



KEYNOTE SPEAKER **BIOGRAPHY**

DR PAUL EZE EME

Dr Paul Eme Eze is a nutrition scientist and public health researcher whose 12+ year career sits at the intersection of food systems, agriculture, and nutrition impact – the very themes of his keynote address, “Food Systems, Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture, Food Fortification, Value Addition, and Nutrition Impact.” His research and advisory work have spanned dietary assessments and sustainable food-system evaluations across the Pacific, food product fortification and value-addition studies in Nigeria, and regulatory science linking agricultural practice to nutrition and environmental outcomes.

As an international consultant for UNICEF Pacific and Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, Dr Eme led dietary intake assessments, mapped locally available foods, and developed context-specific, food-based recommendations across the Cook Islands, Niue, and Kiribati, including field-testing sustainable food-system indicators to support national policy. His earlier research in Nigeria examined the fortification and value addition of local staples – including acha, plantain, moringa, and legume-based foods – to improve nutrient quality and glycaemic outcomes, while his invited 2025 review with Roche in the Journal of Dairy Science examined how pasture composition influences nitrogen outcomes, reflecting his continuing interest in nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

In New Zealand, Dr Eme has held senior food-regulatory and science-advisory roles with Food Standards Australia New Zealand and the Ministry for Primary Industries, advising on health claims, food labelling, and food systems’ contribution to public health and obesity prevention, and serving as a trusted advisor to Chief Science Advisors and senior government decision-makers. He currently serves as Principal Advisor and Co-Lead Evaluator for the National Integrated Youth Services Evaluation at the Ministry of Health, Aotearoa New Zealand.

He holds a PhD in Public Health (Nutrition) from Massey University, New Zealand, and an MSc in Human Nutrition and BSc in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Dr Eme is the author of over 46 peer-reviewed journal articles and two book chapters on sustainable diets, indigenous food systems, and agricultural biodiversity, and is an invited keynote speaker and TED Talk presenter (Bangkok, Thailand).

Affiliations

Independent Consultant, UNICEF PACIFIC
Principal Advisor, Ministry of Health, New Zealand