of “Pyramis Metallourgia A.E.” and “Pyramis Deutschland GmbH”. Nikolaos Bakatselos was Member of the Board of Directors, and Deputy Managing Director, of “Northern Greece Publishing S.A.”. He has held the position of Managing Director of “Imperium AEEX”, and Member of the Board of Directors of “Egnatia Bank Securities S.A.”. He was a Member of the Board of Directors of Attica Bank from February 2014 until June 2016. Nikolaos Bakatselos was a Member of the Steering Committee of the “International Hellenic University” from 2006 until January 2014 and Member of the Board and President of the Northern Greece Committee of EEDE. He is Member of the Committee Support CERTH, Trustee of Anatolia College, Member of the Board and Member of the Steering Committee of SVE and Honorary Consul of Belgium for Northern Greece. After being a Member of the Board of Directors of the American – Hellenic Chamber of Commerce for several years, in June 2010 he was elected Vice President of AMCHAM and President of the Northern Greece Committee and since June 2019 he is the President of AMCHAM. In October 2019 he was elected as President of HEDNO by the General Assembly of HEDNO. Nikolaos Bakatselos holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of Reading and a MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School.



Dionysis Bochtis

Director
Institute for Bio-Economy &
Agri-Technology (iBO)
CERTH

Prof. Dr. Dionysis Bochtis works in the scientific area of Systems Engineering focusing on digital and robotized agricultural production, holding various positions in Academic-Research Institutions within his career including Centre for Research and Technology (Director of Institute for Bio-Economy and Agri-Technology), University of Lincoln -UK - (Prof. in Agri-Robotics), Aarhus University – DK - (Prof. in Operations Management), while in parallel he is involved in agri-technology products development in the Private Sector. Among the over 300 publications, he has published more than 120 Journal articles, and 11 Books, while he has run over 50 research projects in the scientific area of Agri-Technologies.

Selective Key-Activities include:

- Chair of Section V (Systems management) of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering – CIGR,
- President of the European Association for Information Technologies in Agriculture (EFITA),
- Founder of the spin-off private company “farmB – Digital Agriculture”.



Michael Bourlakis

Director of Research
Cranfield School of Management

Professor Michael Bourlakis is the Director of Research for Cranfield School of Management and the Head of the Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management Group. He has worked in the past at Brunel University Business School, Kent University Business School, Newcastle University, Oxford University Templeton College, Leicester University Management Centre. Michael is an internationally renowned and established authority in logistics and supply chain Management specialising in sustainable and food supply chains and supply chain technologies. He has been very successful in winning substantial external funding and he has won more than 30 research and consulting projects totalling £33 million from various bodies and private companies. Professor Michael Bourlakis has generated 80 journal papers and 5 edited books and sits on the Editorial Board of 15 journals. Professor Bourlakis has been involved with pre- and post-project evaluations for the European Commission and another 25 national funding bodies from all over the world. Michael has been a Chair, Keynote Speaker and a Committee Member for numerous, leading logistics academic and industry conferences worldwide and an External Examiner for PhD viva voce (25 times) involving leading universities in UK and the world. His multidisciplinary research work and impactful thought leadership has received considerable attention by media (BBC News, ITV News, BBC Radio 4 Today, The Guardian, The Independent, The Times, Wall Street Journal etc.). He had been a Member of an Expert Panel for the European Commission (DG Research & Innovation) working with leading retailers (Tesco, Carrefour, Metro) and he has also acted as an Expert Contributor providing written evidence for an Inquiry for the “All-Party UK Parliamentary Group on Retail”. Michael has worked with numerous multinational organisations especially food and grocery companies; for example, he has been an Expert Panel Member for TESCO (No 1 UK retailer) on a “Future of Food Advisory Panel” – this Panel was chaired by TESCO’s CEO Dave Lewis. In 2018, he acted as an Expert for the UK Government / DEFRA in relation to the “Impact of Brexit on Food Supply Chains” and, during 2021-22, he is a REF2021 Panel Member evaluating research submissions from UK Business Schools. This evaluation will support the UK Government towards the provision of substantial research funding to UK universities.



Constantinos Cartalis is a Professor and Director of the Laboratory of Environmental Physics at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). He is responsible for NKUA for the project "National Network for Climate Change and its effects", while he participates in the Center of Excellence "Climate Change - Adaptation and Mitigation" of NKUA. He was the scientist responsible for the Dianeosis research study on the impacts of climate change in Greece. He has acted as a Member of the Subsidiary Body of UNFCCC for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement. He has published 103 papers in international peer-reviewed journals. He has served as Chairman of the Environment Committee of the Greek Parliament, Member of Parliament and Secretary General at the Ministry of Culture.

Constantinos Cartalis

Professor
National & Kapodistrian
University of Athens





**Constantinos
Constantinidis**

CEO
PELOPAC

Constantinos Constantinidis is the CEO of PELOPAC since 1996. PELOPAC is one of the leading Greek exporters of table olives and other Greek and Mediterranean specialties. The company specializes in developing and producing top quality products for leading brands and retailers worldwide, including the USA, Australia, UK and Europe. PELOPAC has received multiple awards, including “Greek Export Awards” for Top Manufacturing Company (Silver) and Top Exporting Company (Bronze) and “Greek Values Awards” for Outstanding Medium Size Company, Export Excellence and Innovation. PELOPAC’s products have received 28 Great Taste Awards (UK) and have been featured at Innovation Expositions at SIAL and PLMA. Since 1988 he has been involved in new ventures in textiles production, sportswear, garment retail, building materials production and several real estate developments in Greece. He was a founding partner of Mt.Vikos and Big Picture Foods, both food import and marketing companies in the USA. Since 2020 he is the Chairman of the Board of the AgroTech Export Cluster in Central Macedonia. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute of Applied Biosciences of CERTH, the Agrotechnology Committee of AmCham, the Executive Committee of SEVE, the Board of FIG, the Board of Trustees of Anatolia College and the Chair of the Oversight Committee of the Anatolia High School in Thessaloniki. He holds an MBA from Columbia Business School, and a BSc (ENG) in Mechanical Engineering from Queen Mary College, University of London.



Zoe Doulgeri

Professor

Robotics and Control of
Manufacturing Systems

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Zoe Doulgeri is a Professor of Robotics and Control of Manufacturing Systems in the Automation and Robotics Lab of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). She received the diploma of Electrical Engineering from AUTH and the M.Sc. (DIC) in Control Systems, the M.Sc.(DIC) in Social and Economic Aspects of Science and Technology in Industry and a Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering, from the Imperial College, London, UK. She teaches Control Systems and Robotics. She has authored more than 150 publications in peer-reviewed international journals and conferences. She is an evaluator of EU research and innovation proposals in Horizon-Europe and a reviewer in the most important robotics journals and conferences. She has served as associate editor in the Journal of Intelligent and Robotic systems and the IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters. She has participated in many robotics projects financed by the EU and the Greek government. She is currently the coordinator of two H2020 European projects, one ESPA infrastructure project from the Central Macedonia region and one Research>Create-Innovate project. Her current research interests include the topics of physical human robot interaction, robot teaching and learning by demonstration, bimanual mobile robots, object grasping and manipulation, reinforcement learning and control of robotic systems. She is a senior member of the IEEE and of the IEEE Robotics and Automation and Control Systems Societies and the representative of Greece in the European Control Association.



Vassos Efthymiadis

Managing Director
K&N Efthymiadis

Born in Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1972, Mr. Vassos Efthymiadis graduated from Anatolia College of Thessaloniki (1990) and has a B.Sc. in Industrial Economics from the London School of Economics (1993) and a M. Sc. in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University (1994). Mr. Efthymiadis is Managing Director of K&N Efthymiadis S.A., one of the leading companies in Greece in the field of agricultural supplies, established in 1935 and having a significant export activity in various countries of Southeastern Europe. Moreover, he is Vice President of the Redestos Agrotechnology Group, the largest and most diverse agribusiness group in Greece, dealing with agricultural supplies, R&D in plant propagation material, analytical laboratory services concerning food quality and hygiene, environmental services and food trading through contract farming. Alongside his main business interests, Mr. Efthymiadis is actively involved in a number of associations and educational institutions for the promotion of economic growth and development.

In this capacity, he is currently serving as:

- President in the Hellenic Crop Protection Association
- Board Member of the Hellenic Association of Chemical Industries
- Advisory Board Member of the International Hellenic University

He is married to Calliope Gkantzou and has 2 children.



Stefanos Fotiou

Director

Sustainable Development Goals
Food and Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations (FAO)

Stefanos Fotiou is an international expert on environment and sustainable development with over 25 years of experience in the United Nations system, private sector and research organisations. He currently serves as Director in the Office of Sustainable Development Goals in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) as well as Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub hosted by FAO. In these roles, Stefanos provides strategic leadership and oversees implementation mechanism to support countries developing and implementing SDGs based agrifood transformations. Prior to join FAO Stefanos served 5 and half years as Director in the Environment and Development Division of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as well as 10 years in various roles in the UN Environment Programme. Highlights of his achievements include successfully leading intergovernmental negotiations resulting in specific normative outcomes, establishing new initiatives and partnerships on technical cooperation and capacity development as well as ideating and steering analytical work in the substantive areas of his responsibility. Before joining the UN, he had worked for the private sector and academia on issues of regional sustainable development. Throughout his career, Stefanos has taken leading roles in international fora, has conceptualised and led the development of regional and national strategies on environment and sustainable development and his work has been published and referenced. He holds a PhD in Natural Resource Economics, a Master of Science in Forestry and Natural Environment and a Master of Science in Information Systems.



Emily joined the consulting team in January 2020 and helps farmers navigate organic compliance as they transition to certified organic. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management, focusing in Soil Science, from Pennsylvania State University and is currently pursuing an M.B.A. in Food and Agribusiness from Delaware Valley University. Prior to joining the team at Rodale Institute, she worked in regulatory compliance of organics for a certification agency and a materials review organization. She is IOIA trained, a Certified Crop Advisor and serves as a board member for the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI).

Emily Newman Gantz

Organic Consulting Program
Manager
Rodale Institute





Charles Godfray

Director
Oxford Martin School

Charles Godfray is a population biologist with broad interests in science and the interplay of science and policy. He has spent his career at Oxford University and Imperial College and is currently Director of the Oxford Martin School and Professor of Population Biology at Oxford. His research has involved experimental and theoretical studies in population and community ecology, epidemiology and evolutionary biology. He is particularly interested in food security and chaired the UK Government Office of Science's Foresight project on the Future of Food and Farming and recently stepped down as chair of the UK's agricultural and environment (Defra) ministry's Science Advisory Council.



Lars Jensen
CEO
Vespucci Maritime

Lars Jensen is CEO of Vespucci Maritime, and is an analyst and thought leader providing expert assistance in strategic decision making and analysis in the wider container shipping industry. Lars has 20 years of experience from inside the container shipping industry, whereof the last 10 years has been as an independent analyst and consultant for carriers, shippers, ports and maritime technology firms. Lars is the author of the book “Liner Shipping 2025” focusing on the changes to come in the industry and how carriers, terminals, ports, shippers and forwards should navigate these changes to emerge successfully. Lars Jensen is co-founder of LinerGame providing innovative training and teambuilding in the liner shipping industry with more than 100 sessions held in the past four years across 17 countries on 3 continents.



Vassilis Kafatos

Vice-President
American-Hellenic Chamber of
Commerce

Vassilis Kafatos (Partner) is Deloitte Greece Clients & Industries Leader and President of the Deloitte Alexander Competence Center. He specializes in corporate & digital strategy, innovation, business model transformation, mergers & acquisitions, financial restructuring and operational excellence. Vassilis has over 20 years of advisory experience in various sectors including travel, hospitality, investment management, consumer business and manufacturing. He serves as a Trustee of the Board of Anatolia College, as the Vice President of the American - Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, as the President of the Advisory Board of the Council on Competitiveness of Greece and as an Executive Committee member of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Industries of Greece. He holds a degree in Economic Science from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, an MBA in Corporate Strategy from the University of Texas at Austin and postgraduate diplomas in Business Leadership from IMD, Lausanne.





Eva Kaili

Vice-President
European Parliament

Eva Kaili is a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), part of the Hellenic S&D Delegation since 2014. In January 2022, she was elected as Vice-President of the European Parliament for the second half of the 9th legislature. Her responsibilities include the Parliament's ICT Innovation Strategy, Informatics & Telecommunications, European Strategy and Policy Analysis System, Corporate Social Responsibility, and replacing the President for multilateral bodies, including the UN and the WTO. Eva is also the Chair of the Future of Science and Technology Panel (STOA) and the Centre for Artificial Intelligence (C4AI). She is a Member of the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), Budgets (BUDG), and the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA). Eva has worked intensively on promoting innovation as a driving force of the European Digital Single Market. She has been the draftsman of legislation in the fields of blockchain technology, online platforms, big data, fintech, AI, and cybersecurity, as well as the ITRE draftsman on Juncker plan EFSI2 and, more recently, the InvestEU programme. She is also a member of the delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (DACP), the delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula (DARP), and the delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (DNAT). Prior to being elected as MEP, she has been a Member of the Greek Parliament (2007-2012). Before her political career, she worked as a journalist and newscaster. Eva holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Civil Engineering, and a Postgraduate degree in European Politics.



Panos Kalogiorgas

Manager
Strategy, Analytics and M&A
Consulting
Deloitte Greece

Panos is a Manager in the Strategy, Analytics and M&A Consulting practice of Deloitte (Strategy & Business Design service line). He specializes in strategic planning, operating model (re-)design market research, competitor analysis, business process re-engineering, and supply chain optimization, while he had also worked in Transfer Pricing for Deloitte in Greece and the Netherlands. He has work experience of 9,5+ years, having served multinational clients in various industries, with focus on agribusiness, food & beverage, consumer goods, energy, technology, retail and e-commerce.



Nick Kanopoulos

President & CEO
Brite Hellas

Over 30 years of engineering and management experience. Dr. Kanopoulos has created and managed large teams focused on the development, mass production, and marketing of semiconductor products for the global market. Before founding Brite Solar Technologies, he was the Managing Director for Channel Development in Europe / Africa / Middle East for the Solar Business Unit of Applied Materials. Previously, Dr. Kanopoulos was the Director of the Multimedia & Communications (MMC) business division of Atmel Corp, where he was responsible for managing product development groups based in the United States, Greece, Sweden, and China. Dr. Kanopoulos was also the founder and CEO of Data Communications Technologies, which was acquired by Atmel. In addition, he was the Director of the Integrated Electronics Group at RTI International, one of the largest independent research centers in the U.S. For over 10 years, he served as an adjunct professor at Duke University in North Carolina. He was the Manager of the Integrated Electronics Department at Research Triangle Institute, and has been a special advisor to the Minister of Macedonia & Thrace in Greece for matters of technology. Dr. Kanopoulos graduated in Electrical Engineering from the University of Patra in Greece, and holds Master's and Doctorate Degrees both from Duke University.



Kostas Karantininis

Professor
Business Economics
Swedish University of
Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

Kostas is professor of business economics at the Department of People & Society, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Born and raised on a farm in Trikala Imathia, Greece, he holds a BA in law and economics from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and MSC and PhD from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He was previously Van Vliet Chair Professor at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Assistant professor at the Panteion University of Athens, Greece, researcher at Wageningen University, The Netherlands, and visiting scholar at UC Berkeley, USA. He teaches at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAIX), and has taught, supervised students and researched at universities in Europe, Asia, Africa and N. America. He has published in international peer reviewed journals. His research and teaching is on domestic and international sustainable agri-food industries and value chains, cooperatives, agricultural policy, international trade, economic development, industrial organisation, institutional economics and econometrics;. He has published the book “A new paradigm for Greek agriculture”. Palgrave, 2017.





Georgios Katsaros

President & Managing Director
E. Katsaros

Georgios Katsaros holds a Ph.D in Electronic Engineering and a Master of Research (MRes) Degree in Telecommunications from the University College London, University of London. He also has a Master's of Engineering (MEng) Degree in Communication Engineering from the Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London.

EMPLOYMENT:

- 2001-Present: E. Katsaros SA,
Managing Director of Family owned business. Exclusive distributors in Greece of tractors and agricultural machinery.
- 2004-Present: Marathon Invest Srl, Bucharest Romania,
Director of Real Estate Company holding significant assets in Romania.
- 2007-Present: Marathon Invest KFT, Budapest, Hungary,
Director of Real Estate Company holding significant assets in Hungary.
- 2005-2007: STTS North Ltd
Director of Satellite and TV equipment trading company. Distributors of the Fraccaro and Alcad products.
- Summer Session of 1995-1999: Barclays de Zoete Wedd, London UK (City)
Investment bank of Barclays Group.
Worked in the Debt Capital Markets (DCM) as assistant to senior trader.
- 2006: Hellenic Navy (PN)
National Service.

He is Member of the Agrotechnology Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, Member of Working Group of the Greek Technical Chamber (TEE) overseeing Energy matters and Information & Telecommunication matters. In addition, he is Associate Member, Institution of Electrical Engineers (AMIEE) and Member Institution of Electronic & Electrical Engineers (MIEEE).



Athanasios Kouimtzis

Chair

Agrotechnology Committee
American-Hellenic Chamber of
Commerce

Athanasios Kouimtzis is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of KOUIMTZIS Group focusing on engineering innovations and new technologies. Based in Thessaloniki since 1936, the KOUIMTZI Group is an internationally leading manufacturer and supplier of mechanical accessories. The pioneering approach in the industry supports the creation of a reliable network in more than 40 countries exporting 70% of production. Under its management, the Group expanded its activities, listed on the Cyprus Stock Exchange, implemented new trading plans, agreed on new partnerships, developed its extroversion, expanded its facilities, acquired exclusive representations of multinational giants companies, and created new sources of revenue and transformed into a modern company. Prior to joining the family business, Mr. Kouimtzis worked at the Greek Embassy in Washington DC and at the shipping company World Carrier Corporation. He currently holds the position of Chairman of the Agrotechnology Committee as a member of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), is an Adviser to the Exporters Association (SEVE) and is also a member of the Board of the European Union of the United States Army (AUSA-European Region). He was President of the Board of Trustees, Pinewood American International Schools of Thessaloniki in the period 2018-2019. Athanasios Kouimtzis studied Business Administration and Political Science at Barton College and holds a Master's degree in National Security and an MBA in Multinational Business Administration from Georgetown University, USA.





Ilias Kyriazakis

Professor of Animal Science
Institute for Global Food Security
Queen's University Belfast

Ilias Kyriazakis is Professor of Animal Science at the Institute for Global Food Security of Queen's University Belfast. Prior to this he has held Chairs at Edinburgh and Newcastle. He is a veterinarian by training who specialises in the effects of animal management on their performance, ability to cope with challenges, such as pathogens, and environmental impact. He has worked with a variety of animal species ranging from mice to cows, but during the last 15 years his research has focused mainly on pigs and poultry. His recent work addresses: 1) the effect on nutrition on the ability of animals to cope with pathogens; 2) the use of alternative and home-grown feeds in pig and poultry systems, and 3) the development of methods to assess the environmental impact of local and global pig and poultry systems, including the assessment of system changes on their environmental impact. His team was responsible for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the UK pig, broiler, layer and turkey systems, and the identification of hotspots responsible for such impacts. They are currently assessing the contribution of livestock health to the environmental impact of their production systems. He is a co-author of the CIEL report 'Net Zero Carbon and UK Livestock'. Professor Kyriazakis is the recipient of several awards, including the Leroy Award by the European Federation of Animal Sciences for International Excellence in Animal Science, the Royal Agricultural Society Medal for Research of Outstanding merit, which is of proven benefit to Agriculture, the Blaxter Award for Lifetime contribution to Whole Body Metabolism, and Fellow of national and International bodies.



Efstratios Loizou

Professor of Applied Economics
University of Western Macedonia

Efstratios Loizou is a Prof. of Applied Economics in the Dept. of Regional Development and Cross Border Studies (until 2019 in the Division of Agricultural Economics - Department of Agriculture) of the University of Western Macedonia, Greece. In 2018 on sabbatical he served (9 months) as senior researcher in the ERA chair of the Dept. of Bioeconomy and Systems Analysis, Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation (IUNG), in Poland. He is a graduate of the Department of Economics at the University of Macedonia-Greece (1992) and holds a MSc. in Agricultural Economics from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (1995). In 2001, he received his PhD in Agricultural Economics from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Department of Agricultural Economics of the School of Agriculture. He works in the field of Agricultural, Rural and Regional economics with specification to Input-Output Analysis, Regional-Rural modeling, interindustry linkages and impacts analysis, rural and regional development, Common Agricultural Policy, Agri-food sector and food industries, precision agriculture and Innovations in agriculture, energy and Bioeconomy. He has participated, since 1997, as team member in several national and EU projects (Horizon, ERASMUS+, FP, INTERREG, TEMPUS, DG AGRI TENDERS), mainly related to CAP programmes evaluation, impact analysis at regional level, etc. He has published his work in several referred journals, conference volumes, collective volumes, research reports and conferences.



Fay Makantasi

Research Director
diaNEOsis

Fay Makantasi is the Research Director of diaNEOsis. She has taught Microeconomic Theory and Game Theory at Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB) and Principles of Economics at Hellenic Open University (HOU). She completed her PhD thesis on a game theoretic approach of international trade at AUEB. As a Postdoctoral Fellow she focused on public sector reform in Greece, the country's export performance and the measurement of its human capital. During her studies she was awarded grants for excellence and research from the Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY), the Bank of Cyprus, the Georgios and Victoria Karelia Foundation, the AUEB, the European Research Funding Program - "Heracleitus II". She has recently received a research grant from the Hellenic Observatory of LSE on intelligent modeling of e-Government initiatives in Greece. Her research has been published in international journals and she has presented her work in national and international conferences. She has also co-authored and edited socio-economic research about Greece's exit from the crisis and its modernization.



Nikolaos Manetas

Head

Managing Authority of the Greek
Rural Development Program
Ministry of Rural Development
and Food

Head of Managing Authority of the Greek Rural Development Program at the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. Nikolaos Manetas is a graduate of the Agricultural University of Athens and holds a postgraduate degree in Business Administration (MBA) specializing in agricultural economics. Since 2002 he has been serving in the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, in services with responsibilities of EU co-financed rural development programs, while previously he held important positions in various plant nutrition, food production and marketing companies. Since 2014, he is the Head of Managing Authority of the Greek Rural Development Program (RDP). He has significant experience in the implementation and management of operational programs for rural areas development and many participations in committees, councils and conferences at national and international level.





Aristides Matopoulos

Associate Professor
Supply Chain Design & Logistics
Systems
Aston University

Aris is an Associate Professor in Supply Chain Design & Logistics Systems and the Head of the Engineering Systems & Supply Chain Management at Aston University. He is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Lille, in France. His research focuses on how to design the supply chain and he has developed the Supply Chain Readiness Level Tool to assess the maturity and the capabilities of supply chains. He has been involved in several research projects and as an external evaluator he has reviewed proposals for the European Commission, the French National Research Agency (ANR) and for the prestigious Canada Excellence Research Chairs (Government of Canada). He has built an international research profile in both industry and academia. He is a regular speaker in industry events in the UK and internationally. His industrial research collaborators include Jaguar Land Rover, Marks & Spencer, AB Vassilopoulos, and many SMEs. In 2019 he was awarded the prestigious Royal Society Short Industry Fellowship award to collaborate with Williams Advanced Engineering a world-class technical innovation, engineering and specialist low volume manufacturing services provider in supporting the development of group's supply chain strategy.



Alan Matthews is Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. His research has focused on EU agricultural policy, agricultural trade policy, and agricultural trade and development issues. His policy advice has been published by the OECD, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the European Parliament, and the European Committee of the Regions. He is a former President of the European Association of Agricultural Economists and has been a member of Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council. He is a regular contributor to the blog capreform.eu on issues relating to the EU's Common Agricultural Policy.



Alan Matthews

Professor Emeritus
European Agricultural Policy
Trinity College Dublin





Annie Michailides

President & Managing Director
EVYP

Annie Michailides was born in Thessaloniki and graduated from “Anatolia College”.

She studied Economics in A.C.S. American College of Switzerland, as well as Graphic Design in the Vacalo School of Arts and Design in Athens.

In 1980 she entered the family business EVIE A. Michailides S.A.

1986 - 1993 Marketing and Public Relations Director “Uncle Stathis S.A.”

1993 - 2016 Executive Vice President EVIE A. Michailides S.A.

2008- present Managing Director EVYP LLP, Production of hydrolyzed plant proteins and amino acids for use in Organic and Conventional farming.

2016 - present President and Managing Director EVIE A. Michailides S.A.

Honorary Consul of Portugal at Thessaloniki

Member of the General Council of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (S.E.V)

Honorary Vice President of the Hellenic Association of Entrepreneurs (E.EN.E.), President of the Association of Companies based in the Industrial Area of Thessaloniki and Member of the Agrotechnology Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Founding member of the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art and member of the BoD from 1993 to 2009. Member of the Board of the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece for 12 years, of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Thessaloniki for 4 years and of the Philanthropic Association “Storgi” for children with neo-plasmatic illnesses.



Ioannis Nakas

Agronomical Department
Manager
Barba Stathis

Ioannis Nakas was born in 1967 in the City of Ioannina in Western Greece. He graduated from Ioannina High school in 1985 and in 1993 he received his Agronomist degree from the Faculty of Agriculture of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. After graduating he started working as an Agronomist in Organizations and Cooperatives and in 1996 he assumed the position of sales manager of ASME in Northern Greece. In 1998 he started as Production Manager and later as a Plant Manager of Farma-chem S.A. Since January 2004 he has been working for the Vivartia Group, initially as Manager of the Agronomical Department of Greenfood S.A., a fresh cut salads industry, and then in 2014 as Manager of Agronomists for the Frozen and Fresh Divisions of Barba Stathis S.A. He has been married to Mary Tersi, also an Agronomist, since 1998.



Dimitrios Savvas

Dean

Faculty of Plant Sciences
Agricultural University of Athens

Dimitrios Savvas was born in Ioannina, Greece in 1961. He was awarded a Diploma in Agriculture from the Agricultural University of Athens (AUA) in 1985 and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Bonn, Germany, in 1992. From 1996 to 2006 he was affiliated with the Technological Educational Institution of Epirus as an associate professor (1996-1999) and professor (1999-2006). In 2006 he became an assistant professor at the Department of Crop Science of the Agricultural University of Athens. In 2011 he was promoted to the degree of associate professor and since October 2015 he is a full Professor in AUA. Since October 2016 he is the Director of the Laboratory of Vegetable Production and, since September 2019, he is the Dean of the Faculty of Plant Sciences. He specializes in soilless culture, plant nutrition, water management, and applied stress physiology with emphasis on salinity and greenhouse crops. He has published over 110 papers in refereed international scientific journals (with IF) and many other papers in congress proceedings (Acta Hort.) and as book chapters. He has an h-index of 26 in Scopus and 1980 hetero-citations of his publications (updated December 2021). According to the bibliographic classification of Baas J, Boyack K, Ioannidis JPA. (2021): "Updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators" conducted by Stanford University for Elsevier, Professor Savvas ranks within the top 2% of scientists worldwide in his scientific field. He has been involved in many EU research projects, either as coordinator or as a member of the research team. In the last 5 years, in addition to several national research projects, he has been the coordinator of the AUA team in the European research projects LEGUME FUTURES (FP7, coordinator for AUA), EUROLEGUME (FP7, coordinator for AUA), TOMRES (HORIZON2020), TRUE (HORIZON2020) and VEGADAPT (PRIMA) and member of the research team in the H2020 Project RADIANT.



Elias Spirtounias

Executive Director
American-Hellenic Chamber of
Commerce

After graduating from the School of Mathematics of the University of Athens, Elias Spirtounias completed his graduate studies at the School of Electrical Engineering (M.Sc. degree and pre-Ph.D. studies) at Boston University. During his residence in the United States, he participated as a Research Engineer in several research programs in co-operation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in the fields of analog and digital electronics, circuits design and applications. He returned to Greece in 1992 and after completing his military service in 1994, he held the position of Technical Director for the subsidiary of the Italian company Citec SpA., a company specialized in the design, production and application of voice and image processing systems. From 1997 until February 2009, he worked for the Foundation of the Hellenic World, a major Greek private non-profit cultural organization, starting as a Construction Supervisor and continuing as a Managing Director of the brand new then Cultural Center, Hellenic Cosmos an innovative, based on new technologies, theme park. During his tenure, he contributed significantly to the expansion, development and operation of the Center and its establishment as one of the most known technology-driven cultural theme park in Greece and abroad. From March 2009, he holds the position of Executive Director of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Along with his colleagues and in cooperation with the Board have managed, in the midst of the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level the memberships, foster the advocacy level, expand further the presence of the Chamber in US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece. He serves as Treasurer of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee.





Stefan Stahlmecke

Regional Director
Intelligent Solutions Group
John Deere

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- Engineer by training (Engineering Cybernetics / University Stuttgart)
- Joined Deere in 2005 as Manufacturing Engineer Cab Factory Bruchsal
- Transitioned to Mannheim Tractor Engineering in 2008
- Transitioned into Factory Operations – Mannheim Tractor Factory – in 2013
- Joined Intelligent Solutions Group in 2015
- Regional Director leading the Intelligent Solutions Group in Kaiserslautern since 2019





Ilias Tagkopoulos

Professor

Computer Science & Genome
Center, University of California,
Davis

Dr. Ilias Tagkopoulos is a Professor of Computer Science and the Genome Center at the University of California, Davis. He leads the Integrative Biology and Predictive Analytics laboratory that focused on genome-scale predictive models and experimental systems/synthetic microbiology. He is the Director of the USDA-NIFA/NSF AI Institute of Next-Generation Food Systems (AIFS), a 50+ faculty collaboration between UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UIUC, Cornell, ANR, and USDA that is part of the \$340M AI NSF/USDA program. He has been a scientific corporate advisor, and founder of seven companies, three of which relate to AI in Life Sciences. His work addresses challenges in heterogeneous data integration, multi-scale omics modeling, deep learning and AI, optimal experimental design and discovery, and decision making under uncertainty, with applications in clinical and nutrition data. Before joining UC Davis, Dr. Tagkopoulos was a fellow in Princeton's Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics and a quantitative manager in Credit Suisse. He is an NSF CAREER award recipient (2013), a National Academies Frontiers in Engineering fellow (2016), and holds a MSc from Columbia University (2003) and a Ph.D. from Princeton University (2008) in Electrical Engineering.





Nikos Thymakis

Associate
Agrocapital

Nikos Thymakis holds a Masters Degree in Agricultural Engineering and has been working in the Farming and Landscape Sectors since 1998. As a Landscape Consultant he is convinced that “landscaping” is a “tool” of cultural, tourism -and not only- to promote our country. With his activities he has enhanced the dynamics of sustainable and self-sustaining “Hellenic Garden” worldwide. His most popular work is the thematic gardens of Halki Theological School (Byzantine Garden) in Constantinople and the Official Hellenic Participations in TAIPEI FLORA EXPO 2010 and FLORIADE 2012 with “Hellenic Garden”. He served as a Senior Advisor to the Minister in the Ministry of Rural Development and Food and the President of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences (Syggros Estate-Athens, 100ha) from 1st September 2010 to 31st August 2020. He also served as Director of “Syggros Horticulture and Garden Vocational School” (Hellenic Agricultural Organization Demeter) and Tutor in Garden Design and Landscape Management. He is currently a member of the Board of Institute of Agricultural Science and from November 2020, a member of the Board of “Metropolitan Green of Athens S.A”. He is Scientific Associate to several Landscape and Gardening Media for the last 20 years and for Agrocapital since 2013. He is the Honorary President of HEPEXIA and representative in ENA and AIPH. He is PhD candidate in Landscape Architecture in Politecnico di Milano (ITALY). As of 2022 he has been working in Agricultural Education & Training (Thessaloniki Region) and in the Balkan Botanic Garden of Kroussia (member of BGCI) as an Agricultural Engineer.



Vasilis Tsekouras covers the news report of the Ministry of Finance. He studied journalism at the University of Bedfordshire in the UK and specialised in television. In recent years he presents news bulletins for the OPEN Channel.



Vasilis Tsekouras

Journalist
Open TV & Mononews



Evangelos Vergos

Dean

School of Professional Education
American Farm School

Dr. E. Vergos is an agronomist by degree with a major in Animal Science and Production. After completing his undergraduate and graduate studies in the School of Agriculture, Aristotle University (Class of '84 and '86, respectively) he continued for his Ph.D. in Reproductive Biotechnology, National University of Ireland (UCD; Class of '91). From 1991 until 1996, he served the University of Thessaly and the Technological and Educational Institute (TEI) of Thessaloniki, teaching the courses of Physiology of Mammalian Organisms and Animal Husbandry in the rank of the Assistant Professor. Since 1996, he serves the American Farm School in various academic and executive administrative positions. His scientific and research interests include new product development; the organization and application of innovative experiential learning programs for the environment and agricultural production; and the development of methodologies for linking applied research with education and production for the advancement of sustainable rural community development. He has published 74 peer-reviewed scientific papers in animal production and extension, and has participated as a speaker in many international conferences and professional fora.



Stavros Vougioukas

Professor

Department of Biological and
Agricultural Engineering
University of California, Davis

Stavros Vougioukas is a Professor in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, at the University of California, Davis. He received his engineering diploma from the School of Electrical Engineering, at Aristotle University, in 1989. He got his M.Sc. from the State University of NY at Buffalo, and his Ph.D. in Electrical, Computer and Systems Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, in Robotics and Automation. After his Ph.D., he worked as post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Parma, Italy. Next, he served in the Hellenic Airforce, and afterwards, worked at the University of Macedonia, as Visiting Lecturer and Network Administrator. From 2002 until 2012, he worked as a faculty member at Aristotle University, with the School of Agriculture, and then joined the UC. He has published more than 140 journal and conference papers, most of them in the areas of agricultural robotics and automation. He is currently leading several research projects on agricultural robotics and automation, focusing on worker-robot interaction and labor savings, and precision yield mapping technologies. He receives funding from grower commodity boards, federal agencies, and private industry. He holds two US patents and has two more pending. He serves on the advisory board of an agricultural robotics startup, as Associate Editor of the Biosystems Engineering journal, and is a Fulbright Fellow.





Larissa Zimmeroff

Journalist and Author

"Technically Food: Inside Silicon Valley's Mission to Change What We Eat"

Larissa Zimmeroff is a freelance journalist and author covering the intersection of food and technology. Her new book, "Technically Food: Inside Silicon Valley's Mission to Change What We Eat", covers how what we eat is rapidly changing and the startups behind it. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg Businessweek, Wired, Time, and more. After working in high tech for a decade, she earned her MFA from The New School in New York city. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and will gamely try any new food.

