

UC Davis to evaluate the dissemination of innovations produced by the Feed the Future Innovation Labs

Davis, California: Researchers from the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) have received funding to conduct a “Research Output Dissemination Study” (RODS) aimed at evaluating the path from development to end-user for innovations produced by the 24 Feed the Future Innovation Labs. The Innovation Labs, which draw on the expertise of top U.S. Universities in partnership with developing nations’ own educational and research institutions, focus on designing innovations that meet the challenges of food security and agricultural resiliency throughout the world.

This study is supported by the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification (SIIL), which is led by Kansas State University. The SIIL is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of Feed the Future, the U.S. government’s global hunger and food security initiative.

“It is important to understand the critical processes and pathways of innovation use and dissemination by practitioners with an ultimate goal of enhancing food and nutritional security of farming communities,” said Vara Prasad, Kansas State University Distinguished Professor and director of the SIIL. “The UC Davis team is well positioned to address this research gap through this RODS initiative.”

The researchers at UC Davis bring monitoring and evaluation expertise in the field of agricultural food security to answer some of the pressing questions of how new innovations are received and used by farmers, as well as by which means new innovations are effectively introduced. As one of the top ranking universities in the world in the fields of agriculture, environmental sciences, agricultural economics, food science and nutrition, water management, and plant, animal and veterinary sciences, UC Davis has tackled these issues on varying scales.

“It is very important that USAID funded research is adopted widely, for the future of a food secure and resilient world. At UC Davis, we house 5 Feed the Future Innovation Labs, which demonstrates our expertise and interest in this RODS study” said Dr. Jan Hopmans, Associate Dean of International Programs for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The evaluation study will be led by Dr. Nancy Allen.

The project officially began February 1, 2018, and will continue throughout 2018 as the research teams consult with Innovation Lab directors and perform field data collection to form a comprehensive report.