

## **Speaker Biographies**

**Josh Eddy**  
**Executive Director**  
**California State Board of Food and Agriculture**

Josh Eddy is the executive director of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, an advisory body to the governor and secretary serving the interests of the state's agricultural community. Mr. Eddy also serves as the state director of international affairs for the California Department of Food and Agriculture and advises on federal policy issues. As a career civil servant, Mr. Eddy has worked with federal and state officials to enhance international opportunities for businesses as well as further international collaboration with national and sub-national governments related to agricultural trade and climate policies. Mr. Eddy has facilitated trade delegations for California agricultural leaders and growers in the Pacific Rim, South America and Europe and has domestically hosted many visiting foreign delegations within the state.

**Dr. Amrith Gunasekara**  
**Science Advisor to Secretary Ross**  
**California Department of Food and Agriculture**

Dr. Gunasekara is Science Advisor to Secretary Ross at the California Department of Food and Agriculture. He works on agricultural issues as they relate to the environment and seeks to find proactive, creative, flexible and practical solutions. His focus areas include plant nutrient management, climate change and environmental stewardship. He is the CDFA liaison to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel which is looking at highlighting the many benefits afforded by agriculture beyond food, fiber, and economic benefits. Dr. Gunasekara received his undergraduate and master degrees from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and completed his PhD from the University of California, Davis, in Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry. He has been in his CDFA position since August 2011.