



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



APRIL | News & Updates

Prasad and Middendorf Awarded \$12M Grant for Agricultural Growth in Haiti

Kansas State University's Feed the Future Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab has been awarded a five-year \$12 million grant from United States Agency for International Development to establish a Center of Excellence that will enhance capacity of six universities to support agriculture-led growth in Haiti.

SIIL will work closely with a consortium of six universities, including Quisqueya University in Port-au-Prince, Faculté d'Agronomie et de Médecine Vétérinaire in Port-au-Prince, Campus Henry Christophe de Limonade in Limonade, North Christian University in Cap-Haitien, American University of the Caribbean



in Les Cayes, University Notre Dame, Les Cayes. Read the news release below to learn more!

[Read the Full News Release Here!](#)

Project Update: Connecting Small Scale Producers to New Cowpea and Millet Varieties in Senegal

Ousmane Willane, a farmer who has seen nearly 70 rainy seasons, lives in the village of Touba Taba located 7 kilometers (4.35 miles) south of Kaffrine in Senegal. In 2021, Ousmane, one of the inaugural Master Farmers of the Peace Corps Senegal program, was chosen along with three other colleagues to demonstrate new dual-purpose millet and cowpea varieties.

Ousmane became a de facto, community ambassador for these new varieties. He was impressed early on by the rapid growth of the cowpea. Within 20 days, the new millet varieties matched the local varieties in height and had a visibly impressive biomass. Less than 55 days after sowing, the new cowpea varieties were fully ripe, leaving Ousmane both happy and perplexed about how he would keep up with the intensity of production.

He has already begun thinking about machinery to support increased production and reduce postharvest losses.



The Improving Food and Nutritional Security in Senegal and Niger project from SILL shows how local farmers can play a role in scaling technologies as well as introducing technologies capable of alleviating chronic food and nutritional insecurity.

Consortium Update: ASMIH - Bangladesh Trains Young Business Owner to Use Agricultural Machinery

Khan Md. Sajjatul Nur Niloy, is an 18-year-old farmer and entrepreneur from Purbadhala Upazila in Netrokona district. He has been running Sopnonir Agro-BD, an agricultural machinery service enterprise, since December 2021. Since February of that same year, he has been partnering with the ASMIH-Bangladesh project and purchased a BAU-STR dryer for his own usage. After receiving training and guidance from ASMIH-Bangladesh on mechanical rice transplanting and harvesting, he began to consider starting a custom hire service business for his neighbor farmers to mechanize his neighborhood.



Mr. Niloy is currently in charge of all Sopnonir Agro-BD activities, including machine operation, maintenance, and overall business operations. Mr. Niloy provided services to 42 farmers during the last transplanting season and over 180 farmers during the harvesting season. He has begun to work with the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) during the last Boro 2022 season, and with the technical assistance of the ASMIH-Bangladesh project he successfully transplanted 50 acres of paddy in Upazila.

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Youth Engagement: Intern and Student Highlights



Hayi Royuth

CE SAIN Cambodia

Hayi is earning his bachelor's degree in Agronomy at the Royal University of



Nai Rathana

CE SAIN Cambodia

Nai is earning her master's degree in Food Science and Technology at the Royal

"During my six-month internship at the CE SAIN Agricultural Technology Park based in Phnom Penh, I was not interested in Conservation Agriculture which improves the crop productivity, reduces production costs and saves labor by reducing tillage, maintaining nutrients, maintaining soil moisture, maintaining soil shape and preserving microorganisms. What is special about this internship is that I could understand the theories I learned at school better by real practicing ."

"Researching can be costly, and the CE SAIN scholarship enables me to pursue my master's degree which is a priceless chance. I have ideas about how to maximize the potential use in agricultural production which can help to reduce postharvest loss as much as possible. It will also help to promote the quality and safety of fresh vegetable. I also want to address current farmer practices on postharvest loss and build them market linkages with proper handling, storage, and transportation with adopted technology."

Farewell to Postdoctoral Fellow, Hardeep Singh



Hardeep Singh, who serves as a postdoctoral fellow, will be leaving our SIIL family. Hardeep has taken on a new position at the University of Florida at the West Florida Research and Education Center where he will work as an Assistant Professor-Cropping Systems Specialist. He will be working in a program that focuses on increasing resource use efficiency and developing an economically and environmentally sustainable cropping system for the Florida Panhandle and the Southeast U.S. Hardeep worked at SIIL for a little over a year and says he will miss the employee autonomy he was given while in his

position. "Autonomy allows people to work the way that is most conducive to their own best performance. Promoting autonomy at work means empowering employees to be self-starters, giving them stewardship over their work and their environment. When employees feel trusted, they are more likely to perform top-notch work."

Although his presence will be missed here at SIIL, we wish him good luck and the best as he moves forward in his career and life. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment, Hardeep!

Recognizing Earth Day - April 22, 2022

Click on the image to watch a video from P.V. Vara Prasad, SIIL Director, about the importance of science and innovations that will protect our

environment!

P.V. Vara Prasad
Director, Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab
President, Crop Science Society of America



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY