

Public Conversation Submitted Comments

As of October 7, 2021

Kila Abiodun

Director, Continuum Multiservices Enterprises

I am encouraged by the level of research and work being commissioned by FFAR. However, I wish to suggest as a concerned stakeholder that the findings and results should be shared with people in Africa to help them farm sustainably and responsibly towards achieving net zero emission of greenhouse gases and also to increase their yields. Thank you.

Doug Britton

AgTech Research Program Manager, Georgia Tech Research Institute

It is great to see the continued work that FFAR is doing. Would love to see a portfolio of efforts around technology solutions that involve automation and robotics for food manufacturing. Labor and safety challenges in food manufacturing continue to be a key issue, further exasperated by the pandemic. As a result, we have seen shortages of supply as well as increase pricing. Automation and robotics technologies have transformed many other manufacturing sectors, however these do not directly translate to food, as food has many unique characteristics: non-uniform with natural variability, limited shelf life, food safety and sanitation considerations that dictate processing environments (cold and wet), etc. With all of the development in Industry 4.0 concepts that leverage cloud computing and Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, it is a shame that food manufacturing sector is still operating under an Industry 2.0 paradigm. Would be great to see more investment in this area.

Emmanuel Ngoy Bulaya

**Enseignement supérieur et universitaire (Higher education and university faculty),
University of Lubumbashi**

(TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH) This theme is important to develop because food and nutrition insecurity can promote the emergence of chronic non-communicable diseases, weaken the immune system and make it vulnerable to the pandemic. It is through a healthy diet and proper nutrition that COVID 19 is prevented or managed in a sustainable way.

Marie Connett

Senior Technical Advisor, World Vision

Particularly interested in rationales for agriculture/NRM that is climate-smart as well as supportive of productivity and market systems development, for presentation to climate-skeptical decisionmakers.

Peter Ferket

WNR Distinguished Professor of Nutrition and Biotechnology, NC State University

The FFAR has been supportive of assisting young scientist develop their careers in agriculture to meet the emerging challenges increasing the demand for protein, resistance to disease, environmental emissions, and climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the resilience of agriculture, but also the frailty of supply chains and ability to meet rapidly changing demand for food products. The Animal industry seemed to have suffered most to pandemic disruptions, and they seem to be further behind crop agriculture in terms of the use of smart technologies that help in optimizing productivity and responding to market decision-making. How will FFAR partner with other Animal sector research and education institutions to support the high demand for highly skilled employees and solutions to emerging problems of affordable protein supply, nutrient use efficiency, and health and welfare of animals, especially poultry which is globally the number one high quality protein source to feed the world.

Prakash Gangashetty

Scientist- Crop Improvement, ICRISAT

Interested to hear for opportunities for funding with FFAR

Kierra Goosby

SFLR Program Manager, American Forest Foundation

I'm curious to learn about present initiatives and funding goals for the upcoming fiscal year.

Victor Kommerell

CGIAR Research Programs Manager, CIMMYT

Future plans for ensuring spill-over benefits for the Global South

Barbara Leach

Ag Risk Consultant, Self-employed

Congrats to Sally. She leaves a legacy of accomplishments and I know everyone will miss her leadership. I would like to see FFAR invest in the development of new ag risk management practices. USDA seems to be missing the boat in terms of the leadership role that crop insurance could play in assisting farmers, their crops, and their lands adapt to the challenges of climate change. Should there be an opportunity, I would be interested in this particular project. I originally led the effort that resulted in insurance for organically grown crops (something that at the time was considered impossible and/or without a serious market) and now, climate change presents an even more challenging need to lead the way in making change .. just paying farmers in set-aside land in the CRP program won't do it. At current payment levels, farmers can't afford to do it. Trump reduced the payments \$8; Vilsack has only raised the payments \$2; and the original payments weren't enough pre-Trump in today's markets and farmers are doing the math as they decide not to sign up. But -- even if they did, setting aside land isn't enough. Changes in land classifications, growing practices, and in some cases, crops will be necessary.

Balakrishnan Nair

Professor Emeritus, Transdisciplinary University

The green revolution and white revolution had in many ways helped the people to have food security. However, it has also created certain major problems like antibiotic resistance, degradation and pollution of environment, quality of the produce and public health. There is an urgent need to look at these aspects and find alternative ways of agriculture including animal husbandry and other development activities. International funding can be used for solving such issues. Locally would be one of the best ways to reverse these problems. For example, reduce the dependence of antibiotics and other chemical drugs using alternative like natural products (Herbal products) for human and animal health.



Henry Nguyen

Professor, University of Missouri

This has been a very program promoting public and private partnerships. Hope you see more projects which will expand the collaborative research and development efforts towards society's grand challenges in food security, climate change and sustainability, crop nutritional quality and health, new technology and policy, etc

Derek Smith

Executive Director, Resource Innovation Institute

I am interested in your perspective on how controlled environment agriculture fits into your AgMission objective. Thank you.

Clarice Souza

Project Manager, University of California

Interested learning about new funding opportunities and what strategies will be focused on for adoption of new crop varieties/ farming practices.

Jong-Su Eun

Dear whom it may concern; I would like to know brief overview of FFAR's mid- or long-term strategic plans. I would also like to see the mid- and long-term strategic plans of FFAR and their anticipated impacts on agricultural industries and scientific communities. Sincerely, JSE

Daniel Thompson

Crop Consultant, Self-employed

Soil based carbon capture makes bold promises of global environmental and societal betterment. Carbon farming has been largely commercially and politically driven as of recent. The monumental challenges agriculture faces of peak phosphorus, irrigation, animal agriculture, plant-based agriculture, supply chain challenges, and farming energetically and materially post oil remain underfunded and outside a typical business venture funding cycle. With all the challenges and opportunities that agriculture has faced for decades long proceeding global warming, how can we ensure carbon farming supports these marginalized but very actionable constraints and opportunities with high ROI of generational benefit? In



other words, has agricultural community deeply considered how it can best move forward in an environmentally sensitive, resource constrained environment? It seems to me as if a carbon market opportunity is being exploited at the demise of real investment in agricultural research and technology adoption which would have led to an equally important reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, along with an increase in food supply. How can we ensure we have both?

Stacey Viera

Communications Advisor, Aleto, Inc.

I am especially interested in nutrition communication and education opportunities.

Hua Wang

Professor, Ohio State University

Food safety, antibiotic resistance, and microbiome (especially gut health) are of great importance to human and animal health. Cutting-edge research further offers tangible solutions to many lasting challenges in food, agriculture production and health. Would like to see more investment from FFAR in these areas.

Kay Worthington

Research Associate, CSIRO, LLC

Our office explores the opportunities for strategic partnerships in the US with our scientists & projects in Australia. I'd like to understand FFAR's position & views on international partnerships & collaboration.

Attendee Questions

Submitted during the event.

Lynda Arakelian

Is FFAR looking at any research on solar thermal steam technologies for food processing? These innovative technologies can significantly reduce natural gas consumption and associated emissions.



Kaycee Beardeaux

from Senator Brian Schatz's office here--would you be able to speak a bit more on FFAR's urban food system efforts, particularly anything FFAR has taken on in the realm of school nutrition programs and food security for children?

Larry Schaefer

Has there been any progress in deciding on the members of the private sector advisory group for the urban ag division?