

Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab holds 2023 Annual Meeting in Senegal with Representation from Across the Globe

[The Feed the Future Lab on Collaborative Research for Sustainable Intensification \(SIIL\)](#) at Kansas State University held its 2023 Annual Meeting, August 1-3, in Somone, Senegal. There were roughly 80 participants in attendance including research partners and funding recipients of the SIIL, along with a representative from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) D.C.

In addition, there was leadership from Kansas State University, private sector entities, the Peace Corp, and other partners as well as the SIIL External Advisory Board (EAB). Participants included individuals from 11 countries across the globe.

Associate Provost for International Programs, Grant Chapman provided welcome remarks as he expressed gratitude to USAID and the lab for their commitment to making positive impacts on the environment and remaining a campus leader in pursuing, welcoming, and challenging our international scholars.



David Rosowsky, Vice President for Research praised SIIL for its dedication to providing to the K-State mission of remaining a global research leader and as a land grant university. "SIIL exemplifies our university's commitment to research, teaching, extension, and capacity building programs." Rosowsky stated. "Additionally, the SIIL supports our land grant mission to develop and deliver innovations that benefit the lives and livelihoods of people in our state, nation, and around the world."

Dean of the College of Agriculture, Ernie Minton shared the importance of the impacts of SIIL's tangible contributions and developments made globally. "As the SIIL shares your solutions and outcomes through the impact of your work, it is felt around the world. There has never been a greater need for the collaborative, innovative work you do through SIIL."

Promotional videos and presentations were provided for each of SIIL's current projects, consortiums, and initiatives highlighting their research on sustainable agricultural innovations followed by a question-and-answer session. This provided time for engagement and multidisciplinary collaboration between the various projects and consortia. After research updates were given, conference participants engaged in guided facilitation workshops based on topics that included digital and precision agriculture, the future of sustainable intensification, and much more. During these sessions, participants were divided into five groups which provided the opportunity for cross-cultural collaboration and interaction. This activity was led and facilitated by SIIL EAB Chair, Jules Pretty.

Additionally, the last day of the meeting included traveling to visit the Agricultural Technology Park (ATP) located in Thies, Senegal. The ATP showcased the current seed varieties and technology being used in that region of Africa to help combat food insecurity and climate change. After visiting the ATP, conference participants toured the Study Center for Improving Adaptation to Drought Centre d'Etude pour l'Amélioration de l'Adaptation à la Sécheresse (CERAAS) facility where the work from the ATP is analyzed. After the tour, SIIL-sponsored students who were in attendance at the meeting had the opportunity to present their research posters from their studies. The last event of the meeting included an interactive session involving the partners, scholars, and students of the SIIL where individuals were able to present the work and impact that is being done throughout our focus countries in the agricultural sector.

Vara Prasad, University Distinguished Professor and Director of the SIIL, highlighted the collaboration and commitment of SIIL's goals across the globe.

"Through our continued partnership with institutions and individuals around the world, the SIIL has been able to successfully maintain our lab's mission in identifying innovations and building upon technologies that benefit smallholder farmers," Prasad said. "The collaboration with these various organizations in many different countries has been SIIL's greatest strength which has led to an increased institutional and social capital, while focusing on the communities we are impacting."

Comments from USAID partners included appreciating the immensity of the SIIL portfolio, the positive engagement through the meeting, and the dedicated work to find innovative ways to combat global food and nutritional security.

All presentations, highlight videos, and photos from the Annual Meeting are found on this link: [MURAL](#). For SIIL news and updates you can sign up for the newsletter by emailing siil@ksu.edu.