

iFAST: The International Forum on Advanced Environmental Sciences and Technology

A series of distinguished seminars by eminent scientists

8 a.m. CDT, 9 a.m. EDT; 1 p.m. GMT, 9 p.m. China

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022



JO HANDELSMAN

WISCONSIN INSTITUTE FOR DISCOVERY &
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J. Handelsman is the director of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery and a Vilas Research Professor and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and previously served as a science advisor to President Barack Obama. Handelsman studies how bacteria communicate with each other in soil microbial communities and pioneered the field of functional metagenomics, a molecular approach to understanding bacteria that are recalcitrant to growing in laboratory culture. She authored *A World Without Soil*, a book that presents the soil erosion crisis for a general audience.

A World Without Soil: Science and stewardship of our endangered natural resource

Humans depend on soil for 95% of global food production, yet we let it erode at unsustainable rates, leaving vast tracts of farmland barren of topsoil and thus unable to support food production for a growing population. The crisis is worsened by the mutually reinforcing relationship between climate change and soil erosion, which generates a vicious cycle of environmental destruction. The good news is that we know how to stop soil erosion and replace destruction with a virtuous cycle of improving soil health and reducing greenhouse gases. All we need is the collective will to act.



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Organizing Committee Chair: Jizhong Zhou (University of Oklahoma, USA; www.ou.edu/ieg)
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