

Distinguished Honorees



Giselle Aris

Giselle Aris is Practice Area Manager for Enterprise Acceleration and Technology at Land O'Lakes International Development. Land O'Lakes International Development is a division of Land O'Lakes, Inc., the second largest agriculture cooperative in the United States and a Fortune 200 company. Giselle's role at Land O'Lakes primarily involves leading design and managing implementation of top-priority organizational strategies focused on inclusive private sector-oriented development and funding diversification.

Giselle's Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellowship with Land O'Lakes in 2011–2013 launched her continuing career. Giselle began her work with Land O'Lakes in Tanzania. While there, she worked with 60 input supply businesses, building their capacity to design and carry out business growth plans and to reach smallholder farmers. In Zimbabwe, Giselle worked closely with the Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF) to develop a new business model for providing services to medium-scale farmers. This model, which received seed funding via a Leland Program Small Grant, continues to achieve positive results. Giselle also worked with ZADF to create a viable financial model for providing breeding services to dairy farmers nationwide, and forged private sector partnerships to enable sustainable implementation.

Giselle is now based in Washington, DC – although you might not know it, given how often she is out of the country providing technical support to Land O'Lakes projects globally! She also plays a key role in program technical design and partnership formation, particularly for programs focused on private sector-led development and technological innovation. She has developed multiple published tools used by the international development sector, including *Developing and Strengthening Private Sector Input Supply Systems* and *Integrating Gender throughout a Project's Life Cycle*.

Prior to joining Land O'Lakes, Giselle worked in India's dairy sector for two years, where she designed, secured investment for, managed and sustainably brought to scale a dairy business that continues to grow today. She has also worked for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Women's Campaign International, and the U.S. Department of State Africa Bureau. Giselle holds a master's degree in International Development from the University of Oxford, where she was a Thouron Scholar, and graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in African Studies.

Giselle was instrumental in building a vibrant fellowship community among her fellow 6th Class Fellows; as an alumna, she is generous in giving counsel, advice and support to many current and prospective Fellows.