

### Innovations for Addressing Food, Nutrition, Climate and Soil Security



Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University Diamond Jubilee Celebration (1964 – 2024): Lecture

> 21 December 2024 Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India



### **P.V.Vara Prasad**

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### Honoring and Thanking: Family, Advisors, Teachers, and Friends.



Amma, Nanna, Akka; Lakshmi (wife), Abhinav (son), Ananya (daughter); and Bava Garu and Tanvi.



Advisors: Drs. V. Satyanarayana, M.V. Potdar, and S. Muralidhar Teachers: Drs. P. C. Rao, V. Praveen Rao, and V. R.K. Murthy and many other teachers/mentors who influenced me directly or indirectly.



In-laws.





Lifelong Friends: Sudhakar, Rakesh, Ravi, Vijaya, Shanti, Yashoda, Somagani, Anil, Bhargava, Jaggu, Puru, Sharma, Harinath, Vijayender, Bharat, Uma Reddy, Umakanth, Suresh(s), Bade, Puri, and others (87 BS Batch; and 91 MS Batch).





### Outline

- Partnership of Kansas State University and PJTAU (APAU, ANGRAU and PJTSAU)
- Global Challenges and Need for Innovations
- Status of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Yield Gains, Hidden Costs of Agrifood Systems and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- o Systems Platform: Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (Goal and Components)
- Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab Overview and New Focus on Climate Resilience
- Selected 17 Innovations to Address Food, Nutrition and Climate
- Conclusions and Summary







### **Kansas State University (K-State)**



First Operational Land Grant University After the Morill Act was Signed Founded (1863)



**RA RA BA** 







### K-State Established APAU in 1964

International Agriculture Programs
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

#### Sixteen Years In India a terminal report



Campus Development Specialist, H. James Miller, reviews campus plans with Dr. Emil C. Fischer, Dean of Architecture and Design at KSU, and Chief of Party, Dr. A. D. Weber.

#### Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University

#### Changes in the Program

Clearly the change from assisting many institutions to concentrating on one called for a different approach. Two short-term consultants at Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University arrived in 1964. The first, H. James Miller, who reached Hyderabad August 15, was consultant in Campus Development and worked at Rajendranagar and other Indian locations for six months. The other, Gilbert R. Dodge, who had been administrative assistant with the KSU-AID Home Staff, was sent to Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University for two months as Consultant to the Comptroller.

Professor Miller found an immense task awaited him at APAU, since a whole new campus was to be built on a large tract of ground at Rajendranagar. He found the plans which had been rapidly prepared by the Public Works Department very inadequate. As a result of this evaluation, he found it necessary to convince university officials of the weaknesses in these plans by preparing a set of his own.

Mr. Dodge reviewed the budget and plans at Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University and assisted in preparing estimates of development needs of the University for the next seven years. Special effort was taken to determine the rupee needs to be supplied by AID during the period. Operations and business forms were reviewed and recommendations made before the Consultant to the Comptroller left Hyderabad.





Work Started in 1955 and continued to establish land grant system in Andhra Pradesh and India.





### **Global Challenges Needs Innovative Solutions**

Food Security: About 828 million people do not have access to food.

Nutrition Security: About 2 billion are malnourished (under and over).

Climate Security: Earth has warmed by 1.2°C and lost biodiversity.

Water Security: Prolonged droughts, limited water, and rapid flooding.

Soil Security: Soils are rapidly degrading and soil health is being lost.

Energy Security: High demand and need for renewable sources.

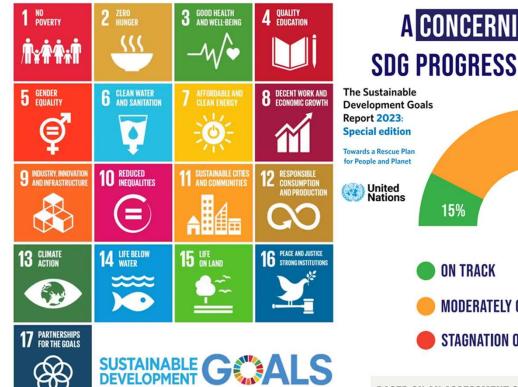
Equity and Equality: Access to food, resources & knowledge is not equal.



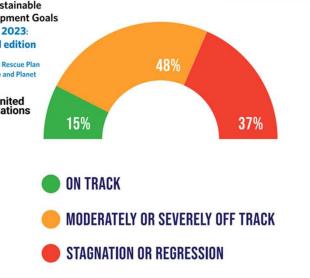




### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



# A CONCERNING PICTURE OF SDG PROGRESS AT THE MIDPOINT:



BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF SDG TARGETS WITH TREND DATA.

SDGs (2015 to 2030): Midway (2023)

Limited Progress: Only 15% of them on track

To address many of SDGs will require significant change in our approach; with focus on transdisciplinary innovations (**both** biophysical and social) and their largescale adoption.

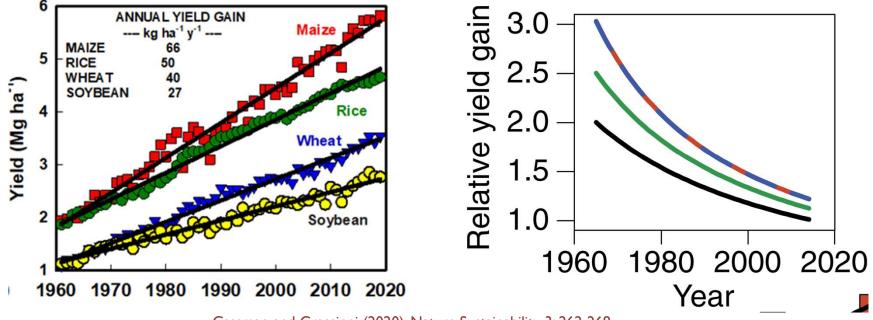


#### New investments are urgently needed.





### **Relative Yield Gains: Continually Decreased over Decades**



Cassman and Grassinni (2020). Nature Sustainability 3: 262-268

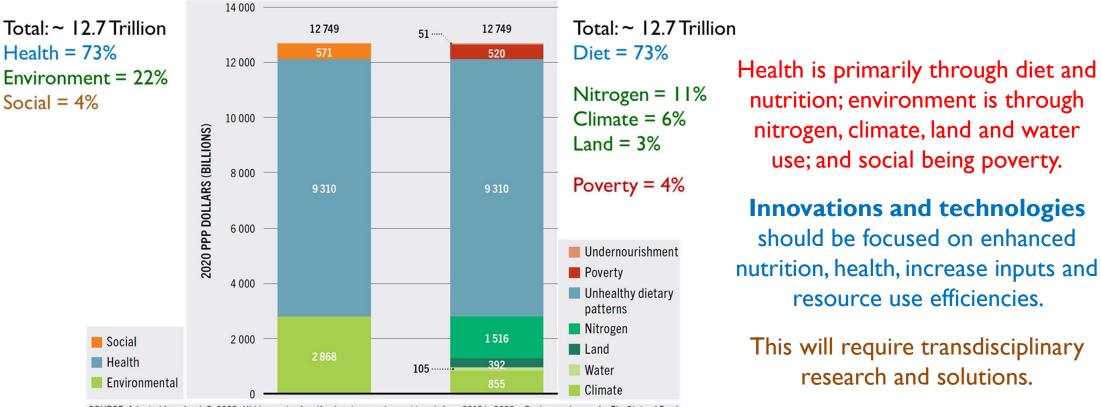
New innovations such as novel and rapid breeding, genomics, phenomics, modeling, and artificial intelligence tools provides opportunities to reverse this trend.







### **Global Agrifood Systems: Hidden Costs**



SOURCE: Adapted from Lord, S. 2023. Hidden costs of agrifood systems and recent trends from 2016 to 2023 – Background paper for The State of Food and Agriculture 2023. FAO Agricultural Development Economics Technical Study, No. 31. Rome, FAO.

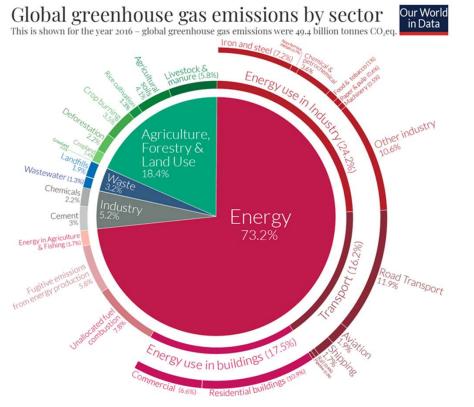


Indirect cost is large (\$12.7 Trillion) mostly on health.





### **Global Agrifood Systems: Greenhouse Gas Emissions**



Although in its current form global agrifood systems are contributor to greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs: 18.4%), but using principles of:

Climate Adaptation, Mitigation and Resilience

and

Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI);

combined with use of novel technologies agrifood systems can be "**Net Negative in GHGs**" i.e., sequestering (terrestrial and soil) more than it produces.

OurWorldinData.org – Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems. Source: Climate Watch, the World Resources Institute (2020). Licensed under CC-BY by the author Hannah Ritchie (2020)



Agriculture can become net negative in GHGs.





### Systems Approach: Sustainable Intensification

Socio-Economic Intensification Developing markets Building social capital Creating sustainable livelihood Understanding barriers Enabling environment Institutional Building	Agro-Ecological Intensification - Farming systems (crops, livestock) - Improved soil & water management - Integrated nutrient management - Diversified systems - Efficient ag. practices & input use - Integrated pest management	<u>Genetic</u> <u>Intensification</u> - Higher yield - Resistance to pest and diseases - Tolerance to climate change - Improving nutrition - Medicinal value - Precision breeding - Genomics/molecular methods	Goal: provide access to safe, nutritious, and healthy food at all times to all people from existing farmland and without damaging natural resources and ecosystem health.
<ul> <li>Income generation</li> <li>Private sector engagement</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	- Mechanization - Precision agriculture - Microbiome	- Geospatial Tools - Artificial Intelligence - Nanotechnology	These components help us address the global challenges of
Genotype x Environment x Management x Social Interactions Education; Youth; Gender; Scaling; Data Science; and Communication			food, nutrition, climate, soil security, inequalities and access to resources.



Systems approach and framework to address many global challenges.





### **Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab: Overview**



https://www.ksu.edu/siil/



**AID** Global Multi-Country & Regional Partnerships







**Multi-Disciplinary and Global Partnerships** 

IVERSITY



### **<u>Climate Resilient</u>** Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab

 New Feed the Future Climate Resilient Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab (CRSIIL) Funded by USAID (United States Agency for International Development).

✓\$ 50 Million over 5 years (2024 to 2029) and has broad portfolio with emphasis on farming systems.

✓ Focused in Eight Countries: Cambodia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Senegal, Ghana, Guatemala and Honduras.

✓ The <u>Goal</u> of CRSIIL is to empower people and institutions with knowledge and innovations that positively impact agricultural productivity, environment, and natural resources.

#### ✓ Five Key Areas:

- I. Climate Adaptation, Mitigation and Resilience;
- 3. Soil Fertility Management and Soil Health; 4. Eco
  - 4. Ecological Intensification and Nature-Positive Solutions;

2. Improved Use of Resources and Input Use Efficiency;

- 5. Circular Bio-economy and Use of Renewables 6. Dig
  - 6. Digital Agriculture and Decision Tools

https://www.ksu.edu/crsiil/

**Multi-Disciplinary and Global Partnerships** 





### Selected Innovations to Address Food, Nutrition, Climate and Soil Security

## Seventeen Diverse Examples Around the World [Highlighting Importance and Future Need]

Disclaimer: Some examples are from literature (sources identified and acknowledged)







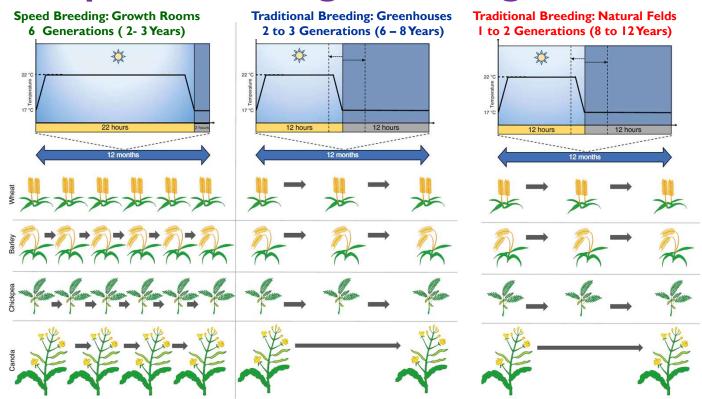
### **Innovation: I. Speed Breeding Technologies**

#### <u>Global</u>

Traditional plant breeding is limited by long time to grow each generation of crop.

Shuttle breeding or use of greenhouses can help shorten some time.

Speed breeding significantly shortens this time by manipulating photoperiod and temperatures.



Watson et al. (2018). Nature Plants 4: 23-29 (Figure Modified to add Natural Fields)



Other Innovations: Double Haploids, Tissue Culture Techniques and Transformation Tools.





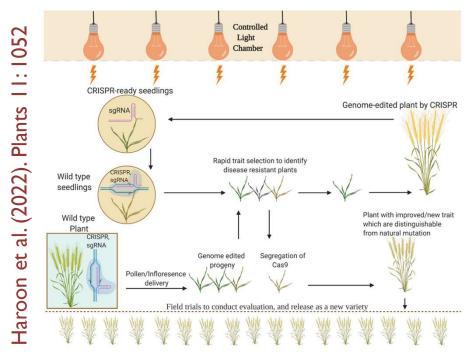
### **Innovation: 2. Express Edit Technology**

**Global** Combining genome editing tools (e.g. CRISPR-Cas9, CRISPR-Cpf1 and others) with speed breeding can further make the process efficient and fast by rapid selection and isolation.

Speed breeding coupled with genome editing tools (GETs), which is called the ExpressEdit approach, can further shorten the generation time and make it faster.

To save time, Cas9 gene and sgRNA sequences can be applied directly to plants without regenerating the plants in labs. During the rapid trait selection (screening), segregated progenies are screened and isolated for the new trait and identify the plants that do not contain Cas9 but have new traits.

Alternatively, CRISPR-ready plants may contain Cas9 and can be subjected for the further cycles of gene editing.





These innovations can be combined with rapid phenotyping and predictive modeling gene stacking for multiple traits.



#### FEEDIFUTURE The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

### **Innovation: 3. Crops for Targeted Farming Systems**

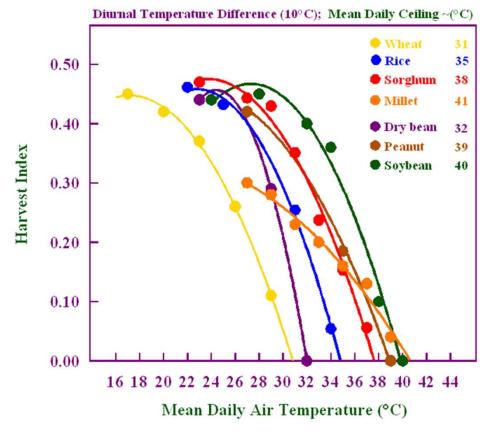
#### <u>Global</u>

Different crop species have different cardinal temperatures (minimum, optimum and ceiling temperatures) for growth, development and yield.

Crops should be matched with the environment (based on temperature, photoperiod, rainfall and water resources) and targeted for farming systems (there are over 72 farming around the world).

#### Prasad et al. (2017). Field Crops Research 200: 114-121

Bean: Prasad et al., 2002. Global Change Biol. 8: 710-721.
Rice: Snyder, 2000. M.Sc Thesis, University of Florida.
Peanut: Prasad et al., 2003. Global Change Biol. 9: 1775-1787.
Soybean: Pan, 1996; Thomas, 2001. PhD Thesis, Univ. Florida.
Sorghum: Prasad et al., 2006. Agric. For. Meterol. 139: 237-251.
Millet: Djanaguiraman et al., 2018. Plant Cell Environ. 41: 993-1007
Wheat: Prasad and Djanaguiraman 2014. Fun. Plant Biol. 41: 1261-1269.





We must grow suitable crops, grasses, livestock and other species based on the identified farming systems.





### **Innovation: 4. Climate Resilient and Nutritious Crops**

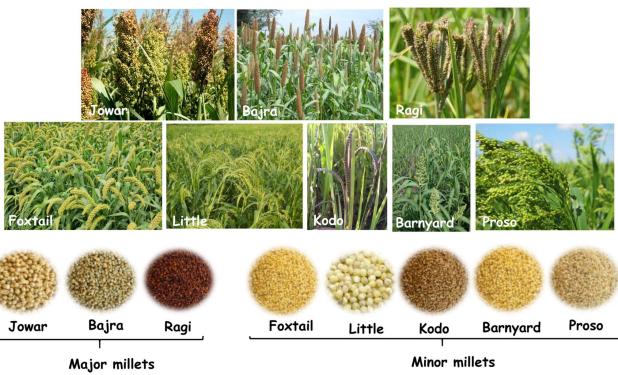
<u>Global</u>

#### **The World of Millets**

#### (over 17 crop species)

Large genetic diversity within each crop. Millets are key for food, nutrition, climate, water and soil security.

Yields are low and there is a need for improved technologies to increase yields, processing and value-added products.



Others: Browntop millet; Adlay millet; Guinea millet; Polish millet; Japanese millet; Taiwan oil millet; Fonio millet; Sonoram millet;



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF

There is a need for targeted focus on market opportunities (both domestic and international), policies and support price.





### **Innovation: 5. Biofortified Crops and Varieties**

#### <u>Global</u>

#### High Iron (Fe):

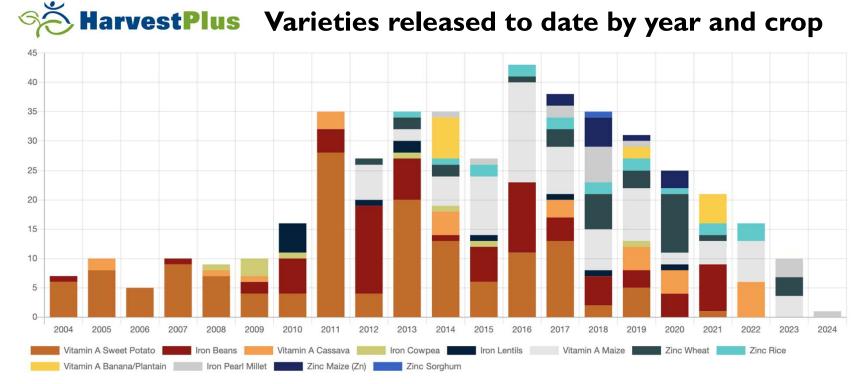
- Beans; Cowpea; Lentils; Pearl Millet

#### High Zinc (Zn):

- Wheat; Rice; Maize; Sorghum

#### High Vitamin A:

- Sweet Potato; Cassava; Maize; Banana/Plantain





Focus should be on quantifying bioavailability, health outcomes; and suitable agronomy and climates.





### **Innovation: 6. Stress Tolerant Varieties**

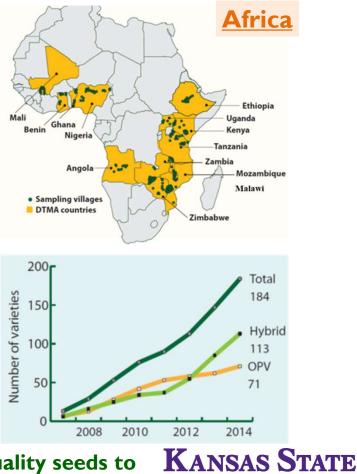
- DTMA (Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa until 2014) and later STMA (Stress Tolerant Maize for Africa until 2020) program implemented in 13 countries in Africa, which account for 72% of all maize grown.
- DTMA produced 184 distinct varieties (mostly hybrids).
- These produced ~ 50% more grain yield than open pollinated varieties (on-farm).
- $\,\circ\,$  Doubled yields under drought or stress conditions.
- No penalty under normal conditions.





Emphasis should be on timely availability of quality seeds to all farmers at appropriate pricing.

CIMMYT



UNIVERSITY



### **Innovation: 7. Doubled-Up Legume Systems** (Maize / Sorghum / Millet + Pigeonpea + Beans / Groundnut / Cowpea)

#### Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda and Global

- Increases efficiency of nutrient/fertilizer use
- Improves yield of protein-rich grains
- Decreases labor requirement
- Improves diet diversity and nutrition.

Cereals and legume combinations + Pigeonpea Maize and Common Bean (erect or climbing) Sorghum and Groundnut (erect or runners) Pearl Millet and Cowpea (erect or bushy)



**MICHIGAN STATE** UNIVERSITY

Sieg Snapp Jerry Glover





Genotypes suitable under these configurations must be evaluated and grown with appropriate agronomy.

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### **Innovation: 8. Dual Purpose Crops**





Senegal, Burkina Faso and Global

Dual Purpose (Grain for Humans and Biomass for Livestock) – Sorghum, Pearl Millet and Cowpea

ILRI

LIVESTOCK RESEARCH

Higher Yielding; and High Zn and Fe in Grain & Biomass



Higher Livestock Productivity (Meat and Milk Gains)

Augustine Ayantunde, ILRI; Aliou Faye, ISRA; and Doohong Min, KSU Augustine Obour, KSU



There is a need for improved agronomy, understanding bioavailability and nutritional and health outcomes.





### Innovation: 9. Agroforestry Systems (Annuals and Perennials)

#### Senegal and Sub-Saharan Africa

#### **Richard Dick**



Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems



West Africa: *Faidarbia albida* Trees (Reverse Phenology; Hydraulic Lift; Green Manure and Animal Manures)



Native Shrubs – Cropping Systems: Guiera senegalensis; Piliostigma reticulatum (Green Manures; Microbial Diversity and Hydraulic Lift)



Need to quantify carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions and resource use for carbon credits.





### Innovation: 10. Perennial Grain Crops – Rice, Wheatgrass (e.g., <u>China and Global</u> Kernza ®)and Sorghum



Perennial grains, legumes and oilseed varieties represent a paradigm shift in modern agriculture and hold great potential for truly sustainable production systems.

#### Perennial Wheat

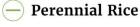


Perennial wheat work at The Land Institute focuses on hybrids made from crossing annual wheat species – especially durum wheat used for making pasta – with wheatgrass species including intermediate wheatgrass (the same species being domesticated as Kernza®).

#### – Perennial Sorghum



Sorghum is a tropical grass originally domesticated as a crop in sub-Saharan Africa. Like annual sorghum, the perennial hybrids maintain good seed yield, but seed size and flavor require further breeding attention. Land Institute perennial hybrids are being trialed in several sub-Saharan African countries to determine if they can persist through dry seasons.





Perennial rice is a grain developed in Yunnan, China, through a collaborative agreement with The Land Institute. Since 2008, the institute has provided funding and scientific support to scientist Fengyi Hu, dean of agriculture at Yunnan University in China. The perennial rice developed there was released to farmers for commercial production in 2018, with significant progress shown in the journal <u>Nature Sustainability</u> in 2022.

#### Perennial rice named by Science as one of the 2022 top 10 scientific breakthroughs (December 16, 2022)

The cultivation of perennial rice has been named by *Science* as one of the top 10 scientific developments of 2022, becoming the only Chinese project to be featured in the leading journal's annual listing.



Need to understanding farmers perceptions and provide necessary knowledge to overcome barriers.





### Innovation: II. Conservation Agricultural Practices with Solar Powered Drip or Micro-Irrigation Systems with Sensors







Feed the Future Small Scale Irrigation Innovation Lab



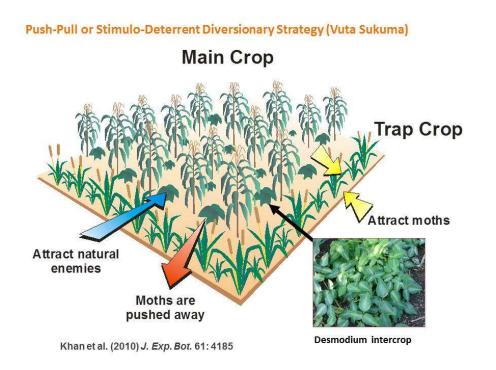
Carbon credits from conservation practices (no-tillage, continuous soil cover and rotations) must be incentivized.





### Innovation: I 2. Integrated Pest Management - Push/Pull

#### Africa and Global





Desmodium intercrop with maize [(legume – volatiles – repels (Push)]

Napier grass or Brachiaria sp. borders [volatiles attracts moths of stem borer (Pull)]



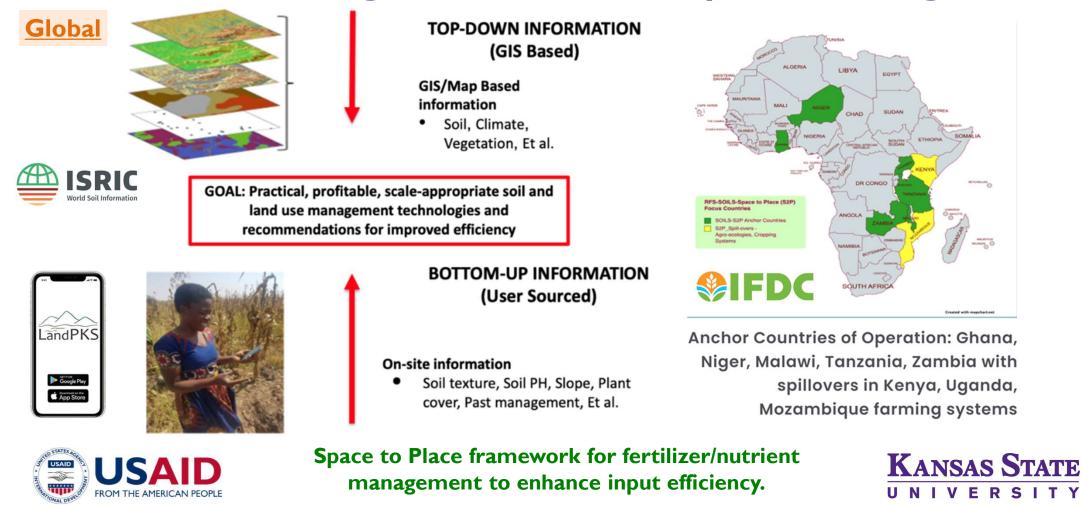
New such plant species should be identified and evaluated to be used as push-pull principles for pest management.



ICIPE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF INSECT PHYSIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY



### Innovation: 13. Digital Tools for Site Specific Management





### Innovation: 14. Digital Zone Maps & Variable Rate Applications

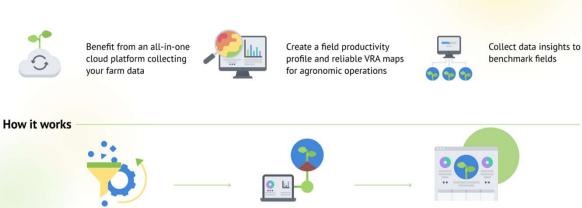


Keep all necessary data always in your pocket to access it online and offline in the fields immediately.



Implement a data-driven approach and save 80% of effort to build VRA maps

🧲 GeoPard Agriculture



GeoPard platform connects your primary data

GeoPard structures primary & geodata and creates a 360-degree field profile

Explore impactful data

results & dive into field performance



GeoPard Agriculture (German Based) is a cloud-based powerhouse for Precision Ag data analysis, creation of zonal maps and smart management of all inputs.





### Innovation: I5. Digital & AI for Pest/Disease Monitoring/Mgt.







Disease alerts and preventive measures



Your Crop Doctor (100 M images; 700 diseases; 60 crops, 30 M downloads; 10 M annual users in 20 languages)

Progressive Environmental & Agricultural Technologies (PEAT), a German start-up company has developed Plantix, a multi-lingual plant disease and pest diagnostic App.

As the most downloaded ag-tech app worldwide, Plantix answered more than 100 million crop-related questions from farmers.



1.7 sec

Get your crop diagnosed in 1.7 sec.

82

You'll be able to detect 82 F different kinds of crops!



Find the right treatment for more than 608 diseases.



90%

Farmers report an improvement in their farming of 90%.



Disease and pest diagnostic based on images and use of AI tools for monitoring, protecting and managing.





### Innovation: 16. Microbiome, Microbials and Biomolecules



Exploring Microbiome and Use of Microbes

- N
- Improved Plant Health (e.g., Biotic, Abiotic)
- Sensing & Signaling of Stresses (e.g., Drought, Heat, Salinity)
- Resource Use and Efficiency (e.g. Nutrient, Water)



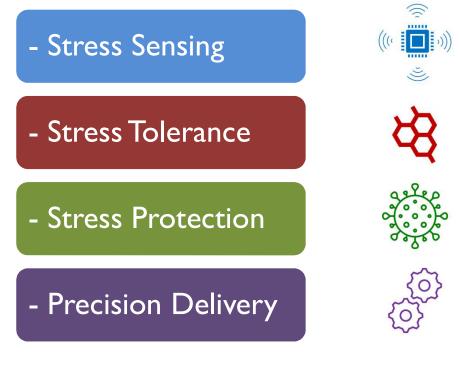
This will require transdisciplinary research and systems thinking among all partners.





### Innovation: 17. Nanotechnology – Stress and Precision Delivery

Stress Management and Precision Delivery (Nutrients, Pesticides and Biomolecules).



- Improved Plant Health and Stress Management (e.g., Biotic, Abiotic Stresses)
- Sensing and Signaling of Multiple Stresses (e.g., Drought, Heat, Salinity)
- Monitoring (e.g., Pests, Climate, Weather, Resources, Markets)
- Resource Use and Efficiency (e.g. Nutrient, Water)
- Precision Delivery and Targeting of Inputs



This will require transdisciplinary research and systems thinking among all partners.





### **Cross Cutting Social Innovations: Traditional to Novel**

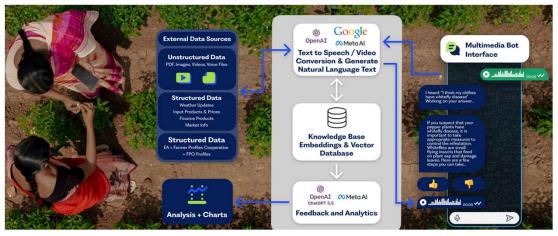
Public Private Partnerships; Entrepreneurship; and Policies



- Targeted Communications



Farmer.CHAT





This will require seamless dataflow and exchange of knowledge between multiple partners.





### **Conclusions / Summary**

- $\odot$  Agrifood systems are complex and have many challenges.
- $\odot$  Solutions requires systems approaches and out-of-the box thinking.
- Our innovations and technologies should be productive, profitable, resilient, resourcesmart, nutrition-smart and climate-smart.
- Focus should on producing more nutritious, safe and healthy food from existing farmland and with additional emphasis on rebuilding natural resources and climate resilience (Climate Resilient Sustainable Agricultural Intensification).
- There are many available innovations (as shown) focus should on scaling.
- Transdisciplinary and convergence of biophysical and social sciences and effective partnership between public and private sector is key to success for developing, adopting and scaling new technologies to improve food, nutrition, climate and soil security.







### Climate Resilient Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab Team and Key Contacts



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### Thank You: PJTAU and All Current and Future Students and All Alumni

### "Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavanthu" "May All Be Happy and Prosperous"

### "Anna Datta Sukhibhava" "Farmers who Provide us Food be Prosperous"





Jai Javaan and Jai Kisaan





# FEEDIFUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

www.feedthefuture.gov



