

Africa2Ag Symposium

Friday 26 August

Theme: Building collaborative partnerships for African agriculture

The primary objective of this symposium is to identify means through which we can effectively leverage the expertise in US and African universities, research institutes, and the donor community to address the contemporary challenges facing African agriculture.

Location: Assembly Room, Nittany Lion Inn

8.45 Welcome & introduction of keynote speaker:

Rob Crane, Director of Africa Programs (AESEDA), Office of Global Programs, PSU

9.00 Keynote: Building collaborative partnerships for African agriculture

John Gathenya, Climate Change Research Fellow, Walker Institute, University of Reading, England

9:45 Panel I: Interdisciplinary engagement: the Children & Youth Empowerment Centre-PSU model (Moderator: Janelle Larson)

Ed Babcock, College of Business, PSU

Andrea Bressler, Extension Educator, Family and Consumer Sciences, PSU

Linda Caldwell, College of Health and Human Development, PSU

Tom Colledge, College of Engineering, PSU

Wanjiru Gichuhi, Population Studies and Research Institute, University of Nairobi

1. Please describe your role in the project.

2. What are the challenges of working in a university-NGO partnership?

3. How have you managed these challenges to foster collaborative efforts?

11:00 Coffee and networking break

11.15 Panel II: Engaging students for collaborative partnerships in African agriculture (Moderator: Mark Brennan)

Paige Cross, PSU undergraduate student, majors: Community, Environment and Development, and Nutrition

Melina Czymoniewicz-Klippel, Director of Global Health Minor, PSU

Kristal Jones, PSU PhD student in Rural Sociology; participatory plant breeding partnership with ICRISAT in West Africa

Brian Orland, Director of Tanzania Parks and People Program, PSU-Sokoine University partnership

1. How can students effectively be engaged in work in Africa? Describe your experiences.

2. What are the challenges?

3. How can we address these challenges through opportunities for collaborative engagement with African farmers?

12:30 Lunch

1:45 Panel III: Research & extension collaborations for African agriculture (Moderator: Tom Gill):

Rita Afiavi Agboh-Noameshie, Gender Specialist, African Rice Center, Benin

Alan Bair, PSU Extension, Director of Dairy Industry Relations

George Byarugaba-Bazirake, Senior Lecturer of Food Technology, Kyambogo University, Uganda

Maryann Frazier, Senior Extension Associate, PSU, partnership with icipe, Kenya

Johnson Onyibe, Head of National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services, Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria

1. *What are the barriers to engaging with end-users (communities/farmers/policy-makers) in African agricultural research and extension collaborations?*
2. *What are the opportunities for ways forward to facilitate building collaborative partnerships for African agricultural research and extension?*

3:00 Coffee and networking break

3:15 Panel IV: Perspectives from outside academia on fostering collaborative partnerships for African agriculture (Moderator: Sjoerd Duiker)

Andy Bryant, Executive Director, The Segal Family Foundation

Dave Hansen, Senior Fellow, APLU, US-Africa Higher Education Collaboration Initiative

Bharat Kulkarni, Manager, UN Development Programme, Ethiopia

1. *What role can/should universities/research institutes play in sub-Saharan Africa (specifically in food security/rural development)?*
2. *What has been your experience in sub-Saharan Africa regarding successful models of engagement/capacity building?*
3. *What suggestions/advice do you have for us?*

4:30 Lessons learned; symposium wrap-up (moderator: Leland Glenna)

4:45 Adjourn