

## Mini-bios of female figures in water innovation

### 1. **Deepika Kurup** - Environmental Scientist & Inventor

Deepika Kurup was only 14 years old when she began developing a way to clean water using sunlight. Shocked by the global water crisis and inspired by visits to India, where she saw children drinking dirty water, Deepika created a solar-powered water purification system made with affordable and accessible materials.

Her system uses sunlight to activate titanium dioxide and zinc oxide, which together kill bacteria and remove harmful substances from water. She tested it successfully in both lab and real-world settings.

Deepika has won numerous awards, including the *Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge*, and continues to speak publicly about innovation, environmental justice, and the role of youth in science.



### 2. **Radhika Fox** - Public Policy Leader and Water Advocate

Radhika Fox is a key figure in shaping water policy in the United States. Born in India and raised in rural California, she became the first woman of color to lead the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water. Her career focuses on ensuring safe, affordable drinking water and modernizing aging infrastructure in both urban and rural areas.

Before joining the EPA, Radhika led the US Water Alliance, where she brought together scientists, engineers, community leaders, and policy-makers to address the challenges of

climate change, inequality, and water sustainability.

She is especially committed to water equity, working to make sure historically excluded communities have access to clean water and decision-making power.



### 3. **Miriam Mutebi** - Biomedical Engineer & Innovator

Miriam Mutebi is a Kenyan engineer who focuses on making clean water access more equitable through low-cost, easy-to-use technologies. One of her most impactful projects involves designing simple water testing kits that can detect bacteria and chemical contaminants without requiring a lab.

She works with rural communities to understand their needs and adapts technologies so they are culturally appropriate, affordable, and maintainable over time. Her interdisciplinary approach blends engineering, public health, and local knowledge.

Miriam also mentors young African girls in STEM and advocates for gender equity in scientific careers.



#### **4. Aditi Mukherji - Climate Scientist & Water Policy Expert**

Dr. Aditi Mukherji is a globally respected scientist and policy advisor on water and climate issues in South Asia. She was the first South Asian woman to receive the Norman Borlaug Award for her work on sustainable groundwater use and its importance for food security.

Aditi's research has helped shape major climate and agriculture policies in countries like India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. She collaborates with both scientists and farmers to design solutions that are not only effective but also fair and inclusive.

Currently, she serves as a coordinating lead author for the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), helping guide global strategies for climate adaptation.

