

21st Annual Martin J. Forman Memorial Lecture

NUTRITION IN SENEGAL
ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROSPECTS

Abdoulaye Ka
National Coordinator for National Committee
for the Fight against Malnutrition

Introduction by
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12:30 – 2:00 P.M.
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International Food Policy Research Institute



Martin J. Forman. Photo provided by his family.

The Martin J. Forman Memorial Lecture

The annual lecture commemorates the significant impact on international nutrition by Martin J. Forman, who headed the Office of Nutrition at the US Agency for International Development for more than 20 years. At the time of his involvement, there was little of significance in the nutrition field in which he did not play a major role.

Dr. Forman was one of a handful of people who initiated attention to nutrition planning and social marketing for nutrition. Coming from social welfare work in Taiwan, he joined the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Food for Peace program, where he initiated the highly successful Operation NINOS (a massive food and nutrition project in Latin America). He was instrumental in the formation of the United Nations Sub-Committee on Nutrition, and, for many years, chaired the group of bilateral donors associated with it.

Dr. Forman was responsible for focusing attention on the critical role of micronutrients in human development. He supported the establishment of the International Nutritional Anemia Consultative Group (INACG) and the International Vitamin A Consultative Group (IVACG). In addition, he was involved in the initial stages of the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD).

The annual Martin J. Forman Memorial lecturer—selected for outstanding contributions in addressing malnutrition—is invited to present his or her personal and often unconventional views regarding the large issues related to malnutrition.

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After several major transitions, Senegal succeeded in developing a multisectoral strategy to achieve sustainable nutrition outcomes. The country achieved significant results through a combination of actions, including a strong political commitment to fighting malnutrition and the development of a coherent architecture to support this effort. An integral part of this architecture was the creation of a coordinating entity, the *Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition* (Unit for the Fight against Malnutrition), or CLM, which is supported by a highly performing operational and monitoring system. In his presentation, Mr. Ka will describe Senegal's strategic approach and the challenges it faced in institutionalizing and scaling up nutrition interventions. He will draw lessons from the key political, financial, and managerial factors that have made nutrition part of the country's development agenda. He will also describe Senegal's early and active engagement in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement.

Speaker

Abdoulaye Ka—National Coordinator for National Committee for the Fight against Malnutrition

A specialist in public health and social development, Abdoulaye Ka has spent the last 12 years engaged in Senegal's nutrition development. He began as an area manager of the Senegal Community Nutrition Program, where he supervised community nutrition centers, analyzed activity reports, and managed the project database. In 2002, he took over responsibility for monitoring operations at the National Committee for the Fight against Malnutrition (*Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition*, or CLM), where he coordinated and planned all CLM operations and provided government ministries with support for integrating nutrition into their sectoral plans. Presently, Mr. Ka is CLM's national coordinator. He holds a master's degree in public health and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Laval University in Canada.

Past Martin J. Forman Memorial Lecturers

*David Nabarro ▸ Santiago Levy ▸
David Beckmann ▸ Alan Berg ▸
Chen Chunming ▸ Francis Davidson ▸
Robert W. Fogel ▸ E. J. R. Heyward ▸
Abraham Horwitz ▸ Beryl Levinger ▸
James Levinson ▸ Richard Manoff ▸
Simon Maxwell ▸ Per Pinstrup-Andersen ▸
V. Ramalingaswami ▸ Jeffrey D. Sachs ▸
Jean-Louis Sarbib ▸ Alfred Sommer ▸
Julia Tagwireyi ▸ Jean-Pierre Habicht,
Marcia Griffiths, and Julian Schweitzer*