

World Food Programme

2026 Executive Board Bureau

List B Convenor

Dr. Balaji Jujjavarapu

Minister (Agriculture) and Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of India



Dr. Balaji Jujjavarapu currently serves as Minister (Agriculture) at the Embassy of India in Rome and holds the role of Alternate Permanent Representative of India to several key international organizations, including the UN FAO, IFAD, and WFP. He represents India on various executive boards and committees, showcasing his significant involvement in global agricultural and food security matters.

Dr. Balaji's academic background includes a Doctorate in Microbiology from Osmania University and a Masters in Animal Sciences from the University of Hyderabad, where he was awarded the University Medal for Academic Excellence.

With over twenty-four years of experience in the Indian Administrative Service, Dr. Balaji has held diverse leadership positions across federal and provincial governments. His responsibilities have ranged from district administration to policymaking and implementation in areas such as finance, commerce, industry, education, health, and biotechnology.

During his tenure as Health Secretary in Assam, Dr. Balaji played a pivotal role in addressing governance challenges and implementing public policies in rural communities. As Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, he led the administration of four Districts and oversaw various initiatives aimed at poverty alleviation, healthcare, education, and rural infrastructure development.

Before joining India's Mission at Rome in 2023, Dr. Balaji worked extensively in the fisheries and aquaculture sector for 5 years in the senior position of Joint Secretary to Government of India steering national policies and programmes and international cooperation concerning fisheries and aquaculture, and fisheries management. He Chaired or Co-Chaired several Expert Committees in India concerning fisheries and aquaculture, led or been part of Joint Working Groups on fisheries, multilateral/plurilateral/bilateral delegations on fisheries management, conservation and trade. He was the lead Negotiator of India on the fisheries side for the WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies for over four years and contributed to the adoption of the historic WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement in 2022. He was instrumental in conceptualizing, drafting and/or implementing multi-billion-dollar fisheries programmes of Government of India. He worked as National Focal Point of India for World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) on Aquatic Animal Diseases.

Dr. Balaji holds a firm commitment to strategic thinking and planning, team building, and fostering an inclusive and coordinated work culture. He is dedicated to delivering impactful results within limited resources through evidence-based decision-making, meaningful consultation, and consensus-building while upholding the highest standards of transparency, accountability, adherence to rules, and effective communication in the workplace.

Dr. Balaji is father to two children, and fluently speaks Hindi, Telugu, Assamese and English, with working knowledge of Bengali.