



# Agriculture's Future: Food, Nutrition and Water



**Speaker: Barbara Schaal, Ph.D.**  
**Mary Dell Chilton Distinguished Professor**  
**in Arts and Sciences,**  
**Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences,**  
**Washington University in St. Louis**

## **Abstract:**

Agriculture is faced with several challenges including providing greater yields to feed a growing world population and participating in the bioeconomy of new products. At the same time agriculture has a large and negative environmental footprint due to both large agrochemical and water use. Overarching all of these is the challenge from a climate that is changing, often in ways we don't fully understand. How can these many challenges be addressed? Nations need to foster a vigorous agriculture ecosystem that maintains a basic science enterprise, crop and animal development, and a strong workforce pipeline.

## **Short Bio:**

Barbara Schaal is the Mary Dell Chilton Distinguished Professor in Arts and Sciences and Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences at Washington University. She is a plant evolutionary biologist who uses DNA sequences and genomics to understand evolutionary processes such as gene flow, geographical differentiation, and the domestication of crop species. Her most recent work focuses on the evolutionary genomics of rice. She has been president of the Botanical Society of America and president of the Society for the Study of Evolution. She was the Vice President of the US National Academy of Sciences from 2005-2013. She was selected in 2012 by then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as the US Science Ambassador to Latin America. She currently serves on President Obama's Council of Advisors for Science and Technology (PCAST) and is President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the publisher of Science Magazine.

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主持人：顾红雅 (Tel. 62751847)

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