



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USDA-USAID 2016 INTERNATIONAL

**FOOD ASSISTANCE**

& **FOOD SECURITY**

CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 10-11, 2016  
DES MOINES, IOWA



Kenyan sweet potato farmers. Credit: FINTRAC

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE ON THE PROGRAM AGENDA)

## OCTOBER 10, 2016

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FY 2017 FOOD ASSISTANCE

An introduction of the USDA Food Assistance Division (FAD) and its role in the administration and management of three U.S. Government Food Assistance programs: Food for Progress, McGovern-Dole Food for Education, and Local and Regional Procurement Program. The session will include a summary of FAD structure, including program branches, transportation and logistics, and program administration and monitoring branch.

**Panelists:** Ben Muskovitz, Director of Food Assistance Division; Nicola Sakhleh, Branch Chief of Food for Development Branch; Ingrid Ardjosoediro, Branch Chief for School Feeding and Humanitarian Assistance Branch; and Angela Crooks, Branch Chief for Program Administration and Monitoring Branch

### RANDOMIZED EVALUATIONS: USE AND PRACTICE

Randomized evaluations, also called randomized controlled trials (RCTs), are a rigorous and sometimes controversial evaluation methodology that can generate strong evidence but that can also be challenging to implement, particularly in the context of international development. This session will discuss what makes randomized evaluations such a powerful methodology. How do they work? When are they most appropriate? What do we learn from them?

**Introduction:** Ellie Morefield, Evaluator, Monitoring and Evaluation Staff, USDA

**Speaker:** Kyle Murphy, Senior Policy Associate, J-PAL

### FOOD AID QUALITY REVIEW

The presentation will focus on USAID's Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR), research to make food aid more cost-effective and of longer-lasting positive impact. The session will include the outcomes of the recently concluded Phase II products and processes as well as an overview of the current FAQR phase. Further topics include updates on fortified rice research, work with ready-to-use foods, food safety concerns and auditing systems.

**Moderator:** Judy Canahuati, Nutrition Team Leader of Food for Peace, USAID

**Panelists:** Dr. Rufino Perez, Food Technologist, Food for Peace, USAID; and Dr. Patrick Webb, Tufts University, Food Aid Quality Review, Principal Investigator

### EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE IN AGRICULTURE: LESSONS FROM OVER 40 RANDOMIZED EVALUATIONS

The session will provide an overview of emerging insights from randomized evaluations of agricultural technology adoption in the developing world; it covers a portfolio of nearly 40 RCTs. The session will review results from evaluations of interventions which address smallholder farmers' credit and savings access, risk mitigation and reduction, information and extension services, and value chains.

**Introduction:** Ellie Morefield, Evaluator, Monitoring & Evaluation Staff, USDA

**Speaker:** Craig McIntosh, Professor of Economics, UC-San Diego & Board Officer of Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative

## **HOW ETHIOPIA AVERTED WIDESPREAD FAMINE: RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF EL NIÑO AND A HISTORIC DROUGHT**

Ethiopia is dealing with the worst drought in decades, leaving approximately 10 million people in need of relief food assistance. However, despite this enormous need, the nation has averted widespread famine. In this session, panelists will discuss how science and the efficiency of early warning systems led to quick response by USAID decision makers, NGOs and the Ethiopia government in order to provide relief; addressing immediate needs, longer-term recovery and resilience to similar shocks in the future.

**Moderator:** Dina Esposito, Director of the Office of Food for Peace, USAID

**Panelists:** Jim Verdin, USGS, Chris Hillbruner of FEWS NET/Chemonics, David Alt of Catholic Relief Services, and Clifford Davison, Food for Peace Officer for Ethiopia, Food for Peace

## **INCREASING THE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF IN-KIND FOOD ASSISTANCE**

A roundtable discussion on enhancing and increasing the procurement of commodities as well as finding more efficient ways in transportation. This session will be an open dialogue that features sharing of ideas that could set in motion long-term efficiency gains for our FAS food assistance programs.

**Moderator:** Shane Danielson, Branch Chief of Transportation and Logistics, Food Assistance Division, USDA

**Panelists:** Greg Olson, Program Operations Division Director, Food For Peace, USAID; Dan Webber, Branch Chief, International Procurement Branch, Kansas City Commodity Office, USDA; and Paul Vicinanza, Division Chief, Transportation, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, USAID

## **EVIDENCE FROM RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS ON SCHOOL FEEDING AND EDUCATION**

An overview of research from school feeding and lessons from randomized evaluations in primary education. It summarizes evidence on programs to increase student participation, including reducing distance and student costs, providing incentives and information, and improving student health. It also summarizes evidence on what aspects of school quality matter for student learning, including adding school inputs, improving curriculum and pedagogy and strengthening school governance.

**Introduction:** Christie Vilsack, Senior Advisor for International Education, USAID

**Speaker:** John Floretta, Associate Director of Policy, J-PAL

## **RESILIENCE: WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE TELL US?**

Building resilience to recurrent crises emerged as a priority following the 2011-12 droughts in the Horn of Africa and Sahel, driven by the extraordinary cost of lives and livelihoods lost as well as the economic impact on national economies and recurrent humanitarian spending. Resilience measurement has also grown, as has the body of evidence on what resources, strategies and assets enable vulnerable households and communities to

effectively mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses. This panel will explore the current evidence on resilience - what matters, where and why - and the ramifications for policy and programming.

**Moderator:** Greg Collins, Resilience Coordinator and Director, USAID's Center for Resilience

**Panelists:** Panelists: Tim Frankenberger, President, TANGO International; Todd Crosby, Advisor, NCBA CLUSA; Catherine McMahon, Director of Food Security and New Business Development, Mercy Corps; and Andrew Layton, Chief of Party, Somalia Resilience Program, World Vision

### **FOOD FOR PEACE TOOL BOX**

Modern food assistance is more than just food. While commodities from U.S. farmers remain the cornerstone of U.S. food assistance, this session focuses on how USAID uses other tools – including locally purchased commodities and cash-based programs - in concert with U.S. in-kind food to tackle chronic hunger, malnutrition and poverty throughout the world.

**Speaker:** Matt Nims, Deputy Director of Food for Peace, USAID

### **REFLECTING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD ON U.S. FOOD ASSISTANCE**

Ms. Esposito will reflect on her six years serving as the Food for Peace director including how Food for Peace and its partners are adapting to the changing contexts in which they work; how they are tackling some of the biggest hunger challenges of the day; and lessons learned and challenges as we look to the future.

**Speaker:** Dina Esposito, Director of Food for Peace, USAID

### **LEARNING AGENDAS**

A learning agenda is a broad set of questions directly related to the work that an agency conducts that, when answered, enables the agency to work more effectively and efficiently, particularly pertaining to evaluation, evidence and decision-making. Once the questions are identified, a learning agenda also prioritizes and establishes a plan to answer short- and long-term questions of the highest value across relevant program and policy areas. This session will introduce OMB's efforts to encourage use learning agendas as well as presentations of learning agendas for USDA's McGovern-Dole and Food for Progress programs and the Feed the Future's learning agenda.

**Moderator:** Jason Compy, Evaluator and Acting Branch Chief, Monitoring & Evaluation Staff, USDA

**Panelists:** Diana Epstein, OMB Evidence Team; Eric Benschoter, Deputy Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, The QED Group, LLC; Geetha Nagaragan, Lead Researcher, Social Impact; and Omar Dary, Bureau for Global Health, USAID/ Feed the Future

### **FOOD FOR PEACE 10-YEAR STRATEGY**

USAID's Food for Peace (FFP) will launch its 2016-2025 Food Assistance and Food Security Strategy. Developed in close partnership with a broad range of stakeholders, FFP's strategy reaffirms its vision of a world free of hunger and poverty, where all people live in dignity, peace and security. This session provides an opportunity to learn more about FFP's new strategic thinking, and the improved focus and capacities that will be required to

meet ambitious goals set out for the next decade.

**Moderator:** Dina Esposito, Director of the Office of Food for Peace, USAID

**Speaker:** Joan Whelan, Strategy and Learning Advisor for Food for Peace, USAID

### **FROM EVIDENCE TO IMPACT: SCALING WHAT WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT**

This panel discusses different models for scaling evidence-based programs. Panelists will talk about experiences from conducting evaluations and working with implementing organizations to fund effective programs and integrate research insights into plans for scale. Themes covered will include: identifying programs that work and then providing funding to scale them; working closely with a partner organization to evaluate then scale a program; and generalizing insights from evaluations across contexts.

**Moderator:** John Floretta, Associate Director of Policy, J-PAL

**Panelists:** Craig McIntosh, Professor of Economics, UC-San Diego & Board Officer of Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative; Katrin Verclas, Director, Global Communications and Advocacy, Evidence Action; and Mary Hennigan, Senior Technical Advisor in Nutrition, CRS

## OCTOBER 11, 2016

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY

Climate change undermines food security by exacerbating the risks of hunger and undernutrition directly through changes in agro-ecological conditions and indirectly by affecting growth and distribution of incomes, and thus demand for agricultural produce. Climate Smart Agriculture is an approach for developing agricultural strategies to secure sustainable food security under climate change. However, policies and practices are not implemented in a vacuum so climate change and agricultural development must be addressed simultaneously and in a holistic manner that also supports natural resources and people.

**Moderator:** Dr. Rob Bertram, Chief Scientist in USAID's Bureau for Food Security

**Panelists:** Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Director General of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center; Dr. Andy Jarvis, Director of the Decision and Policy Analysis Area in the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture; Elizabeth Basauri Bryan, Senior Research Analyst Food Policy Research Institute; Dr. Walter E. Baethgen, Head of Regional and Sectoral Research, Latin America and the Caribbean program, Earth Institute, Columbia University

### DOES FOOD SECURITY CONTRIBUTE TO POLITICAL STABILITY?

As global food demand increases and competition for land resources intensifies, food security is increasingly linked to political stability. The global food price crises of 2008 and 2011 revealed how food insecurity can contribute to political unrest and exacerbate underlying sociopolitical tensions in low- and middle-income countries through specific pathways. Panelists will discuss how policies that promote food security can also mitigate causes of instability and address how food assistance programs can evolve to meet this challenge – or at the very least – do no harm?

**Moderator:** Kimberly Flowers, Direct of the Global Food Security Project, CSIS

**Panelists:** Joanna Upton, Cornell; Marc Bellemare, University of Minnesota; and Robert Paarlberg, Harvard

### NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE AND THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH

Achieving food security, so that all people at all times have availability and access to sufficient food to meet caloric and nutritional needs for an active and healthy life, requires a diverse and high quality diet. Nutrition requires proper utilization of food as well as availability, access, and stability. This session introduces the audience to the key pathways from agriculture to nutrition and summarizes the current evidence base for effective nutrition-sensitive agriculture programs. It also introduces the audience to the use of local food systems to improve food and nutrition security.

**Panelists:** Heather Danton, SPRING; and Stella Nash, USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Nutrition and Technical Services Director of the Mountain Plains Regional Office

## **INTERNATIONALLY COMMENCED, DOMESTICALLY COMPLETED**

Designing food assistance projects that are sustainable and can be transitioned to local management is a persistent challenge for practitioners and policymakers. There is evidence that resources, capacity and motivation are three critical factors to ensuring that the benefits of interventions endure after a project ends. However, there is a lack of rigorous assessment and measurement of the sustainability of change. This session will identify project design elements that encourage sustainability of project outcomes and discuss strategies for improving the measurement of, and ultimately the evidence base on, sustainability in food assistance programs.

**Moderator:** Jason Compy, Evaluator and Acting Branch Chief, Monitoring & Evaluation Staff, USDA

**Panelists:** Beatrice Rodgers, Tufts University; Andrew Epstein, Social Impact; and Janine Schooley, Project Concern International

## **BIG DATA FOR BIG PROBLEMS**

Data has become a valuable global commodity, but in expert hands, it transforms from information to intelligence. It helps to respond to climate change/variability, food insecurity and malnutrition, and environmental degradation by revolutionizing genomics and crop breeding and revolutionizing disciplines from climate modelling to agronomy. Today's data revolution represents an unprecedented opportunity to find new and better ways to reduce hunger and poverty, by encompassing data-driven solutions to ongoing research-for-development efforts and in so doing, bringing transformational changes by introducing positive disruptive technologies that radically change impact pathways.

**Moderator:** Dr. Andy Jarvis, Director of the Decision and Policy Analysis Area in the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture

**Panelists:** Christian Merz, Senior Program Officer Digital Solutions, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Jim Verdin, FEWS NET/Chemonics ; Christopher Burns, U.S. Global Development Lab at USAID; and Dr. Daniel Jimenez, Agronomist and Data Scientist in the Decision and Policy Analysis (DAPA) Research Area of the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

## **EMERGING AGRICULTURE INNOVATIONS FOR IMPROVED DIETS**

A healthy and balanced quality diet requires good sources of micro and macronutrients, including key vitamins and minerals, and high quality protein. Availability of and access to a sufficiently diverse and safe diet, especially in low and middle income countries, are a challenge for the most economically vulnerable. Agriculture innovations play a critical role in improving dietary quality by making safe and nutritious foods more widely available and affordable. This session focuses on important examples of successful work in this field: biofortification, biocontrol and integrated pest management in cowpea value chains, dairy value chain improvements and Aflasafe.

**Moderator:** Dr. Rob Bertram, Chief Scientist in USAID's Bureau for Food Security

**Panelists:** Dr. Howarth Bouis, Program Director, HarvestPlus; Dr. Barry Pittendrigh, University of Illinois;

Jennie Lane, Land O'Lakes; and Paul Kachapulula, Borlaug LEAP Fellow

### **DOUBLE BURDEN OF MALNUTRITION**

The double burden of malnutrition refers to populations that have a heavy burden of both under- and over-nutrition. Nearly every low and middle income country in the world is now facing this looming crisis, which has now become the “new normal” in global nutrition and food security. The session will describe and propose solutions to address the double burden of malnutrition and the tremendous public health and economic risks it poses for a rapidly growing number of low and middle income countries.

**Speaker:** Professor Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, PhD, Yale School of Public Health

### **MOVING WOMEN UP THE VALUE CHAIN IN AGRICULTURAL MARKET SYSTEMS**

Women play a significant role in agriculture, yet lack equal access to resources and legal rights in the developing world. While many organizations and regional bodies, such as the African Union and U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization have highlighted the need for action to address women's empowerment, cultural and behavioral change is still needed at the local level. The session will focus on how to strengthen enabling environments for women to access the agricultural value chain at higher levels.

**Moderator:** Alexis Taylor, Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA

**Panelists:** Niklas Buehren, World Bank Economist; Dr. Jolyne Sanjak, Chief Program Officer, Landesa; Hazel Malapit, Research Coordinator at the Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute; and Soukeyna Cisse Diop, Proprietor, Poultry Supply Company and current Mandela Washington Young African Leaders Fellow

### **SCHOOL FEEDING: A CRITICAL SOCIAL SAFETY NET**

In July 2016, the Partnership for Child Development, World Bank and World Food Programme launched the publication of the School Feeding Sourcebook, a comprehensive set of best practices and lessons learned from 14 countries with successful school feeding programs. This publication builds on the analyses of the State of School Feeding Worldwide 2013 and Rethinking School Feeding. This session will explore the growing importance of school feeding as a critical safety net and a tool for social inclusion.

**Moderator:** Arlene Mitchell, Executive Director of the Global Child Nutrition Foundation

**Panelists:** Dr. Donald Bundy, Senior Advisor and Deputy Director, Global Health, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Dr. Lesley Drake, Executive Director, Partnership for Child Development; and Mr. David Ryckembusch, Senior Programme Advisor, Safety Nets & Social Protection Unit, U.N. World Food Programme

### **SPS AND FOOD SAFETY: BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRADE**

Capacity-building programs can help other countries engage more fully in international trade and create a safer domestic food supply. As USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service and USAID invest in value chains, program developers need to be mindful of the role international standards and guidelines play in ensuring a safe food supply for both the domestic and global markets. While a challenge, if done correctly countries could

improve economic expansion and overall food security.

**Moderator:** Dr. Osei Yeboah, North Carolina Agriculture & Technical State University

**Panelists:** Sharon Bomer Lauritsen, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy; Dr. Washington Otieno, Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International; Jim Hershey, American Soybean Association; and Daniel Orellana, Regional Technical SPS Advisor for Central America at FAS/Trade and Scientific Capacity Building Division

### **FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY V. FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

As food prices rose and became more unpredictable as a result of the 2007-2008 food crisis, many low and middle income countries began to develop policies and agricultural plans that promote food self-sufficiency. These policies, however, raise concerns that food self-sufficiency could in fact lead to inefficiencies, disrupt trade and put national- and global-level food security at risk. This session will provide examples of countries with food self-sufficiency policies; the impact of such policies on their food and nutrition security and discuss how to strike a balance between policies that increase domestic food production without distorting global trade.

**Moderator:** Ambassador Darci Vetter, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of U.S. Trade

**Panelists:** Dr. Eugenio Diaz-Bonilla, International Food Policy Research Institute; Carolyn Hart, SPRING Project Director; William Warshauer, President and CEO, TechnoServe; and Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Director of National Institute of Food and Agriculture

### **LEVERAGING IN-KIND FOOD AID**

Effective monetization, sale of in-kind commodities to generate proceeds for use in development projects abroad, is always a topic of interest. Learn how USDA approaches monetization and the steps it has taken to demonstrate the positive outcomes of this unique sales mechanism. This session will also reveal the preferred sales mechanism for two countries in West Africa and one in the Caribbean.

**Moderator:** Daniel Whitley, Deputy Administrator of the Office of Global Analysis, USDA

**Panelists:** Michael Jung, President and CEO, Cantera Partners, Christopher Goldthwait, Cantera Partners; Dale Kabat, Cantera Partners, and Nicola Sakhleh, USDA

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY**

**Moderator:** Phil Karsting, Foreign Agricultural Service Administrator, USDA

**Panelists:** Dr. Beth Dunford, Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Food Security; Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Development and Alexis Taylor, Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA