



FEED THE FUTURE

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



March | News & Updates

Consortium Update: Digital and Geospatial Farming Systems Tools Consortium Workshop

The Digital and Geospatial, Farming Systems Tools Consortium (DGFSC) held one of their first in-person workshops at the University of Colorado Boulder, from February 28 -- March 2, 2022.

The meeting was led by Principal Investigator Ignacio Ciampitti, together with the participation of the Co-PIs Jason Neff, Molly Brown, Kathryn Grace, James Gerber, Paul West, Amirpouyan Nejadhashemi, and Zhenong Jin.



The purpose of the workshop was to discuss new strategies and the development of new tools to work on the future steps of the DGFSC consortium. All the objectives of the workshop will lead the consortium in the direction of establishing and testing new innovations with the long-term goal of improving the resilience of smallholder livelihoods for enhancing productivity, economics, environmental, and social aspects of human wellbeing.

“This workshop was a great opportunity to connect with all team members, discuss current strategies and plan for future research and training efforts to be deployed during the coming years,” Dr. Ciampitti stated.

Welcome New SIIL Team Members



Rami Castellón, Program Administrator

As most of you know, we have been searching for a qualified individual to fill our Program Administrator position here at SIIL. We are pleased to announce that Ramiro (Rami) Castellón has accepted the position and is our new Program Administrator!

Rami will lead our front office operations including coordinating regularly with our regional and country coordinators, principal investigators, consortia staff, and will have a strong influence with our semi-annual and annual reporting, among many other things!

You will be seeing Rami's name and email (rcastellon@ksu.edu) more frequently as time goes on, so please don't hesitate to reach out and introduce yourself.

We are excited to have Rami as part of the SIIL family!

Beth Guertal, Haiti Project Program Manager

Beth Guertal has joined the SIIL team as the Program Manager for the Center of Excellence on Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience to Climate-Change in Haiti (CEMARCH).

Prior to joining the SIIL team, Beth Guertal was the Rowe Endowed Professor in the Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Department at Auburn University, AL. Also, in 2022 she served a one-year assignment with USAID (in ITR/R) as a Jefferson Science Fellow, one of 15 such Fellows selected by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.



Dr. Guertal received her BS and MS degrees from The Ohio State University, and her Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. Her research program focuses on soil fertility issues in turfgrass management. Guertal served as a Technical Editor for Crop Science, and as an Associate Editor for the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) Journal, Crop Science (CSSA), and Agronomy Journal (ASA). She is a past Chair of Division C-5

(Turfgrass Management, CSSA), a Fulbright Fellow, and a Fellow of CSSA, SSSA, and ASA. She is a past President of the Crop Science Society of America and speaks Wolof.

We are excited to welcome Beth and have her join the SIIL team!

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Youth Engagement: Intern and Student Highlights



Mathurin Dabire

Burkina Faso Coordinator

Mathurin is earning his Ph.D. in Agronomy at the University of Norbert ZONGO in Burkina Faso

"My biggest research setback was losing my field trial of cowpea plants to a sudden attack of fungal disease. I was discouraged and wanted to give up, considering the time and effort I had put into the experiment which set me back on the progress of the thesis activities."

"My main source of motivation has been the farmers. When I meet them, I explain my research activities in a language that they can easily understand and this excites them and pushes me forward. Particularly when I see the damage caused by this parasitic weed (witchweed), Striga, in



Kry Rachany

CE SAIN Cambodia

Kry is earning her bachelor's degree in Agronomy at the Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia.

"During my five-month internship at the Agricultural Technology Park in Kampong Thom province, I learned more about soil substrate for seeding production, developing crop calendars, calculating fertilizer, installing irrigation systems, doing work plans and reports, and much more. I have learned how to communicate with farmers and facilitate training and coaching of high school students in the agricultural field of work."

"My plan next is to find a job in extension in order to help farmers solve the problem in the fields. I want

their fields. it gives me the strength to continue in order to propose an effective solution in the future."

to become an agricultural entrepreneur which focuses on vegetable cultivation and agricultural production processing."

U.S. Ambassador Visits Cambodia



Murphy is pictured above in Cambodia with members of CAST

U.S. Ambassador Patrick Murphy visited with women farmers in Siem Reap, Cambodia in celebration of International Women's Day.

They visited the local agriculture school and had the opportunity to meet with local horticultural students. The students also had the opportunity to demonstrate their tomato grafting.



Highlight Video: Success in CE SAIN

Click on the image to watch a highlight



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Center of Excellence on Sustainable
Agricultural Intensification and Nutrition**

video and learn more about the recent partner successes in CE SAIN Cambodia.



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