

IRRI

INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**2009 Directory of the
Board of Trustees**

January 2009

2009 Board of Trustees

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The Board gives policy direction to the work of the Institute whose mission is to reduce poverty and hunger, improve the health of rice farmers and consumers, and ensure environmental sustainability through collaborative research, partnerships, and strengthening of national agricultural research and extension systems.

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Ralph Anthony Fischer

Australia

Plant and crop physiology, land and water resources and sustainable agriculture, agricultural development

Elected: 2005-10

Ralph Anthony Fischer is a visiting scientist at the CSIRO Division of Plant Industry. Prior to that, he was program adviser for South Asia of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) where he provided the overview of ACIAR's South Asia program of bilateral projects, management of several specific projects, and liaison with CIMMYT.

Dr. Fischer obtained his B. Agr. Sc. and M. Agr. Sc. from Melbourne University and Ph.D. in plant physiology from the University of California-Davis. He started his career as research agronomist at the Agricultural Research Institute in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, conducting research on wheat agronomy. He was a Queen Elizabeth II postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Environmental Biology, Research School of Environmental Biology of the Australian National University in Canberra. He also served as wheat physiologist/agronomist at CIMMYT (1970-75) and as director of CIMMYT's Wheat Program (1988-95).

At the CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, Dr. Fischer became principal and senior principal research scientist. At ACIAR, he was the research program

manager on crop sciences 1 and land and water resources 2 from 1995 to 2004. In both capacities, he represented ACIAR in various national and international fora on agricultural research and development. In 2002, he received the ACIAR Award for Outstanding Performance and was cited for contribution to the promotion of reduced tillage. He served as member of the Board of Trustees of ICARDA from 1981 to 1987, chairing its Program Committee from 1984 to 1987. He has also served as member of several review panels and committees and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

He has published more than a hundred articles in internationally refereed journals. He is a recipient of several honors and professional awards, including the following: winner of the 4th International Potash Institute Competition for Young Researchers, the 2001 Centenary of Federation Medal, the 2003 Medal of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IAAST), and, in 2004, the C.M. Donald Medal of the Australian Society of Agronomy.

Dr. Fischer is a fellow of the IAAST, Crop Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, and Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.



Mutsuo Iwamoto

Japan

Food engineering, research management

Elected: 2008-10

Dr. Mutsuo Iwamoto is the president of the Society for the Techno-innovation of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (STAFF). STAFF was established in 1989 as a nongovernment organization to promote and coordinate R&D for advanced technology that has potential for techno-innovation for agriculture-related industries. The research institute under STAFF played an important role in the success of the rice genome coding project conducted by the International Rice Genome Consortium and supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF).

Dr. Iwamoto was president of the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) from 2003 to 2005. He had previously served as director general of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Research Council (AFFRC) Secretariat under the jurisdiction of MAFF in Tokyo from 2001 to 2003; as research councilor at the AFFRC Secretariat; and as director general of the Tokai Regional Agricultural Administration from 1999 to 2001.

He started his academic career at the Department of Agricultural Process Engineering in Kyushu University, where he obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. After working as a research associate, he joined the National Food

Research Institute in 1973 and worked in technology development for quality control of food and agricultural products in postharvest. After serving as director of food engineering of the Institute from 1989 to 1993, he moved to MAFF headquarters to take over planning and management of R&D programs, and for personnel management at the AFFRC Secretariat.

Dr. Iwamoto's major research subjects are on diverse areas related to food technology, specifically in the development of nondestructive measuring methods for food quality in general. As a pioneer of near-infrared spectroscopy in Japan, he made great contributions to the field, earning him various awards including the internationally recognized Thomas Hirschfeld Award.



Seong-Hee Lee

Republic of Korea
Plant physiology

Elected: 2008-10

Dr. Seong-Hee Lee is the former director general of the National Institute of Crop Science (NICS), Rural Development Administration (RDA), Suwon, South Korea. He now serves as consultant to various projects of the Korean government and is lecturing on plant physiology and experimental statistics at Dankook University.

He earned degrees at Seoul National University (B.S. in agricultural science, major in agronomy) in 1979 and at Lincoln University College of Canterbury University, New Zealand (diploma in agricultural science in 1986 and Ph.D. in plant science in 1991). He also took a policy development course for top-ranking officers in 2001 at the Central Government Officials' Training Institute.

He worked for various agricultural technical and research institutions: The National Seed Production and Distribution Office and National Agricultural Materials Inspection Office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF); and The Agro-chemicals Research Institute, Wheat and Barley Research Institute, and International Technical Cooperation Center (ITTC) of the RDA. He also served as director of the ITTC and head of the Research

Planning Division, Research Management Bureau of the RDA. Before becoming director general of NICS, he served as director general of most of the Korean agricultural research institutions under RDA: (1) Agricultural Resources Department, National Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology; (2) National Highland Agricultural Research Institute; (3) National Honam Agricultural Research Institute; and (4) National Youngnam Agricultural Research Institute.

Dr. Lee has published five books and more than 180 scientific papers and technical articles on agriculture. He has also participated in 45 international projects and meetings as the national representative or project coordinator for FAO, UNDP, UNIDO, Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), Food and Fertilizer Technology Center (FFTC), CGIAR centers, Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Council for Partnerships on Rice Research in Asia (CORRA), and others. He holds membership and senior positions in 15 local and international scientific and technical societies and academic institutions, and has served as chair of CORRA (2004-05); president of the Korean Society of International Agricultural Development (2006-07); president of the Korean Society of Reclaimed-Land Agriculture (2003-04); and vice president of the Korean Crop Science Society (2005-06). He also served in the Organizing Committee of the 5th International Crop Science Congress (2004-present); Korean Society of Wheat and Barley Development (2003-04); Korean Society of Rice Development (2005-07); Korean Society of Seed Industry Development (2005-present); and Korean Society of North Korean Agriculture (2003-06). He was concurrent professor at the Postgraduate Schools of Chunbuk University (2004-05) and at Kangwon University (2005-06).



Jillian Lenné

United Kingdom
Plant pathology

Elected: 2007-09

Jill Lenné has about 30 years of experience in tropical agricultural R&D, including 15 years of experience in CGIAR centers— as plant pathologist for the Tropical Pastures Program, CIAT, Colombia and as director of the Crop Protection Division and deputy director general-research of ICRISAT, India.

She was programme leader (Strategy) and adviser for the DFID, Crop Protection Programme, UK (1997-2000) and a programme and project leader at the Natural Resources Institute, UK (1991-94). She is currently a consultant in agricultural research for development; visiting professor of agro-biodiversity at the University of Greenwich, UK; and co-editor-in-chief for Asia of *Field Crops Research*. She has B. Agr. Sci. (Hons), Ph.D. (plant pathology), and D. Agr. Sci. degrees from the Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry, University of Melbourne, Australia.



Ruth K. Oniang'o

Republic of Kenya
Food science and nutrition

Elected: 2004-09

Ruth K. Oniang'o received her B.S. (with distinction) and M.S. degrees from Washington State University in the United States and her Ph.D. from the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and has since spent 20 years in academia. Her areas of research and consultation are household food and nutritional security, women's nutrition, child health, and community-level agro-processing, in which she has published widely. Prof. Oniang'o has done much consultation work, such as with the FAO in nutrition. She has published 50 articles in international and local journals and magazines and has written chapters in several books.

Prof. Oniang'o has been awarded the Silver Star Medal by the President of the Republic of Kenya for outstanding service to the country in community development through action research (1995) and the Distinguished Service Medal for national service (1998). She has been on the boards of the Kenya Bureau of Standards, Egerton University Council, and Poverty Eradication Commission. She is the founder and editor-in-chief of the *African journal of food, agriculture, nutrition, and development* and founder and executive director of the Rural Outreach Program.

She is on the boards of the Kenya Gatsby Charitable Trust, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of the Economic Commission for Africa, Institute for Policy Analysis and Research, International Fertilizer Development Center, Biotechnology Advisory Council of Monsanto-USA, and the Private Sector Corporate Governance Trust. She is on the advisory committee of IFPRIIS Biofortification Project. She is also a member of the working group forming the Society of African Journal Editors, a panel member of the World Cancer Research Fund International, and founder-president of the Kenya Union of Food Science and Technology.

Prof. Oniang'o served as an elected member of the Parliament of the Republic of Kenya.



Ronald L. Phillips

United States

Plant breeding and genetics

Elected: 2004-09

Ronald L. Phillips earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Purdue University and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, and did postdoctoral training at Cornell University. Throughout his career, Dr. Phillips has coupled the techniques of plant genetics with research advances in tissue culture and molecular biology to enhance understanding of the basic biology of cereal crops and to improve these species by innovative methods. His research program at the University of Minnesota was one of the early programs in modern plant biotechnology related to agriculture. He is a founding member and former director of the Plant Molecular Genetics Institute of the same university. He has served on numerous editorial boards, edited six books, and published more than 50 book chapters, 100 refereed journal articles, and 200 abstracts.

Dr. Phillips teaches a course in plant genetics and has been invited to teach or present the results of his research at numerous universities, government organizations, and industries in the U.S. and abroad. He served as chief scientist of the United States Department of Agriculture (1996-98), where he was in charge of the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program. His awards include being named

a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); and receiving the Purdue University Distinguished Alumni Award for Agriculture, the Dekalb Genetics Distinguished Career Award for Crop Science, and an honorary doctorate from Purdue University. In 1991, he was elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and is a former chair of the Section on Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences. He also served as president of the CSSA and as chair of the Agriculture Section of the AAAS.

Dr. Phillips was a co-winner of the 2007 Wolf Prize for Agriculture.



Mangala Rai

India

Genetics and plant breeding

Elected: 2006-10

Dr. Rai was born on a family farm in a remote area on 30 June 1947. He completed his master's degree in genetics and plant breeding (1969) on a merit scholarship and his Ph.D. on a fellowship from the Banaras Hindu University.

Dr. Rai started his professional career as a junior plant breeder in April 1973 and worked his way up from senior scientist at The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) to plant breeder-cum-reader at the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, ICAR project coordinator (linseed), assistant director general (seeds), assistant director general (policy and perspective planning), and deputy director general (crop science). He was also director (oilseed technology, Technology Mission on Oilseeds), national director (National Agricultural Technology Project), and agriculture commissioner for the Government of India. He took over as secretary of the Government of India's Department of Agricultural Research and Education and director general of the ICAR in 2003.

Dr. Rai has produced more than 200 papers and presentations in journals and meetings that covered genetics, biometrical genetics, salinity tolerance, pest

resistance, quality enhancement, mutation breeding, genetic resources, seed technology, biotechnology, and bioenergy. He has presented policy papers on GATT, WTO, and IPR and has authored books on crop hybrids, transgenics in agriculture, and others.

He was president of eight national societies on genetics and plant breeding, genetic resources, seed technology, physiology, oilseeds, allelopathy, agrotechnology, bioenergy, and agricultural statistics. He was also president of the Agricultural Research Service Scientists' Forum, chair/member of the editorial boards of several publications, and organizing member of several international congresses and conferences. He has chaired several committees on crop standards, varietal release and notification, germplasm registration, pesticide registration, Indian plant quarantine work, and the import and export of beneficial organisms. In January 2006, he was elected vice president of India's National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He had also been nominated to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Cabinet.

Dr. Rai is a member of the CIMMYT Board of Trustees, ICRISAT Board of Governors, CGIAR Executive Council, Asian Maize Biotechnology Network (chair), International Sunflower Research Network (chair), Technical Committee of the Contact Group of Nations Negotiating the International Undertaking on PGRFA and SAARC (chair), SAARC Agriculture Information Centre Governing Board (chair), the steering committees of SysNet and the IRRC, the SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture, SABRAO (regional secretary), National Technical Coordination Committee for Rice-Wheat (chair), and Steering Committee of the Rice-Wheat Consortium (chair).

He has been conferred a D. Sc. (*honoris causa*) by seven national universities, including Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi and the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in Pantnagar.



Emerlinda R. Roman

Philippines

Business administration

***Ex officio* member: President
University of the Philippines (2005-11)**

Dr. Roman made history not only as University of the Philippines (UP)'s Centennial president but also as its first woman president. Aside from having been chancellor of the UP Diliman campus from 1991 to 1993 and from 1999 to 2004, Dr. Roman's experience in university administration includes former positions as vice chancellor for administration, secretary of the university and of the Board of Regents, vice-president for administration, and member of the Board of Regents representing the faculty. She also holds important positions in several foundations, most notably as president of the UP Diliman Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Roman obtained her B.S. in agriculture from UPLB in 1972 and her master of agribusiness management and Ph.D. in business administration from UP Diliman in 1977 and 1989, respectively. She held various positions at the UP College of Business Administration before being tapped to serve the university in various other capacities. She has received several awards, including Outstanding Professor (1995); Outstanding

Alumnus for Public Service, UP College of Business Administration; and Outstanding Alumnus for Academic Administration, UP Los Baños.

As chancellor, she counts among her significant achievements faculty development and faculty welfare programs, improvement of the academic program, modernization of UP laboratories and learning facilities, improvement of research productivity, and development of technology infrastructure in UP Diliman.

Dr. Roman has produced several publications and research papers on management control, human resource management, administrative policy, and organizational behavior and has attended numerous conferences and programs on higher education. She has been a consultant to government agencies and international organizations.



Achmad Suryana

Indonesia

Agricultural economics

Elected: 2008-10

Dr. Suryana is the director general of the Indonesian Agency for Food Security, Ministry of Agriculture. Before he assumed this job, he worked for various institutions within the Ministry of Agriculture. He was director general of the Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (2004-08), the interim director general of Food Crops (2005-06) and director general of the Agency for Food Security (2000-04). He was also director of the Bureau of Planning (1998-2000), Center for Agricultural and Socioeconomics Research (1995-98), and Center for Agribusiness Investment and Environmental Improvement Assessment (1994-95).

He earned his B.S. in 1978 and M.S. in 1980, both from Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia, and earned his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University, USA, in 1986.

Since 1981, he has published more than 70 scientific articles, edited 14 proceedings, and published two books related to agriculture and rural development, agricultural planning, the economics of agricultural commodities, and food security. From 1987 to 1998, he was visiting lecturer at the Graduate School of

Bogor Agricultural University and advisor to 48 M.S. and 5 Ph.D. students. In 2007, he was named research professor by the Indonesian Institute for Science.

Dr. Suryana was a member of the National Committee of the Indonesian Agricultural Economics Society (1989-2003, four terms); Steering Committee of the National Conference on Food and Nutrition (1993, 1998, and 2004); team of experts on National Rice Policy Assessment (2001-02); and chair of the Board of Experts, Indonesian Food and Nutrition Society (2001-03).

He now serves as vice chair of the National Bioethics Committee, Indonesia (2004-09); member of the National Research Board, Indonesia (2005-08); and member of the Policy Advisory Council of ACIAR (2005-present).



Mohammed Syeduzzaman

Bangladesh

Financial management

Elected: 2007-09

M. Syeduzzaman is currently chair of several companies and institutions in Bangladesh, including BOC Bangladesh Ltd., a subsidiary company of the BOC Group in the United Kingdom; Bangladesh Rice Foundation; Bangladesh Chapter of the Policy Analysis Network for South Asia (PANSA); and the Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh. He is a member of the International Advisory Council of IFPRI's 2020 Vision Initiative and vice chair of the Infrastructure and Industrial Development Finance Company. He was formerly chair of Bank Asia Limited.

He was a member of the civil services of both Pakistan and Bangladesh— as joint secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Pakistan (1970); as secretary to the Government of Bangladesh in the Ministries of Finance and Planning (1973-77); as finance secretary (1982-83); and as principal finance secretary in charge of the Ministry of Finance and External Relations Division, with concurrent appointment as advisor for finance and minister for finance (1984-87). He served as alternate executive director in the World Bank and was member of the bank's audit committee. For several years between 1975 and 1987, he held the positions of governor and alternate governor of the Asian Development Bank

(ADB) and the World Bank. He was also governor of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (1984-87).

M. Syeduzzaman was a member of the IFPRI Board of Trustees (1986-93); senior consultant to the UNDP in New York (1991) and Vietnam (1990-91); advisor to the Government of Cambodia (1992); joint coordinator of multi-donor evaluation of the World Food Program global operations (1993); budget advisor to the Government of Kuwait (1993-94); senior consultant of the ADB (1996-98) for the bank's various projects in China, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan; and member of the International Panel of Advisors of the World Bank's International Development Association (1999-2000).

In the social sector, he was member and chair of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (1976-77 and 1982-87) and later became senior fellow (1988-90 and 2005). He was the founding chair of the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, a pioneering foundation set up as an apex financing organization for microcredit operations by local NGOs to create rural employment. He was a member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (1982-1983) and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, the premier civil society 'think tank' in Bangladesh.

Mr. Syeduzzaman obtained his M.S. in physics from Dhaka University and M.A. in development economics from Williams College, Massachusetts, USA. He also holds a diploma in public administration from the University of Cambridge, UK.



Elizabeth J. Woods

Australia
Agribusiness

Elected: 2005-10

Elizabeth J. Woods is the assistant director general of innovation at the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPIF) in Brisbane. Prior to that, she was executive director of innovation and biosecurity investments at DPIF. She is also the foundation professor of agribusiness at the School of Natural and Rural Systems Management at the University of Queensland in Australia. Her role is to provide leadership in the areas of agribusiness and rural management to enhance the university's service to tropical Australia and Asia.

Dr. Woods obtained her B. Agr. Sc. (first class honors) at the University of Queensland (1977) and her D Phil (Oxon) from the University of Oxford (1981). The early part of her career was spent as an extension agronomist and later, a manager of research and development and extension (RDE) activities. She is recognized as an expert in tropical and subtropical agriculture and agribusiness, especially in relation to broadacre farming systems and related R,D&E activities in several Asian countries. She was chair of the ACIAR Board of Management and president of the ACIAR Policy Advisory Council (2000-04). She was also

the Chair (1998-2004) of Australia's Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, a corporation that is a statutory body that works closely with many Australian rural industries on the organization and funding of their R&D needs. In 2004, she chaired a review of drought policy on behalf of the Australian and state governments, covering business, natural resource management, and social impacts of drought.

She has served on numerous committees including the Aid Advisory Council, which advises the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is a recipient of several honors and awards, among which are the Bell Medal and the University Medal from the University of Queensland, the Rhodes Scholarship, the British Society of Agricultural Economics Essay Prize, and the Order of Australia Medal for services to primary industries.



Arthur C. Yap

Philippines

Government, law, agricultural and rural development

***Ex officio* member: Secretary of Agriculture
Republic of the Philippines (2006-present)**

Before he was appointed secretary of agriculture, Arthur C. Yap was National Food Authority administrator (2002-04). He was also president of the Philippine International Trading Center (PITC) under the Department of Trade and Industry (2001-02), during which he greatly increased PITC's income for the first time since 1993.

As a practicing lawyer, he was co-founder of the Yap, Jacinto, and Jacob Law Office; managing partner and co-founder of the Ejercito, Yap, and Dutiong Law Office, where he was in charge of client relationship and development; and associate of the Azucena, Yorac, Sarmiento, Arroyo, and Chua Law offices (1992-95), where he was engaged in litigation and corporate work.

Mr. Yap received an A.B. honors degree in management and economics from Ateneo de Manila University. He later studied law at the Ateneo de Manila University School of Law (1987-91), where he was vice chair of the Ateneo Society of International Law. From 1989 to 1990, he was chairman of the Philippine Delegation to the Jessup International Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C.



Usha Barwale Zehr

India

Plant biotechnology

Elected: 2007-09

Dr. Barwale Zehr is the joint director of research at Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company Limited, India. She is responsible for research on plant biotechnology; technology transfer to farmers; and the use of new technologies and tools, including biotechnology, to improve the quality and productivity of seeds and agriculture.

She received her M.S. in 1985 and Ph.D. in 1987 in agronomy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she worked as a research assistant. She earned her B.S. (microbiology) from Wilson College, University of Bombay in 1981 and Diploma in Clinical Analysis from Sophia College, Bombay, in 1982.

Dr. Zehr was a geneticist for the Sorghum and Millet Improvement Program at Purdue University, USA, from 1991 to 1996.

She is a member of the board of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, the Barwale Foundation, Sankara Netralaya, and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Centre. She served as a

member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the CGIAR (1997-2002) and is a member of the Private Sector Committee of the CGIAR; Intellectual Property Committee of the International Seed Federation; National Biotechnology Network; World Water Commission and the Department of Biotechnology of the Government of India. She is also director of Mahyco Vegetables Seeds Ltd., Jalna.

Dr. Zehr was involved in the founding or operations of several charitable and educational organizations, including the Shri Ganapati Netrlaya and the Barwale educational institutions at Jalna, Maharashtra.



Robert S. Zeigler

United States

Plant pathology, research management

***Ex officio* member: Director General, IRRI (2005-10)**

Dr. Zeigler worked as a plant pathologist at IRRI in the Philippines from 1992 to 1998, during which he led the Institute's Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Program (1992-96) and the Irrigated Rice Research Program (1996-98).

Dr. Zeigler earned his Ph.D. in plant pathology from Cornell University in 1982, his Masters in Botany (forest ecology) from Oregon State University in 1978, and his B.S. in biological sciences from the University of Illinois in 1972.

After graduating in 1972, he joined the Peace Corps and spent two years as a science teacher in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly known as Zaire) in Africa. He then returned to the U.S. to complete his studies before joining in 1980 IRRI's sister center in Colombia, the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), as a visiting research associate working on cassava.

In 1982, Dr. Zeigler went to Burundi to work for three years as a technical adviser for the African nation's maize program at the Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi. He then returned to CIAT as the institute's senior plant pathologist until 1992, ultimately taking over as the head of its rice program.

It was his success at CIAT that led IRRI to offer Dr. Zeigler his first position in the Philippines as leader of the Institute's Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Program. After six years at IRRI, Dr. Zeigler left to become professor and head of the Department of Plant Pathology and director of the Plant Biotechnology Center at Kansas State University in the U.S. In 2004, he became director of the CGIAR's Generation Challenge Program based in Mexico.



Baowen Zhang

China

Agricultural education and management

Elected: 2004-09

Baowen Zhang is currently vice minister of China's Ministry of Agriculture, president of the Central Agricultural Broadcast and Television School, director of the Chinese Association of Agricultural Science Societies, vice chair of the Central Committee of China Democratic League, and committee member of the National People's Political Consultation Conference.

As vice minister, Prof. Zhang is in charge of the Department of Science, Technology, and Education; Department of Farm Mechanization; Bureau of State Farms and Land Reclamation; Department of International Cooperation; and three national research institutions—the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, and Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences. He supervises agricultural research and education, training and extension, resource and environmental protection, biosafety of genetically modified crops, conservation of new plant varieties, conservation tillage, development of mechanization, and international cooperation and exchange.

He was engaged in research on agricultural education and management for more than three decades; has published more than 80 articles on the management of agricultural science, technology, and education; and has edited six books.

Prof. Zhang was a visiting scholar in agricultural education and management at the University of Minnesota (1984-86). In 1987, he became professor, then later vice president then president of the Northwest Agricultural University, Yangling, Shaanxi, People's Republic of China.