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FOOD SECURITY IN A WORLD OF NATURAL RESOURCE SCARCITY: THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES

WEBINAR CHAT TRANSCRIPT

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PRESENTERS

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WEBINAR CHAT TRANSCRIPT

USAID Agrilinks: good morning everyone! It's 8:46 here in DC and we're still getting the room set up. We will be doing some sound tests.

Marietta Gelfort: I can hear you

Oscar Cordon: voice has been heard nicely

Solomon Folle: Solomon: I can hear

Cristiano Rossignoli: ok I can hear

Marietta Gelfort: I'm only a short distance away at the George Washington University

Oscar Cordon: I am Oscar Cordon Director of Health Practice joining from Chemonics International in Washington, DC

Solomon Folle: I am working at university of Minnesota as a research scientist

Solomon Folle: I would say both

Emily Hillenbrand: I am a gender advisor at CARE, working in food and nutrition security

USAID Agrilinks: Great, welcome Emily!

Cristiano Rossignoli: Hello to everybody, I'm Cristiano Rossignoli, PhD Student from Dept of Veterinary Sciences at Pisa University

Cristiano Rossignoli: Italy

USAID Agrilinks: Wow, thanks for joining us! How is it in Italy right now?

Cristiano Rossignoli: We are doing well here in Italy, thanks

Cristiano Rossignoli: how's there?

USAID Agrilinks: It's a little chilly, but a beautiful morning!

Trinidad Ariztia: Hi all, Trini Ariztia, from LWR's Latin America Team

Steev Lynn: Independent ag/business consultant. Good morning

Steev Lynn: Sorry - Brattleboro VT

Steev Lynn: Better yet, IN Brattleboro

Claire Pelley: Claire Pelley, Program Coordinator at One Mobile Projector per Trainer

Haben Berhe: Greetings from warm Washington DC (not!) - Haben Berhe, Feed the Future Partnering for Innovation at Fintrac.

Kevin Fath: Good morning, all! Kevin Fath, Volunteer, Peace Corps Jamaica

Kevin Fath: Logging in from my cabin in rural Jamaica

Joe Culin: Good morning. Clear and chilly here in Clemson, SC

George Kegode: Faculty member at Northwest Missouri State University

Danielle Stoermer: Hi all. I'm a Peace Corps Food Security Program Assistant based in Dakar, Senegal

Melanie Chen: Melanie Chen joining from northern California (with coffee in hand!) representing Freedom from Hunger. Good morning!

Themis Ntasis: Good morning, with IRD in Kenya

Doudou NDIAYE: Regional Agriculture Specialist, Sahel Regional Office/USAID - Senegal,

Sandrine Chetail: Sandrine Chetail from Mercy Corps - joining from France

Julia Nemon Montijo: Julia Nemon Montijo here from PCI

Claire Pelley: Finally raining here in Northern California!

Anteneh Girma Haile: Greetings from Giessen, Germany. I am a PhD student at Justus Liebig University of Giessen Germany, dealing with the livelihood impact of integrated rainwater harvesting practices in Ethiopia

Oscar Cordon: I heard about this seminar through the USAID weblink

Oscar Cordon: I am working in different projects that are trying to integrate food security with health

Samuel Ledermann: Good morning everyone. I am working on dissemination of agricultural innovations for Biovision Foundation based in Zurich, Switzerland.

Solomon Folle: Hi Anteneh, I am from Ethiopia too

Anteneh Girma Haile: Hi Solomon. Great to get country men here.

Moffatt Ngugi: Moffatt Ngugi, USAID bureau for food security in DC

Kelly Juarez: Kelly Juarez, State Department Ag & Biotech Office

USAID Agrilinks: Alright everyone we're getting started now!

Mica Jenkins: Glad to see so many Peace Corps volunteers! I'm an MS candidate in Sustainable Food Systems at Montana State University (returned Peace Corps Volunteer)

Ando Mariot Radanielson: Hi I am Ando from IRRI Philippines

Mica Jenkins: Also, hi Themis! Good to see you here! :)

Claire Pelley: I agree, Mica! RPCV here too.

Brad Ward: Hello from ECHO in Fort Myers, FL

USAID Agrilinks: for those of you online, you can register for this event on microlinks.org

USAID Agrilinks: (The MPEP seminar)

Becky Manning: Becky Manning, USAID BFS in DC

USAID Agrilinks: if you're having any problems hearing, please let us know in the chatbox and we'll try to diagnose your problem

Christen Malaidza: hi am Christen Malaidza, graduate student at University of Tsukuba, my research topic is on policy and institutional assessment of agricultural innovation systems in malawi

Moffatt Ngugi: much better audio Mache

USAID Agrilinks: That was actually Adam! But thanks for the feedback Moffat

Feed the Future KDAD Project: Here is the link to tomorrow's MPEP seminar that Julie M. mentioned: <http://www.microlinks.org/events/mpep-seminars/smallholders-value-chains-evidence-scale-productivity-and-benefits>

Jim Tarrant: Jim Tarrant, Engility IRG now here

USAID Agrilinks: welcome, Jim! Nice to see you here again

Jean-Claude Bizimana: Hello from Texas A&M University

USAID Agrilinks: Welcome Jean-Claude!

Jean-Claude Bizimana: Thanks

Kevin Fath: Gig 'Em, Jean-Claude!

Jean-Claude Bizimana: Gig 'Em Kevin

USAID Agrilinks: Is this a basketball reference? What does gig 'em mean? :)

Feed the Future KDAD Project: Aggies! (Texas A&M)

Jim Tarrant: I think the host's microphone is fading in and out. Is it a handheld mike?

USAID Agrilinks: Yes, it's a handheld. Mark's is a tabletop, should be more consistent

USAID Agrilinks: We're going to have a significant amount of time for Q&A, if you've got questions during the presentation type them into the chatbox and we'll ask them at the end

Ronald Savage: Checking in from Haiti, dry and pleasant...

USAID Agrilinks: welcome Ronald!

Mike McGahuey: Mike McGahuey, USAID retired, glad to be joining

Biniam Iyob: Biniam Iyob from USAID/Washington here

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Biniam and Mike, welcome!

Olusola Adeoye: Hello everyone, this is Sola, Doctoral Student on Environmental Conflicts from Nigeria.

USAID Agrilinks: Welcome, Olusa!

Michelle Jennings: Michelle Jennings from AFR Bureau USAID joining...hello!

KDAD AV Tech: Thanks for joining Michelle!

Aly Dagang: Greetings from Panama!

Harley Stokes: Good evening from Cambodia!

KDAD AV Tech: Quite a global group! Hello all!

Jami Montgomery: seems like the slides on the webinar are a bit behind based on what the speaker is saying?

Robert Navin: Woody Navin, USAID Afr Bur says Hi

Doudou NDIAYE: In dry land, are cover crop really adapted due to the risk of competition between the commodity and the cover crop

Olusola Adeoye: Indeed a global audience

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for your ? Doudou, are you asking if there are specific cover crops for dry land areas?

Katrin Glatzel: Hello from London - joining on behalf of Agriculture for Impact and Gordon Conway

Doudou NDIAYE: Yes or another available technics like mulch

USAID Agrilinks: ok thanks for the clarification! I'll try to ask at the end

USAID Agrilinks: that was a question from Mark McMurdy, USAID, in the audience

USAID Agrilinks: Sorry, John McMurdy

Jami Montgomery: can someone advance the slides please?

Solomon Folle: is the effect of no-till farming practice through storing carbon in fields?

Haben Berhe: has the presenter moved on to the next slide?

KDAD AV Tech: We are on the correct slide. Thanks!

Haben Berhe: audio cutting off

Donald Swartley: Thought they were referring to maps, didn't see any?

Kevin Fath: Solomon, no-till may also increase yields by increasing soil organic matter, increasing water holding capacity, reducing evaporation, and also reducing erosion.

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Donald, he is spending a lot of time on each slide, so far no maps though

Solomon Folle: Thanks Kevin

Jim Tarrant: Question: is the BFS Team aware of the "Climate Field Schools" experiments in Indonesia, mainly in irrigated and rainfed rice areas, based on the farmer field schools model that was used for IPM? The aim is to address increasing uncertainty in rainfall and address alternatives to the rice crop. The idea is more empowerment and better adaptation knowledge by farmers.

Robert Navin: Increasing yields are necessary but not sufficient. Have studies conducted financial analyses such as CBA to see what is profitable for different sizes of farms?

Steev Lynn: Is the suggestion that drip irrigation is appropriate to cereals? I've only seen that used with high-value horticultural crops

Mica Jenkins: Good list Kevin; I would add increased biodiversity of soil microbiota

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Jim, Julie Howard had to step out for another meeting - can I rephrase this question for Mark, or would you like me to pose it to BFS staffers in the room?

Kevin Fath: Steev, drip irrigation is now being used in a sub-surface application for cereals

Jim Tarrant: Fine to rephrase for Mark.

USAID Agrilinks: Jim: Or maybe that was a Q for the online audience? Lots of BFS folks are joining online!

Agathe Sector: Were estimated adoption rates used in the model? No till technology has been around but not easily adopted for a variety of reasons (labor costs, lack of understanding etc)

Emily Kunen: Hi all - there's an interesting online discussion forum through the Food Security and Nutrition Network on tools & techniques that food assistance projects have used to improve environmental safeguards, what has worked and what hasn't, etc. This is the link:

<http://www.fsnnetwork.org/discussion-forum/natural-resource-management/technologies-and-approaches-developing-environmental-sa>

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for the Q Agathe, would you remind me again what org you're with and where you're joining from?

Agathe Sector: I'm a natural resources officer at USAID/Senegal

USAID Agrilinks: thanks!

Charles Kome: Charles Kome, World Soil Resources, Interesting simulations.

Danielle Stoermer: Agathe, I'm in Senegal too. Peace Corps Food Security Program Assistant

Samuel Ledermann: Beyond the negative or zero impact on yield outlined earlier by Mark with organic agriculture, it seems to be missing as a technology in further slides of analyses and also the online model. Since organic agriculture tends to be a 'hot' or heated topic, I would be interested in asking Mark whether or not this decision was any easy one to make since the data is quite contested, or generally lacking? (please feel free to reword...)

Agathe Sector: Hi Danielle

Danielle Stoermer: Hi Agathe

Solomon Folle: Nitrogen is the focus of the fertility management in the presentation. Why phosphorus is not included?

Jami Montgomery: How did the model take into account the appropriateness of different technologies in different regional contexts? For example the irrigation technologies discussed may not be as effective in some regions due to the level of O&M required.

Steev Lynn: Can't hear the question

Philippe Chabot: HI Philippe Chabot from Fintrac, I second Agathe's question. Can the presenter talk a bit about the transferability of no till? This is a system usually used with large machinery. How easily is this transferred to small holder systems?

Joe Culin: We can't hear the speaker

Jim Tarrant: Cannot hear the question

Mike McGahuey: I appreciate that Mark deals with a number factors and shows how their integration have synergistic effects. For example, while breeding can increase fertilizer-use efficiency, data show that integrated soil fertilizer management can increase nitrogen use efficiency by 50% or more--the difference between making N profitable or not.

Melanie Chen: Did the study look at impact on crops other than rice, maize, and wheat?

Steev Lynn: If you bring up no-till, can you also address its use of herbicides in lieu of plowing?

Steev Lynn: Maybe this is in the study: A cost-benefit of drip irrigation in cereal crops

Aly Dagang: The potential technological gains presented in the study are very exciting. We know that often times the bottleneck occurs during adoption. Will an equally profound study be conducted on these technologies particularly considering there is strong interest in scaling up these technologies?

Kevin Fath: Peace Corps Volunteer, Jamaica- Q for Panel: Which of these adaptive technologies are most easily adopted by smallholder farmers? Of those that have or likely will have a slow rate of adoption, what approach or which actors do you feel will diffuse the innovations best?

Danielle Stoermer: I second Kevin's question.

Danielle Stoermer: I'm a Peace Corps Food Security Program Assistant in Senegal

Jami Montgomery: I forgot to give my affiliation: USAID Climate change advisor for DCHA Bureau

Ando Mariot Radanielson: I think it is the model limitation they may not be able to simulate DSR where the no till could be significant for Rice

Robert Navin: Millet and sorghum are very important in dry land Africa. Any plans to look at these using your methodology?

Ronald Savage: Given the concerns that some countries have regarding GMO "contamination" of the three focus crops, is there any hope for significantly increasing drought and heat tolerance on a large scale using traditional plant breeding programs to turn things around by 2050?. Any suggestions on how to accelerate this?

Solomon Folle: How did you manage to generate 2050 daily climate data at a small field scale for the DSSAT model?

USAID Agrilinks: thanks for your Qs everyone! Don't forget to state your org and location!

Ronald Savage: I'm with USAID Haiti, Office of Food for Peace

USAID Agrilinks: thanks Ron!

USAID Agrilinks: Ronald

George Kegode: I am a weed scientist at Northwest Missouri State University and my question is was the crop protection scenario based upon use of pesticides and if so, what are the challenges for small scale farmers in Africa, for example?

Mike McGahuey: Increasing fertilizer-use efficiency through cultural practices like ISFM and varietal improvement has been shown to increase fertilizer's profitability for smallholders. As this would expand

the potential market for fertilizer companies, do we know if these companies are investing in the development and extension of fertilizer-use efficiency practices and varieties?

Kevin Fath: Please thank Dr. Rosegrant for his thorough response to my question if you get the chance!

Michael McGirr: Agree with the point about including NGOs and private sector in extending research results, but where public extension is broken, efforts should be made to fix them, not completely abandon (just a comment, not a question).

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Michael, are you referring to Mike McGahuey's question?

Michael McGirr: No, just a comment the speaker made about broken public extension systems.

USAID Agrilinks: ah ok! thanks

Charles Kome 2: Mike McGahuey, could you please email me your address if you need update on the Haiti-NRCS project? charles.kome@wdc.usda.gov

USAID Agrilinks: Link is to the left in the links box!

Steev Lynn: Great point about farm size - Investment in these tech packages implies larger farm sizes, which aligns with the need for greater ag productivity to feed future populations. It's good to see this acknowledged.

USAID Agrilinks: Still some time for Q& A, but before you go, we want your feedback! In lieu of a formal survey, please take one to two minutes to respond to our poll questions. This information will help us to better plan and implement these events going forward and will not be live broadcasted to other webinar participants (though Agrilinks will be able to see your responses). Please note that you will not be contacted by Agrilinks unless you give us permission in the polls. Thank you!

Samuel Ledermann: Thanks a lot for filling in there the missing link in my question! And of course really appreciate the answer, which made perfect sense.

Haben Berhe: Does anyone know the countries Mark is referring to as far as scaling these techs?

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Haben, I'll ask him to specify

Haben Berhe: Thanks! If there are programs or partnerships, that would be great.

Cristiano Rossignoli: Thank you very much, it has been very informative. Also very nice to join all of you. bye bye from Italy, Pisa University. crossignoli@vet.unipi.it

Robert Navin: Post harvest losses are generally said to be about 30%. Have you looked at this, given that eliminating/reducing this would exceed the yield increases described in many of the technologies researched?

USAID Agrilinks: For those of you whose questions didn't get answers, I will attempt to follow-up with the presenter to get answers post-seminar

Danielle Stoermer: I'd love to hear their answers to Robert Navin's question. Thanks!

USAID Agrilinks: ok! Will try to sneak in another Q or 2 before we sign off

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for joining us everyone!

Moffatt Ngugi: thanks, great event

Laura Bonzanigo: Thank you!

Samuel Ledermann: Thanks a lot!

Katelyn Miller: Thank you!

Cristiano Rossignoli: Thanks :-)

Danielle Stoermer: Thanks!!

Mica Jenkins: Thank you!

Pietro Chiappini Carpena: thank you. great discussion.

KDAD AV Tech: We'll leave the seminar open for about ten minutes so that you can access resources as previously noted. Thanks!

George Kegode: Thank you.

Kevin Fath: Thanks for another great Ag Sector Council!

USAID Agrilinks: We should have the webinar recording, transcript and other supporting materials up on the event page by the end of the week

USAID Agrilinks: in the meantime feel free to download the presentation slides in the download box to the left

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks Kevin!

Doudou NDIAYE: Thanks for this relevant presentation and discussion

Kevin Fath: I may not have running water, but these events make me even more thankful for internet!

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks Doudou, I hope I said your name right when I answered your question

USAID Agrilinks: *asked your question

Doudou NDIAYE: No you can read my name Dudu

USAID Agrilinks: oh! Ok, thanks

Doudou NDIAYE: bye