

2019-2020 Carter Conference on  
**Shifting Momentum in African Agriculture through Research and Technologies:**  
SMART Agriculture | SMART Growth | SMART Kids  
**Improving resiliency, livelihoods, and nutrition**

Hosted by the  
**Center for African Studies &  
Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems**  
at the University of Florida, to be held virtually  
on December 10 and 11, 2020

The Center for African Studies at the University of Florida (UF) is pleased to announce a collaborative conference with the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock System.

This year's Carter Conference will explore how momentum is shifting in African agriculture through research and technologies to improve resilience, livelihoods, and nutrition. The keynote presentation on Thursday will be given by Ayo Oduntan, CEO and Group Managing Director, natnudO Group, Nigeria. The story of his company's strategic path to success has been studied by the Harvard Business School. Isaac Sesi, Co-founder and Team Lead of [Sesi Technologies](#), who has been named one of MIT's Technology Review's "[35 Innovators under 35](#)", will be the keynote speaker on Friday.

Well-nourished populations, especially women and children, are the central focus of efforts to nurture development and increase resilience of 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. The Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems is focused on rural smallholder farmers in the six African countries where it works. In these countries, 80% of people rely on livestock for their livelihood, which presents important challenges as well as opportunities. The Lab adopts an inter-disciplinary and applied research approach aiming to develop livestock production to improve human nutrition and resilience and ultimately contribute to strengthening the social and institutional capacities in these countries.

This virtual conference will focus on the role that nutrition, livelihoods and resilience play in societal development. It does so by acknowledging the close relationship between good nutrition, inclusive and sustainable agricultural-led economic growth and strengthened resilience among people and natural systems. We will explore this further through the following conference subthemes:

- Integrated agricultural systems;
- Markets and policies;
- Innovations, behavioral change, and communication across animal source food value chains;
- Education and youth involvement.

The conference will approach the above mentioned themes from multiple angles to generate ideas that lead to well-nourished populations. We invite students, academics, thought leaders, development professionals, and policy makers to explore how innovative changes today can make a difference for tomorrow.

Register at

[https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwofuGqqigtG9Q3pzJiRr\\_yWwN9rusR8wd5](https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwofuGqqigtG9Q3pzJiRr_yWwN9rusR8wd5)

Once registered, you will obtain a zoom link that you can use to join selected sessions or the entire event.

## Agenda

Thursday, December 10, 2020		
8:00 AM	15	Tech check-in and ice-breaker
8:15 AM	10	<b>Welcome remarks</b> <b>Brenda Chalfin</b>   Director, Center for African Studies, University of Florida (UF) <b>Introducing the keynote speaker</b> <b>Adebola Adesogan</b>   Director, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems, UF
8:25 AM	20	<b>Keynote 1</b> <b>Ayo Oduntan</b>   CEO and Group Managing Director, <b>natnudO</b> Group, Nigeria. <b>“Noiler: Research and innovation improve nutrition, profit and social impact in West African backyards”</b>
9:00 AM	90	<b>Theme 1</b> <b>Integrated agricultural systems</b> <i>MC: Andrea Bohn</i> <b>Chair: Karen Garrett</b> , Preeminent Professor, Plant Pathology Department, UF
10:30 AM	10	Break
10:40 AM	45	<b>Theme 2</b> <b>Markets and policies</b> <i>MC: Andrea Bohn</i> <b>Chair: Renata Serra</b>   Senior Lecturer, Center for African Studies, UF
12:10 – 12:15 PM	5	<b>Closing remarks</b> <b>Saskia Hendrickx</b>   Deputy Director, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems, UF

EST Timezone

Friday, December 11, 2020		
8:00 AM	15	Tech check-in and ice-breaker
8:15 AM	10	<b>Welcome remarks</b> <b>Leonardo A. Villalón</b>   Dean of the International Center and Professor of Political Science and African Studies, UF <b>Introducing the keynote speaker</b> <b>Renata Serra</b>   Senior Lecturer, Center for African Studies, UF
8:25 AM	20	<b>Keynote 2</b> <b>Isaac Sesi</b>   Co-founder and Team Lead of Sesi Technologies, Kumasi, Ghana. <b>“Creating Sustainable Food Systems: The Role of Agritech and the Youth”</b>
9:00 AM	90	<b>Theme 3</b> <b>Innovations, behavioral change, and communication across animal source food value chains</b> <i>MC: Jim Harper</i> <b>Chair: Sarah McKune</b>   Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Global Health and the Center for African Studies, UF
10:30 AM	10	Break
10:40 AM	45	<b>Theme 4</b> <b>Education and youth involvement</b> <i>MC: Jim Harper</i> <b>Chair: Chris DeCubellis</b>   Dairy/animal sciences 4-H state specialized agent, Statewide 4-H Youth Development Program, UF/IFAS Extension
12:10 – 12:15 PM	5	<b>Closing remarks</b> <b>Adebola Adesogan</b>   Director, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems, UF

## Keynote I

8:00 am to 9:00 am on Thursday, December 10, 2020



**Ayo Oduntan | CEO and Group Managing Director, natnudO Group, Nigeria**

“Noiler; Research and innovation improve nutrition, profit and social impact in West African backyards”

## Session I: Integrated Agricultural Systems

9:00 am to 10:30 pm on Thursday, December 10, 2020

Resilience of communities and households, in particular farming households, relates to their ability to bounce back after a stress event, whether the stress is related to weather, civil unrest, political change etc. Given the complexity of the problem, there is a need for an integrated systems approach that explores aspects at the farm level but also at meso (market/ community) level, reinforcing the capacities of different parts of the agricultural (livestock) system and value chains to allow for sustainable agricultural-led economic growth and improved nutrition.

**Chair: Karen Garrett** | Preeminent Professor, Plant Pathology Department, UF

- **Polly Ericksen** | Program Leader, Sustainable Livestock Systems Program, ILRI Nairobi. “The critical importance of livestock in integrated crop livestock systems”
- **Trinity Sandra Ndlovu** | Doctoral candidate, University of Nairobi, Kenya and Zimbabwe. “Modeling the effects of tenure reform induced grazing access alterations on rangeland productivity and household wellbeing in pastoral communities of Dirre grazing unit of the Borana in Ethiopia”
- **Kwame Ogero** | Doctoral candidate, International Potato Center, Tanzania. “Developing sustainable seed systems for delivery of orange-fleshed sweet potato in Africa”
- **Beatrice Ekese** | Research Scientist, Bioversity International, Uganda. “Banana-based systems: potential to support resilient farms and enhance access to healthier diverse diets”

## Session II: Markets and Policies

10:40 am to 12:15 pm on Thursday, December 10, 2020

Improving access to agricultural (livestock) markets particularly for women can significantly increase household resilience and improve household nutritional status as income earned by women is used primarily for family needs such as food, health services and education. In relation to this, national and regional policies supportive of the livestock sector including commercialization of livestock and ASF are critical for resilient systems. Economic analysis of various initiatives targeting improving resilience will allow for the development of various scenarios of how livestock systems may perform under different parameters. Scenarios from the Sahel region and some Eastern African countries are being elaborated and will be able to inform decisions in these as well as other countries.

**Chair: Renata Serra** | Senior Lecturer, Center for African Studies, UF

- **Saweda Onipede Liverpool-Tasie** | Associate Professor, Dept. of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA. “Towards relevance in scholarship for food security and poverty reduction within Africa’s food systems transformation”
- **James Rao** | Senior Scientist, Agricultural Economist, ILRI Kenya. “Extending the frontier of dairy production in Kenya: Technology transfer and institutional strengthening”
- **Samantha Padilla** | Research Agricultural Economist, USDA Economic Research Service. “Cold storage investment decisions under energy uncertainty: The case of commercial poultry farming in Nigeria”
- **Emerta Aragie** | Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C., USA. “Alternative national development scenarios and their implications for the livestock system in Ethiopia”

## Keynote II

8:00 am to 9:00 am on Friday, December 11, 2020



**Isaac Sesi** | Co-founder and Team Lead of Sesi Technologies, Kumasi, Ghana

“Creating sustainable food systems: The role of agritech and youth”

## Session III: Innovations, Behavioral Change, and Communication across Animal Source Food Value Chains

9:00 am to 10:30 pm on Friday, December 11, 2020

Adoption of new practices and technologies developed by researchers often remains low due to a variety of reasons including lack of awareness and understanding of underlying social and cultural factors. There is need for sharing approaches that have worked and asking the questions of what additional research is needed to improve adoption.

**Chair: Sarah McKune** | Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Global Health and the Center for African Studies, UF

- **Carmen Jaquez** | Senior Advisor, Livestock and Agriculture, Mercy Corps, Portland, Oregon, USA. “Designing applied research to understand drivers and barriers to sustained adoption of milk production enhancing technologies and techniques in dryland Kenya”
- **Valerie Flax** | RTI, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA. “Girinka livestock asset transfer program and child nutrition in Rwanda”
- **Romain Kenfack** | Country Director Burkina Faso, SELEVER/Tanager. “Women’s poultry, income, and nutrition project – SELEVER”
- **Yewande Addie** | PhD student in College of Journalism, UF. “Prioritizing theory and health communication for nutrition related behavior change: A post-hoc assessment of the success of the Un Oeuf project in Burkina Faso”

## Session IV: Education and Youth Involvement

10:40 am to 12:15 pm on Friday, December 11, 2020

More than half of global population growth between now and 2050 is expected to occur in Africa. Youth education and their involvement in all parts of agricultural (and livestock) systems will be key to sustainable agricultural-led economic growth that will be able to withstand shocks. This means more development of specialists on agriculture and or livestock related fields but also areas such as entrepreneurship to allow scaling of technologies and approaches.

**Chair: Chris DeCubellis** | Dairy/animal sciences 4-H state specialized agent, Statewide 4-H Youth Development Program, UF/IFAS Extension

- **Evelyn Ohanwusi** | Training and Partnership Coordinator, Young Africa Works-IITA Project., International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Abuja, Nigeria. “Youth Involvement in Agricultural Transformation: The IITA Youth Agripreneurs”
- **Sarah Sahlaney** | Gender director. Tanager, Washington D.C., USA. “Considerations in Engaging Youth in Agriculture”
- **Bagnan Salifou** | Senior Research Manager, Mercy Corps, Zinder, Niger. “About the Zinder Matassa Youth Innovation Organization”
- **Hunter Williams** | Agripreneur and UF 4H participant, Florida, USA. “Florida 4-H Sowing Seeds for a Career in Agriculture”

**More details, speaker bios and photos are available online:**

Conference page of Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems:

<https://livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu/events/carter>

Conference page of Center for African Studies:

<https://africa.ufl.edu/newsandevents/carter-conference>

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 (October 2015 to September 2020) supports USAID's agricultural research and capacity building work under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is the UF/IFAS partner in implementation of the program.

The vision of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems is to sustainably intensify smallholder livestock systems in order to improve human nutrition, health, and incomes. Initiated in October 2015, the program is now well established in its core target countries, Burkina Faso, Cambodia Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda. Competitively selected projects based on priorities developed in a participatory manner are operational in the six core countries.