

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

Symposium: Ensuring children's cognitive and physical development through animal-source foods

June 5, 2019

Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St SE, Washington, DC 20003

Background

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded the University of Florida (UF) Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) funds to establish the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems. This five-year initiative that will conclude in September 2020 supports USAID's agricultural research and capacity building work under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative, which has food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture-led economic growth, and strengthened resilience as key cornerstones.

The Livestock Systems Innovation Lab at UF/IFAS together with its main implementing partner, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and 63 subaward partners in the US, Africa and Asia conduct research to sustainably intensify animal-source food production and consumption to improve the nutrition, health, incomes and livelihoods of the poor. Target countries are Burkina Faso, Niger, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda in Africa, and Nepal and Cambodia in Asia.

Rationale

Well-nourished populations, especially women and children, are the central focus of efforts to nurture development and increase resilience of vulnerable households and communities. With more than one in four of its 856 million people undernourished, Sub-Saharan Africa remains the world's most food-insecure region. In the six African countries where the Innovation Lab works, societies are mostly rural and up to 80% of the population depends on livestock for their livelihoods. The Innovation Lab uses an inter-disciplinary and applied research approach that sustainably increases animal-source food production and consumption to improve the nutrition and resilience of the poor, and ultimately contributes to strengthening the social and institutional capacities in these countries.

Focus

The symposium will explore the realities, implications, and impacts of chronic malnutrition, which leads to stunting or reduced height for age. It will emphasize that increased attention should be given to understanding and exploiting the benefits and minimizing risks associated with consumption of animal-source foods (ASF), i.e. meat, cheese, milk and eggs, by the vulnerable, especially children and women. It will also discuss the importance of addressing complementary factors that influence stunting, such as Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH), gut health, and animal-source food contaminants like aflatoxin and food borne-pathogens.

Objectives:

1. Explore the realities, implications, and impacts of chronic malnutrition, which leads to stunting and may reduce cognitive and physical development leading to lifelong economic impacts.
2. Examine the evidence that consumption of animal-source foods reduces chronic malnutrition.
3. Identify critical factors that must be addressed to ensure the success of animal source-food interventions to reduce chronic malnutrition.
4. Review the availability, access and affordability of animal-source foods as well as strategic messaging to increase their consumption.
5. Discuss how the US Government and other donors can support integration of animal-source food consumption into national policy implementation.
6. Discuss how private sector partnerships and platforms can impact the availability, affordability, and safety of animal-source foods.

Event details:

Date: June 5, 2019; 8:00am - 5:00pm, followed by reception until 6:30pm

Location: Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St SE, Washington, DC

Organizer: Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).

Featured Speakers (order of appearance):

- Congressman Ted Yoho, US Representative for Florida's 3rd congressional district
- Dr. Montague Demment, Vice President International Programs, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
- Dr. Laurie C. Miller, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Adjunct Professor of Nutrition and of Child Development, Tufts University
- Dr. Lora Iannotti, Associate Dean for Public Health and Associate Professor Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis
- Dr. Sarah McKune, Associate Professor, Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida (UF)
- Dr. John McPeak, Professor, Department of Public Administration and International Affairs, Syracuse University
- Dr. Arie Havelaar, Professor, Emerging Pathogens Institute, and Animal Sciences, UF
- Dr. Derek Headey, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute
- Dr. Felicia Wu, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University
- Dr. Geoffrey Dahl, Harriet B. Weeks Professor of Animal Sciences, UF
- Dr. Sara Place, Senior Director of Sustainable Beef Production Research, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA)

Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
Eisenhower Room, Capitol Hill Club 300 First St SE, Washington, DC		
8:00am-8:30am	Breakfast reception	
8:30am-9:15am	Welcome and objectives	Dr. Adebola Adesogan, Director, Livestock Systems Innovation Lab, UF Dr. William (Bill) Weldon, Chair, External Advisory Board of LSIL Dr. Beth Dunford, Assistant to the Administrator, USAID/Bureau for Resilience and Food Security Congressman Ted Yoho, United States Representative for Florida's 3rd congressional district
Session I: The evidence base <i>Chair: Saskia Hendrickx, Deputy Director, Livestock Systems Innovation Lab, UF</i>		
9:15am-9:40am	Keynote address: History and impacts of US government investments in using animal-source foods to reduce malnutrition	Dr. Montague Demment, Vice President International Programs, APLU
9:40am-10:00am	Cognitive development of children and the role of animal-source foods	Dr. Laurie C. Miller, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Adjunct Professor of Nutrition and of Child Development, Tufts University
10:00am-10:10am	Questions and answer session	Speakers and Saskia Hendrickx
10:10am-10:40am	Coffee/Tea break	
10:40am-11:10am	Effective pathways towards reducing chronic malnutrition	Dr. Lora Iannotti, Associate Dean for Public Health and Associate Professor Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis
11:10am-11:40am	Behavior change communication to increase animal-source foods consumption reduced Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) but not stunting	Dr. Sarah McKune, Associate Professor, Public Health and Health Professions, UF
11:40pm-12:00pm	Questions and answer session	Speakers and Saskia Hendrickx
12pm-1:00pm	Lunch <i>Chair: Tyrell Kahan, USAID/Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, Activity Manager</i>	
	The fundamental role of livestock and livestock products in increasing the resilience of the vulnerable	Dr. John McPeak, Professor, Department of Public Administration and International Affairs, Syracuse University

Time	Topic	Speaker
Session II: Challenges of ASF consumption <i>Chair: Dr. Joyce Turk, Vice Chair, External Advisory Board of LSIL</i>		
1:00pm-1:20pm	Ensuring the safety of animal-source foods	Dr. Arie Havelaar, Professor, Emerging Pathogens Institute, and Animal Sciences, UF
1:20pm-1:40pm	Potential benefits and challenges to using animal source foods to reduce infant malnutrition	Dr. Derek Headey, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute
1:40pm-2:00pm	Risks and myths about animal-source food contamination with chemicals	Dr. Felicia Wu, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University
2:00pm-2:20 pm	Myths and facts about animal-source food production and the environment	Dr. Geoffrey Dahl, Harriet B. Weeks Professor of Animal Sciences, UF
2:20pm-2:30pm	Panel discussion with questions and answer session	Speakers and Dr. Joyce Turk
2:30pm-3:00pm	Coffee/Tea break	
Session III: Funding and policy constraints to increasing ASF research, production, consumption <i>Chair: Dr. William (Bill) Weldon, Chair, External Advisory Board of LSIL</i>		
3:00pm-3:40pm	Challenges with funding of animal-source food production and consumption research	Dr. Sara Place, Senior Director of Sustainable Beef Production Research, NCBA
3:40pm-4:00pm	Panel discussion: How US Government and other donors can support integration of animal-source food consumption into national policies	Moderator: Dr. Montague Demment, APLU Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Scott Angle, Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA • Dr. Robert Bertram, Chief Scientist, Bureau for Food Security, USAID
4:00pm-4:30pm	Panel discussion: Private sector partnerships and platforms and their impact on the availability, affordability, and safety of animal-source foods	Moderator: Dr. William (Bill) Weldon Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie Kneedler, Senior Director, Strategy and Social Enterprise, Corporate Responsibility & Sustainable Development, Cargill • Mark Mitchell, Director of Livestock Practice, Land O'Lakes • Dr. Sara Place, NCBA
4:30pm-4:45pm	Concluding remarks	Dr. Jack Payne, Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, UF
5:00pm-6:30pm	Reception, third floor of the Capitol Hill Club	