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



Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab Highlights | News & Updates

2022 SIIL Annual Meeting in Cambodia

The Feed the Future Lab on Collaborative Research for Sustainable Intensification at Kansas State University hosted its 2022 annual meeting June 23-25, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. More than 100 participants attended the meeting, including research partners and funding recipients of the lab, along with nine representatives from distinct United States Agency for International Development missions and Washington, D.C.

Also in attendance at the SIIL event was the Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S. Embassy to Cambodia, Benjamin V. Wohlauer, and the Secretary of State, H.E. Sovann Sen, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF). Use the link below to learn more about our event!

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

MURAL Showcase of focus
country subawards, consortia, and
initiatives

You can view all presentations, posters, highlight videos, and more from the 2022 SIIL Annual Meeting on the MURAL platform!

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Please enjoy this highlight video of the 2022 SIIL Annual Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia!



SIIL Receives Outstanding Support for International Initiatives Award

The Office of International Programs recognizes Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification, or SIIL, for the 2022 Outstanding Support for International Initiatives Award as part of International Education Week at Kansas State University.

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"We recognize SIIL's global leadership of its team with many new initiatives recently, which include the Philippine's Conservation Agriculture for Organic Agriculture project started in 2021 involving K-State with many new Philippine university partners," said Grant Chapman, associate provost for international programs. "We recognize the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-India two-month intensive training program at K-State in the summer of 2022. We recognize the 2022 five-year \$12 million grant to the lab from the USAID — Haiti Mission to establish a Center of Excellence on Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change in Haiti that will enhance capacity of six local universities to support agriculture-led growth, thus, adding Haiti Universities as K-State partners for the first time."

*SIIL Research Professor and Country Coordinator, Manny Reyes,
Receives Cambodian Medal of Honor*

The Royal Government of Cambodia presented a Medal of Honor to three representatives of development partners, including Dr. Manny Reyes, research professor and country coordinator for the Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab (SIIL) at Kansas State University, and representing the Center of Excellence on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Nutrition (CE SAIN). The award was presented for their exceptional contribution to the field of Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification in Cambodia.



CE SAIN, established in 2016 by the SIIL, is one of many key partners that have been supporting the initiative of Cambodia Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC) since 2018. SIIL/KSU are also partners in the CASIC initiative.

The Medal of Honor ceremony was organized during the Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium's (CASIC) 3-year anniversary event officiated by His Excellency Veng Sakhon, Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in Cambodia.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-Cambodia Mission has shown tremendous support to the Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification growth and expansion in Cambodia. With the CASIC initiative and this support of USAID-Cambodia, it will greatly benefit the smallholder farmers of Cambodia.



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Consortium Feature: DGFSC Workshop to Re-define Strategies for Development and Deployment for New Tools

The Digital Tools, Geospatial, and Farming System Consortium (DGFSC) held a workshop at Kansas State University, led by Ignacio Ciampitti September 29-30, 2022. Team members from all universities participating in the consortium were in attendance.



The purpose of the workshop was to

discuss the future steps of the current projects and new strategies to development and deploy of new tools of the DGFSC consortium. Currently, much of the focus of the consortium is on the development and later deployment of digital tools. Together with the previously established goals, the workshop helped to redefine strategies for establishing and testing new innovations with the long-term goal of improving the resilience of smallholder livelihoods for enhancing productivity, economics, environment and social aspects of human wellbeing, including all aspects of the sustainable intensification assessment framework.

“This workshop was a great opportunity to connect with all team members and discuss how we can improve the development and facilitate the deployment of digital tools to help policy makers and stakeholders from Senegal, Cambodia, and Bangladesh,” Dr. Ciampitti stated.

The consortium is planning to have a third in-person workshop during next spring with the goal of evaluating progress and success of achieving milestones.

Youth Engagement: Burkina Faso and Cambodia



Sreypich Chhun
S3-Cambodia

Sreypich is earning her Master's degree in Agricultural Extension at the Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia.

"I am currently pursuing my Master's degree in Agricultural Extension to explore more in the field of research; especially the research related to rural development, food security, and nutrition. I have always urged myself to learn almost everything related to my research topic. It was difficult at the start because I had no idea where to begin and there are so many new things that I am not familiar with. However, due to my strong commitment to higher education and my supervising committees I've been able to fight



Safiatou Sanna
Burkina Faso

Safiatou is earning her Ph.D. degree in Agronomy at the University of Joseph KI-ZERBO in Burkina Faso.

"The main objectives of my thesis project are the evaluation of the effect of cropping systems on the maintenance of soil fertility and the improvement of soil fertility through the use of cowpea mutants that fix atmospheric nitrogen. After the loss of these populations caused by field flooding, I was so disappointed that I nearly gave up on the thesis. I realized that dropping out would be synonymous with the inability to conduct thesis research and therefore, failure. In addition, considering the time it took to generate the lines, the funds used,

through those obstacles with new learned experiences. I stay self-motivated every day and the more I learn, the more confidence I gain that soon I will be able to complete my research."

and the deadlines to complete the thesis, we were compelled to reorient our objective to complete our goals and finish my degree."

Farewell to Postdoctoral Fellow, Gurjeet Singh



Gurjeet Singh who serves as a postdoctoral fellow will be leaving our SIIL family. Gurjeet has taken on a new position at Michigan State University as a Research Associate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He will be doing primary research on "Developing algorithms for high-resolution soil moisture retrievals (~200m) under NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar mission NISAR mission for agricultural and hydrological applications". His other key focus will be the "implementation of an integrated hydrological and crop modeling system in various parts of the world to improve the skills of nowcast and forecast the hydrologic state variables, drought indices, plant health, and crop yield". Gurjeet worked at SIIL for nearly 1 year and says he will miss the friendly work experience that SIIL provided along with the efficient and impactful research.

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 Gurjeet!



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