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Presentation by Rattan Lal on February 3 **“Agriculture as a Source and Solution to Climate Change”**

Rattan Lal, a world-renowned soil scientist and Ohio State University professor, for decades has researched techniques that preserve the health of the earth’s soil while permitting greater food production. In a presentation to the Torch Club on February 3, Dr. Lal will explain how conservation agriculture (CA) also can help to mitigate global warming.

Dr. Lal reports that many human-caused factors, including agriculture, forestry and food production, contribute to the emission of carbon into the atmosphere and the consequential rise of the average global temperature. “CA is an important way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” he maintains. “Used in conjunction with cover crops, complex rotations, and integrated nutrient management, CA is an important option to sequester carbon in soil.”

Despite its numerous ecological and agronomic benefits, CA is being applied to only 9 to 15 percent of global arable land, only 26.8 percent of arable land in the U.S., and only 39.3 percent of arable land in Ohio, according to Dr. Lal. “It can be potentially applied to from 38% to 81% of all arable land.”

To increase the application of CA, “farmers need to be adequately compensated for participating in carbon sequestration programs,” he suggests. “Other practices of carbon sequestration include creating forests on degraded soils, improving grazing systems, reducing food waste, and improving management of lands bordering streams.”

“Land-based carbon sinks are an important nature-based solution. They represent a win-win situation, and a bridge to the future until the use of non-fossil fuel sources becomes widespread.”



Rattan Lal, Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science at Ohio State University.

Biography of Rattan Lal

Rattan Lal is one of The Ohio State University's most eminent faculty members. He is the Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and director of the Rattan Lal Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

The World Food Prize Foundation, based in Des Moines, Iowa, conferred the 2020 World Food Prize on Dr. Lal. The foundation cited him "for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that restores and conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change. Over his career spanning more than five decades and four continents, Dr. Lal has promoted innovative soil-saving techniques benefiting the livelihoods of more than 500 million smallholder farmers, improving the food and nutritional security of more than two billion people and saving hundreds of millions of hectares of natural tropical ecosystems."

The World Food Prize, presented annually since 1986, recognizes – without regard to race, religion, nationality, or political beliefs – the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world. Over the years, the prize laureates have represented more than 17 nations. The prize includes an award of \$250,000, which Dr. Lal is contributing to future soil research and education.

Dr. Lal, 77, is a native of India and now a U.S. citizen. He earned his bachelor's degree from Punjab Agricultural University in 1963, his master's degree from Indian Agricultural Research Institute in 1965, and his Ph.D. from Ohio State in 1968. He served as soil physicist at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria from 1969 to 1987 when he returned to Ohio State as professor of soil science.

He has been an international leader in soil science for decades. He has served as president of the World Association of the Soil and Water Conservation (1987-1990), the International Soil Tillage Research Organization (1988-91), the Soil Science Society of America (2005-2007), and the International Union of Soil Sciences, Vienna, Austria (2017-18).

Dr. Lal has been recognized with many international awards, including the 2019 Japan Prize, which is awarded annually to scientists and engineers from around the world who have made significant contributions to the advancement of science and technology, thereby furthering the cause of peace and prosperity of mankind.

He also was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures needed to counteract such change. He has served on multiple national and international entities dealing with climate change.

Contact the Fellowship Committee if you need a ride to Torch meetings

If any Torch Club member needs a ride to a monthly Torch meeting, or if you are willing to provide transportation for a member, please contact the club's Fellowship Committee. You may reach the Fellowship Committee through its chair, Diane Selby, at (614) 571-4226 and Dianeselby@gmail.com. To help arrange transportation, you also may contact any member of the Fellowship Committee: Joe Blundo, Jeff Caswell, Tom Davison, Joan Leitzel, John Litchfield and Constance Oulanoff.

Member's Moment: Jerry Ladman

Presented by Dick Meyer on January 6.

It was probably inevitable that Jerry would select Iowa State University in Ames for his college education since he was first introduced to the campus in his early years. His father earned a degree there and eventually became a credit officer for the Farm Security Administration serving small farmers. One of his postings was in Ames where Jerry attended school and explored the nooks and crannies of the campus on his bicycle. Later he and his sister completed school in Clarion, a progressive county seat of about 3,000 in north central Iowa. Jerry excelled in academics and played sports along with students of several Latino families. He was active in 4-H in this town recognized as the birthplace of the four-leaf clover emblem used by 4-H Clubs, as conceived in 1907 by the local school superintendent. You can read about it in the town's 4-H Schoolhouse Museum.

Like many boys who worked on Iowa farms, Jerry aspired to become a farmer. He even selected a college program called Farm Operations at Iowa State. Eventually, Jerry changed goals partly because his family did not own a farm he could inherit and partly because he excelled in his studies. His college teachers, advisors and mentors offered many opportunities to further develop his natural administrative and leadership skills.

Jerry's professional development and interest in Latin America began in college. He majored in economics with faculty who were pioneers in the application of mathematics and statistics in the analysis of economic issues. After completing general exams, he was given his first opportunity to work in Mexico as part of the Iowa State University's Ford Foundation project to establish a master's degree program in economics at the Postgraduate College in Agricultural Sciences. He learned Spanish, taught courses, and conducted field research on Mexican small farmer credit problems. (Recall his father's work on Iowan small farmer credit.) Upon returning to Ames, he completed his dissertation while holding a staff position in the College of Agriculture.



Dick Meyer (left) and Jerry Ladman pose at the Torch Club meeting on January 6.

Upon graduation, he joined Arizona State University. His skills and training were in demand because, under President Kennedy, the United States developed the Alliance for Progress, a foreign aid program to help Latin America solve economic and social problems. Economic assistance to Latin America then sharply increased, which created opportunities for U.S. universities. Jerry helped A.S.U. obtain grants for research and training in Mexico and other Latin American countries and to conduct studies of the Mexican border economy and

migration. He returned to Mexico as program manager for the Ford Foundation and eventually became director of Arizona State's Center for Latin American Studies.

In 1979 Jerry spent a sabbatical leave at Ohio State and was integrated into our foreign aid work on international financial market development. In 1995 he joined Ohio State as the chief of party for the Agribusiness Partnership project at the Institute of Agriculture Sciences in the Dominican Republic. After three years, he returned to campus to become director of Ohio State's Center for Latin American Studies. In 2000, he took up his last position as associate provost for international affairs (meaning chief honcho) covering international students, study abroad programs, five area study centers, and the Mershon Center. With his long history of leadership in area centers, Jerry was truly centered in his professional work!

Jerry continued working after retirement by securing a grant to develop microfinance services in rural Mexico. I joined him for some of the training. Traveling with him several times to Mexico, I observed firsthand his great affinity for the country. After several good dinners, he taught me the fine art of sipping a refreshing shot of tequila, especially Don Julio Reposado.

In the current chapter of his life, Jerry's interest in Latin American art continues. He and his wife Carmen have created a mini-museum in their home for their collections, and his knowledge of art is highly useful as a volunteer docent at the Columbus Museum of Art.

Time does not allow me to describe his professional life in teaching, research, and publication, and multiple honors received from professional organizations, or many other talents such as smooth moves made to the rhythms of Latin music. But I would be remiss to not recognize his significant role as father to three sons and a daughter and as grandfather to seven grandchildren.

I leave it to Jerry in a future Torch talk to elaborate on his many contributions to Latin American development.

President's message: New format for February meeting

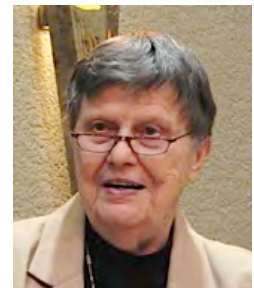
Our new meeting arrangement for having the Torch paper presented in the main dining room, introduced for our January meeting, was at the suggestion of the Faculty Club in the interest of COVID safety.

In February we are going to try something to welcome members who are not yet comfortable mingling with others due to the continuing pandemic. We will have a set-aside area of seating for the few who are interested in the lecture, but do not wish to participate in our social hour or dinner. If you are interested in this arrangement, indicate your wishes on the Evite. We even have arranged for a limited number of dinners to take home.

We are indebted to the Torch Club members who are colleagues of Professor Rattan Lal for arranging the important, timely lecture. We are pleased to be welcoming several guests for our February meeting.

Good food, good fellowship, and a great performance by the OSU Men's Glee Club surely bode well for the rest of the 2021-22 Torch season! Our calendar is finally complete with a series of excellent, timely speakers. Do think of colleagues who would enjoy what we do and invite them to join us!

Wishing you and yours health and happiness in 2022.



Nancy Wardwell

New options for club members not attending Torch due to COVID

Although most Torch Club members have attended the in-person monthly meetings that resumed last October, there are a few members who have been reluctant to attend in person due to ongoing concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. These members or persons in their households may be at greater risk for the illness for a variety of reasons.

As a result, the Torch Club at its February 3 meeting will set aside an area of socially distanced seating for members particularly concerned about COVID-19. This will permit them to hear the Torch paper. In addition, the Faculty Club will prepare a take-home dinner for these members. If you require a take-home dinner, please indicate that in your RSVP to Thom Seelbach's monthly Evite.

The Torch Club board will evaluate this option after the February meeting to determine whether it is feasible to continue it for future meetings. Meanwhile, all visitors to the Faculty Club continue to be required to wear masks, except when eating.

IATC Convention will be in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in June

The Saratoga Torch Club will host the 2022 Torch Convention in its historic hometown of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., from June 16-19. The city dates back to the mid-18th century and is adjacent to the site of the 1777 Saratoga Battles of the Revolutionary War. The convention will be in the Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs, an upscale, centrally located hotel. Nearby are quaint downtown shops and Congress Park with its own mineral springs, antique carousel, and historic Canfield Casino and Saratoga Museum.

The convention includes Torch presentations, a club development workshop, a club management panel to support local leadership practices, IATC business meetings exciting tours. Choices include the cottage where Ulysses Grant spent his final days, the Saratoga National Historic Park with its battlefields and visitor center, a cruise on Lake George, and a trolley tour of Saratoga Springs. The traditional gala and award-winning Paxton Paper presentation will cap off the convention on Saturday evening.

The website for the International Association of Torch Clubs has more detail and has links to the convention registration form and the registration form for the hotel, which has offered our block of rooms at half price. There are also Torch Foundation grant applications to support attendance at the convention which may apply to your situation. Go to www.torch.org.

Club inducts Michael Wilkos as new member

Michael Wilkos, senior vice president for community impact with United Way of Central Ohio, joined the Torch Club on January 6. He grew up in Youngstown and came to Ohio State where he earned his bachelor's degree in geography and master's degree in city and regional planning.

Michael has worked in the government, non-profit and philanthropic sectors for more than 30 years. He notes that even before he left Youngstown, he "was fascinated with Columbus and is committed to making the city better." Michael will deliver a Torch paper, "Considering Racism," on March 3.



Dorothy Driskell and Michael Wilkos

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach will send you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on February 3. Respond promptly to the Evite so he will have an accurate count of meals needed. You also may respond to him at tseelbach@gmail.com or (614) 499-3090.

The directions for responding to the Evite are:

1. After you click on the email from Evite, it will bring up a new window on the Evite website. You must click your response in this new window for Evite to register your response.
2. The guest count is the actual number of attendees. If only you are attending, the count will be 1. The cost for a guest to attend the meeting and dinner is \$30. A potential member may attend one meeting without charge.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2021-22

October 7, 2021: **“It’s Not Your Grandmother’s Nursing”** by Elizabeth Lenz

November 4, 2021: **“The Harlan Brothers in Black and White: Justice John Marshall Harlan, U.S. Supreme Court and Rep. Robert James Harlan, Ohio House of Representatives”** by Violet Meek

December 2, 2021: **The Ohio State University Men’s Glee Club**, Robert Ward, Director

January 6, 2022: **“How Do Women and Men Differ in Their Work and Careers?”** by Francille Firebaugh

February 3, 2022: **“Agriculture as a Source and Solution to Climate Change”** by Rattan Lal

March 3, 2022: **“Considering Racism”** by Michael Wilkos

April 7, 2022: **“Talkin’ Trash: From Waste to Resources”** by Susan Tilgner

May 5, 2022: **“Celebrating Sparky – Charles Schultz and Peanuts”** by Lucy Caswell

Torch Club’s monthly meeting agenda

4:30-5:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
5:30-6:15 p.m. Cocktails and conversation
6:15-6:35 p.m. Business matters
6:35-7:30 p.m. Speaker
7:30-8:45 p.m. Dinner and table discussion

Meetings are conducted in The Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Drive; (614) 292-2262.

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2021-22

President – Nancy S. Wardwell

President-elect – Susan Tilgner

Immediate Past President – Susan W. Smith

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Diane Selby

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – David Lenz

Fellowship Chair – Diane Selby

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Susan W. Smith

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Website Editor – Rai Goerler

Director-at-Large – Christina Atzberger (2022)

Director-at-Large – Rai Goerler (2022)

Director-at-Large – Paul Niswander (2023)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2023)

IATC Region 5 Director – Elizabeth Short