

THE FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS, THE ONE HEALTH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE, THE CENTER FOR STRESS RESILIENT AGRICULTURE, AND THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

INVITE YOU TO THE

One Health International Symposium on risk communication in resource-limited countries

The concept of One Health refers to the integration of disciplines and stakeholders collaborating at all levels towards the goal of optimal health of people, animals, and the environment.

One Health International (OHI) is a seminar series that aims at creating awareness on selected health-related research activities focusing on international development. The expected goals of OHI are to gather multidisciplinary expertise and facilitate interaction between University of Florida (UF) researchers around a wicked problem occurring abroad.

For this Symposium, the One Health Center of Excellence teamed up with the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems, the Center for Stress Resilient Agriculture, and the Center for African Studies, collaborating as well with UF's International Center.

Background

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems through its partners conducted two research projects to assess the aflatoxin prevalence in animal feeds in Ethiopia and Rwanda. While there are differences within the countries, overall the levels of aflatoxins found in animal feed and cow milk (only tested in Rwanda) were high. Aflatoxins are produced by certain fungi, and are associated with stunted growth and delayed development in children, and liver damage and cancer in the overall population. They can be found in improperly stored staple commodities such as corn and peanuts. Agricultural animals consume aflatoxins through contaminated feed and can pass aflatoxin transformation products through milk products, and meat, as such, representing a public health hazard. The results of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems projects bring to light the following discussion points:

1. How can the livestock Systems Innovation Lab support and/or engage with the government to share results and discuss possible next steps given the following conditions: there are not enough/right/organized resources for the government to act upon the results; the hazard is real but the risk is low; unintended consequences are difficult to gauge.
2. How to communicate the information to the immediate stakeholders:
 - a. Does the work of the researchers end once they provide the information to the government/stakeholders they think should hold the information?
 - b. If it does not, what type of support can they provide and until which extent are they responsible for communicating the information further?

- How to communicate the information to the lay public: what interference/assistance the research group should have with the government or agency responsible of communicating; the ethics of withholding or sharing information; the right media, content, and, timing to communicate; avoiding sensationalization and maintaining credibility.

Now what?

Researchers across UF have experiences in communicating “bad news” and engaging target audiences; let’s work together and come up with possible strategies on how best to approach this challenge through appropriate risk communication. In addition, the Center for Stress Resilient Agriculture is conducting innovative research to control aflatoxins. Along with communication, innovative interventions could possibly also be part of the solution. With the experiences from the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems in Ethiopia and Rwanda as a starting point – the session will bring together expertise from across the UF campus to tackle a wicked problem: aflatoxin in animal feed and its possible consequences on public health.

Location, date and time

The Chamber, Reitz Union – Monday, November 19, 2018

Agenda

	Time	Topic	Presenter/Participants
Section I: Current situation	9:00am - 9:10am	Introduction and welcome	Ilaria Capua, Ph.D. Brenda Chalfin, Ph.D. Saskia Hendrickx, Ph.D.
	9:10am - 9:20am	Setting the scene: what are aflatoxins and why do they matter	Nicolás Hernández Gallo, Ph.D.(c)
	9:20am - 9:40am	Research findings of 2 aflatoxin projects conducted in Ethiopia and Rwanda and steps taken to date by the Livestock Systems Innovation Lab	Adegbola Adesogan, Ph.D.
Coffee Break	9:40am - 10:05am	Q&A	
	10:05am - 10:20am		
Section II: Challenges and opportunities	10:20am - 10:40am	Literature review on prevalence and regulation of aflatoxin in East and West Africa	Renata Serra, Ph.D.

Section III: Panel Discussion

10:40am - 11:10am	Innovative research and extension in agriculture through transdisciplinary approaches	Zack Brym, Ph.D.
11:10am - 12:00pm	Discussion regarding challenges and opportunities given the current epidemiological, political, and economic scenario in Ethiopia and Rwanda	Adegbola Adesogan, Ph.D. Renata Serra, Ph.D. Ann Christiano, MS. Ricky Telg, Ph.D. Moderators: Ilaria Capua, Ph.D. Zack Brym, Ph.D.
12:00pm - 12:10pm	Summary	Ilaria Capua, Ph.D. Saskia Hendrickx, MS. Renata Serra, Ph.D.
Lunch	12:10pm - 1:10pm	Provided by the Department of Animal Sciences
Section IV: Communication Workshop	1:10pm - 2:40pm	The Back of the Envelope Guide to Developing Your Communication Strategy Ann Christiano, MS.
Section V: Brainstorming over coffee	2:50pm - 4:00pm	Next steps, possible collaborations, and funding By invitation group moving to a smaller room

About the speakers

Ilaria Capua, Ph.D., is the Director of the One Health Center of Excellence. She is a veterinary virologist and a former member of the Italian Parliament committed to push One Health beyond the human-animal-environment triangle and to engage with other disciplines including economics, law, sustainability, politics, arts, and others.

Saskia Hendrickx, MS., is the Deputy Director of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems. A veterinary epidemiologist by training her research interests include animal disease surveillance, participatory epidemiology and using animal-sourced foods to improve human nutrition and health.

Brenda Chalfin, PhD., is the Director of the Center for African Studies and Professor of Anthropology at the Department of Anthropology. Her research interests include anthropology of the state, international commerce, commodities, globalization, bureaucracy, and borders.

Adegbola (“Gbola”) Adesogan, Ph.D., is the Director of the Feed the Future Livestock Systems Innovation Lab and a Professor of Animal Nutrition at the University of Florida. His research interests include sustainable

improvement of livestock production, using animal-sourced foods to improve human nutrition and health, improving forage and feed quality, preservation and safety and using feed additives to enhance rumen digestion and the performance, health and welfare of livestock.

Nicolás Hernández Gallo, Ph.D. (c), is a short-term scholar at the One Health Center of Excellence. He is a veterinarian fourth year Ph.D. candidate in Public Health at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

Zack Brym, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agronomy at the UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead. He specializes in agroecology with a focus on crop physiology, community ecology, and computational biology. His research and extension program explores the common goals of agriculture and natural resource management and the development of new cropping systems such as industrial hemp.

Renata Serra, Ph.D., is Senior Lecturer at the Center for African Studies, and Policy and Gender Expert for the USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab at UF. She is affiliated with the UF Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research and is graduate advisor for the UF Master in Sustainable Development Program. An economist by training, she has more than twenty experience of research and consultancy on issues of African development, particularly West Africa.

Ann Christiano, MS., is the Frank Karel Chair in Public Interest Communications and the Director of the newly established Center for Public Interest Communications. She holds a Master in Public Affairs and is interested in advancing Public Interest Communications, a newly emerging academic discipline that uses science-driven strategic communications and storytelling to advance positive social change.

Ricky Telg, Ph.D., is the Director of the Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (PIE Center). Before coming to the University of Florida in 1995, he worked as a television and newspaper reporter. Telg is a professor in UF's Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, where he teaches courses in video production, journalistic writing, and educational technology within the context of agriculture and natural resources.

Co-organizers

- Center for African Studies
- Center for Stress Resilient Agriculture
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems
- University of Florida International Center