

RTG Event

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026

Lecture hall: VG 0.110

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Valerien Pedé

(International Rice Research Institute)

“Transforming Food Systems through Evidence, Policy, and Strategic Investments: Insights from IRRI”

Abstract

Food systems are facing unprecedented challenges arising from climate change, resource constraints, population growth, and evolving nutritional demands. Addressing these challenges requires more than technological innovation. It demands evidence-based policies, strategic investments, and strong partnerships that translate scientific knowledge into sustainable development outcomes. This seminar will provide an overview of the work of the Transformative Policies and Investments (TPI) Unit at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and its role in advancing sustainable food systems across Asia and Africa. Drawing on examples from policy analysis, impact evaluation, economic modeling, and monitoring, evaluation, learning, and impact assessment (MELIA), the seminar will illustrate how rigorous evidence supports investment decisions, strengthens public policies, and enhances the effectiveness of agricultural research for development. The seminar will also highlight how interdisciplinary research and collaboration with governments, development partners, and the private sector contribute to improving food security, climate resilience, livelihoods, and the sustainability of rice-based systems. Finally, it will discuss emerging opportunities and challenges for transforming food systems through integrated approaches that bridge science, policy, and investment.