

## **Policy Systems for Transforming Agriculture: Research, Implementation and Impact**

### **Feed the Future Policy Research Consortium**

<http://ru-fff.rutgers.edu/>

November 2 and 3, 2021

Online on [Zoom](#) (click to register and join)

[https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Hbm1JkbqQvqrDIVxu3kfVw](https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hbm1JkbqQvqrDIVxu3kfVw)

In 2015, USAID and USDA/FAS awarded a Cooperative Agreement to Rutgers University to lead a Research Consortium focused on evaluating the effectiveness of agricultural, food and nutrition policies in Feed the Future countries and regions. Over the past six years, the Consortium -- formally known as the Feed the Future Policy Research Consortium and since 2018 funded as an Associate Award under the Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab — has supported the achievement of the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy objectives by contributing to the improvement of policy approaches and outcomes. Specifically, the Consortium sought to:

1. Develop an expanded version of agricultural transformation and the policy agenda that it implies.
2. Study the impact of policy change and policy systems as they relate to agriculture, food and nutrition.
3. Develop novel indicators and collect relevant data for use in evidence-based policy analysis.
4. Support food and agricultural policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this Conference to mark its end, Consortium members will present the results of their research activities, important lessons learned and the implications they hold for USAID's policy related work. The Conference may be of interest not only to USAID staff working on food policy issues, but also to implementing partners, development agencies, African policy makers and other researchers.



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## Conference Schedule

### Day 1: Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> (U.S. Eastern Daylight Time)

8:30-9:00 Welcome Remarks and Introduction to the Project and Conference

Introductory remarks followed by a presentation of the conference objectives and summary of key achievements of the Consortium

- Amy Sink-Davies, USAID
- Vara Prasad, SILL/KSU
- Carl Pray and Anwar Naseem, Rutgers

9:00-10:15 Sustainable and Inclusive Agricultural Transformation

A broad vision of agricultural transformation was developed in the early stages of this project. Speakers in this session will highlight the attributes of a contemporary agricultural transformation and its implications for nutrition transition, technological innovation and response to climate change.

Moderator/Discussant: Regina Birner, U. of Hohenheim

- Jim Oehmke, USAID: “What does a contemporary agri-food systems transformation look like?”
- Carl Pray, Rutgers: “Policies for technological innovation and value chain efficiency for agriculture led growth.”
- Chuck Moss, U. of Florida: “Rural Economic Transformation in the Senegal River Delta.”
- Will Masters, Tufts: “Agricultural transformation, nutrition transition and food policy in Africa.”
- Jock Anderson, Rutgers: “Agri-food policy responses to climate change: adaptation and mitigation.”

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 New Data for Policy Analysis I

Consortium researchers present novel indicators and datasets related to cost of nutritious diets, COVID-19 disease projections and agricultural transformation. The application of these indicators in policy analysis described by discussants.

Moderator – Dave Weatherspoon, Michigan State

- Aishwarya Venkat, Tufts: “Cost and affordability of nutritious diet and its use in FAO, UNFSS and national governments”  
Discussant: Stevier Kaiyatsa, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Government of Malawi
- Lori Post, Northwestern U: “Covid-19 projections and food policy making”  
Discussant: Chris Shepherd-Pratt, USAID
- Anwar Naseem, Rutgers: “New measures of agricultural transformation & self-reliance”

11:30–1:00 Implications of the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) for USAID’s Policy Agenda

The UNFSS held during the UN General Assembly sought to set the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve sustainable and resilient growth. Discussions leading up to the Summit highlighted competing visions how to achieve such transformation especially with regards to the role of markets, government and technology. This panel asks people within and outside the consortium who have been closely involved in the UNFSS to identify lessons for USAID policies and practices.

Moderator - Will Martin, IFPRI

- Ousmane Badiane, AKADEMIYA2063, Impact of UNFSS in African food and agricultural policy.
- Sara Savastano, IFAD. Roles FAO, WFP, IFAD in implementation of UNFSS
- David Zilberman, UC Berkeley, Agricultural technology policy.
- Tom Reardon, MSU, Agricultural value chains and food security
- Jennifer Chow, USAID

Discussant – Will Masters, Tufts.

Day 2: Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

8:30-9:30 New Data for Policy Analysis II

This panel presents some of the new measures developed through the project, identifies the users of the data, and how they are/can be used for policy change.

Moderator: Biniam Iyob, USAID

- Sera L. Young, Northwestern U: “The Household Water Insecurity Experience Scales and their uses in policy analysis”  
Discussant: Brian Banks, USAID.
- Saweda Liverpool-Tasie, MSU: “New data and impact on supply chain policies for food security in response to COVID-19 in Nigeria”  
Discussant: Blessing Agada, Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi, Nigeria
- Jim Oehmke, USAID. “A novel measure of developing countries' agricultural and food policy readiness”

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- 9:30-10:30      Measuring the Impacts of Policy Change
- One of the major goals of the project was to measure the impact of policy changes. In this session, the impacts of three policies are discussed.
- Moderator/Discussant: Keith Fuglie, USDA.
- Aimable Nsabimana, U of Rwanda: “Land Policy and Food Prices: Evidence from a Land Consolidation Program in Rwanda”
  - Chuck Moss, Florida: “Rwanda persistent impact of USAID projects”
  - Latha Nagarajan, IFDC. & Anwar Naseem, Rutgers: “Seed Policy Change in SSA / Kenya.”
- 10:30-10:45      Break
- 10:45-11:45      Best Practices and Applications of Policy Change
- Speakers in this session discuss opportunities for and challenges to effective policy change
- Moderator/Discussant: Dave Tschirley, MSU
- Tom Reardon, MSU: “Policies to improve food supply chain in Asia and Africa”
  - Eric Raile, Montana: “Implications of political and public will models for encouraging climate smart agriculture”
  - Regina Birner, U. of Hohenheim: “Fostering political will to drive sustainable agricultural transformation.”
  - Samuel Ledermann, George Washington U. and Jock Anderson, Rutgers: “Agricultural innovation systems agricultural extension, digital agriculture, and inequality.”
- 11:45–12:30      Closing reflections on the Consortium and Conference
- Clara Cohen, USAID
  - Jim Oehmke, USAID
  - Vara Prasad, SIIL/KSU
  - Carl Pray, Rutgers