

ICT4D Data Jam 2017

May 12-13, 2017 | Hyderabad, India

Judges

Christian Merz



Christian Merz works within the Agricultural Development Program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as the Senior Program Officer for Digital Solutions. He is responsible for championing practical, cost-effective, sustainable, and scalable solutions that impact smallholder farmers.

Beforehand, he managed SAP's research program on ICT4D (Information and Communication Technologies for Development) covering agriculture, rural logistics, procurement & retail, financial services etc. He directed a group of software developers that investigates how mobile technologies and related business

applications support the inclusion of informal economies.

Recently he led the development of a business case and go to market strategy to commercially launch a highly mobile, cloud based information system reaching 100,000 smallholder farmers in 7 African countries. He consulted corporate and public SAP partners as well as international organizations on ICT strategies sustaining agricultural sourcing and acquired first paying customers.

Other project experiences comprise the incubation of small and medium enterprises in rural areas, interoperability in business networks, e-learning platforms to educate in-service teachers and healthcare solutions in rural South Africa. He joined SAP Research 16 years ago and contributed innovative solutions in the area of Ubiquitous Computing/Internet of Things before he concentrated on Knowledge Management, Human Computer Interaction and Collaborative Working Environments.

Christian started in 1997 as an SAP employee and consulted SAP customers internationally on SAP Business Suite implementations for about 3 years. He received his Diploma in Physics from the Albert-Ludwigs-University in Freiburg, Germany.

Rama Iyer



A startup evangelist and advisor, Rama Iyer is the Senior Vice President, Strategic Alliances at T-Hub. He is a business and technology leader with over 20 years of experience, who has been at the helm of incubators, creating global and strategic relationships while also advising venture funds.

Rama has worked with telecom giants like Nortel, Ericsson, Cisco and Polycom among others. Over his vast work experience, he has helped global organisations level APAC talent and marketplace to enhance their presence and build a bigger market-place for their global products, solutions and services.

At T-Hub, Rama is structuring and nurturing strategic alliances while also creating CoE programs that can help the startup community. With a keen interest in creating a better ecosystem for startups, Rama is always spotted interacting with startups and sharing his bright ideas with them.

Dr. David Bergvinson



David Bergvinson is the Director General of ICRISAT and holds a Ph.D. in plant biochemistry from Ottawa University.

David has 20 years of experience in maize biochemistry, pathology and entomology. Prior to joining ICRISAT, he was with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) as Senior Scientist (Entomologist) where he coordinated the entomology research for both maize and wheat at CIMMYT's headquarters and provided technical support to regional offices. Later at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as Senior Program Officer, Science and Technology, Agricultural Development he was involved in the development and management of crop improvement grants that involved public (national and international) research organizations, private sector and civil society organizations to develop stress-tolerant, farmer-preferred varieties. He also made significant contributions to the Agricultural Development strategy at the Foundation.