



**Prof Leonard O'Garro PhD**



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA



The University of Guyana  
*Invites you to virtually attend*

**A Public Lecture  
Titled: HIGH LEVEL  
CONSIDERATIONS FOR  
SETTING UP GUYANA AS A  
REGIONAL FOOD CENTRE**  
By Distinguished Professor and Director of  
the University of Guyana's  
Institute for Food and Nutrition Security (IFANS)  
**PROFESSOR LEONARD O'GARRO**

**Date: Wednesday, 10 May 2023**

**Time: 18:00hrs – 19:30 hrs**

**Please use the following link to join this event**

**virtually: Webinar ID: 990 0311 9778**

**Link: <https://zoom.us/j/99003119778>**

*for more information email: [pace@uog.edu.gy](mailto:pace@uog.edu.gy) or contact 592 6247116*

Leonard O'Garro Ph D, is a trained biologist (geneticist). He is currently the inaugural Director of The University of Guyana's Institute for Food and Nutrition Security (IFANS) and the University of Guyana's first Distinguished Professor in Food Security. He is widely recognized and regarded for his professional work impacting food security. This includes his contribution to postgraduate training, R&D, and macro-economic development. His publication record is voluminous and many of his seminal scholarly publications appear in academic journals of ranking 1 to 10 in over 1000 journals in his field of expertise. He has received several international awards, including UNESCO Biotechnology Fellowships and Leverhulme Fellowship. In 2005 to 2009, he was a United Nations Biosafety Coordinator, managing the United Nations Environmental Programme global project for the Development of National Biosafety Frameworks for modern biotechnology. In 2009, he was recognized as 1 of a total 39 Caribbean Icons of Science over a span of over 150 years by the National Institute for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology based in Trinidad & Tobago, and the Caribbean Academy of Science. In 2012, he was selected by the Eminent Persons Panel as the Caribbean Laureate for Excellence in Science and Technology. This is recognized as the Caribbean's most distinguished award in this field. In 2018, in celebration of The University of the West Indies 70 th anniversary, he was honoured as one of 70 of the university's most outstanding graduates selected. He has held a professorship (personal chair), awarded in 1999 by The University of the West Indies (UWI). He has been a member of several high-level international panels on biotechnology and biosafety policy and research for agencies, including the United Nations Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity and United Nations Environment Programme. He is frequently an advisor to several Caribbean Governments on areas of agri-business, including project development and implementation.

Professor O'Garro is fully immersed in global development work and is the driving force behind several large-scale investment projects in the areas of agriculture and agro-biotechnology in the Caribbean. He was the Adviser to COTED on Medical Cannabis and a driving force to assist the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in establishing its plant medicines sector. In 2015 he became the founding Director of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship. He is the creator of the Duke Agribusiness Park currently under construction in Barbados. Prof O'Garro began his tenure as the first Distinguished Professor in Food Security at (IFANS) at the University of Guyana in September 2022. In his current post, he is charged with the responsibility of establishing the University's IFANS as a leading Institute for elucidating national and regional policy and research in specific areas of Food Security and establishing Guyana as a geographical food centre. He is a national of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This is his first lecture in Guyana as Director of IFANS.

*Prof Leonard O'Garro's Professorship is graciously supported by The Greater Guyana Initiative*



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