

Collaborative Solutions: Funding the UNCCD COP16 Flagship Initiative for Food Security and Sustainable Development, and its Implications for the UN Summit of the Future

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 | Cure., 345 Park Ave S, New York, NY 10010

Building markets for agricultural inputs through village input fairs

3:00–3:45pm | Room B

In many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, underdeveloped agricultural input markets contribute to farmers' low adoption of productive technologies. In this panel, researchers will share how varying the timing of agricultural input fairs, in which inputs are offered to farmers at convenient locations, and offering credit services during the fairs, can increase farmers' adoption of inputs. Discussion will center on forming effective partnerships and cultivating the broader enabling environment needed to scale evidence-based innovations for input market development.



Younes Addou

Vice President Agribusiness & Sustainability Solutions, INNOVX

Younes Addou is the Vice President Agribusiness & Sustainability Solutions of INNOVX, an innovation engine launched in 2022 by the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Morocco that is dedicated to building innovative and sustainable businesses and ecosystems with strong local impact. Based in Casablanca, Younes heads the Agrifinance Platform, an initiative co-sponsored by OCP Group and the International Finance Corporation, whose main objective is to structure, de-risk and mobilize financing for the

development of sustainable agricultural value chains in sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to stepping into the role of Vice President of INNOVX, Mr. Addou spent over eleven years at OCP in different leadership positions, including as the Vice President Finance and Innovative Solutions of OCP Africa. Previously, he held various investment and management positions at private equity and international consulting firms, including Abraaj Capital and PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Mr. Addou has a Master's degree in Finance and International Risk Management from HEC Paris. He is also a graduate from Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, where he received a diploma in Computer Engineering. Mr. Addou is married and a father of two.



Andrew Dillon

Clinical Associate Professor of Development Economics, Northwestern University

Andrew Dillon is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Kellogg School of Management and a Research Associate Professor in the Global Poverty Research Lab at Northwestern University, where he is the Director of the Research Methods Cluster. His research focuses on how improving productivity increases welfare in low- and middle-income countries and the methods and measures that establish these causal relationships. His current research focuses on market organization in developing countries and productivity-enhancing investments that households may make in health and nutrition, new agricultural technologies, and education. Ongoing projects are currently being implemented with government, private sector firms, and NGOs in Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria. He received his PhD in Applied Economics and Management from Cornell University.



Andrew Stern

Founder and CEO, Global Development Incubator (GDI) Americas

Andrew Stern is the Founder and CEO of GDI Americas and also serves as the Global Coordinator across GDI global partners, an ex-officio member of the GDI Americas Board, and a member and the Chair of the GDI Solutions fiscal sponsor entity Board. He shapes new opportunities for GDI to drive the global development sector forward and provides strategic guidance to select incubated initiatives. Andrew has played many roles within GDI initiatives, including Interim CEO of Convergence and of Emerging Public Leaders. He currently serves on the Boards of Aceli Africa, citiesRISE, and the Refugee Investment Network, as well as the Advisory Board of Upstart Co-Lab. Prior to founding GDI, Andrew was the Global Operating Partner at Dalberg Global Advisors. During that time, he helped design and launch ANDE and served as the founding co-chairperson of mothers2mothers. Andrew holds a joint MBA/MPP from Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School and a BA in Economics from Princeton University. When he isn't urging nonprofits toward their 'endgames,' Andrew can be found gardening, kayaking, and chasing his young daughter around.



Tavneet Suri

Professor of Applied Economics, MIT Sloan School of Management

Tavneet Suri is the Louis E. Seley Professor of Applied Economics and a Professor of Applied Economics at the MIT Sloan School of Management. Her expertise is in the role of technology in sub-Saharan Africa. Tavneet is an editor at the Review of Economics and Statistics; Co-Chair of the Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative at J-PAL; Co-Chair of the Digital Identification and Finance Initiative at J-PAL Africa; a member of the Executive Committee at J-PAL; and a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She holds a BA in Economics from Cambridge University, UK, and an MA in International and Development Economics and a PhD in Economics, both from Yale University.

Scaling Rainwater harvesting in the Sahel

5:00–5:45pm | Main Plenary

Effective water management has always been a key policy question in the Sahel, yet identifying and implementing solutions have become more urgent as climate change accelerates the pace of desertification. In this panel discussion, researchers will share how a simple training intervention increased farmers' adoption of a rainwater harvesting technique in Niger. Discussion will center on how to adapt and scale these results to new contexts, and more broadly on how to support farmers' adaptation to changing weather conditions while protecting soil health, yields, and profits.



Jenny Aker

Professor of Development Economics, Cornell University

Jenny Aker is the Daniel G. Sisler Professor of Development Economics at Cornell University and is a Co-Chair of the Digital Identification and Finance Initiative in Africa. Jenny brings expertise in economic development in Africa, with a primary focus on the impact of information, and information technology, on development outcomes. Her research contributes to the role of development economics in agricultural markets, adult education and financial inclusion; the determinants and impacts of agricultural technology adoption; and the impact of different mechanisms and modalities of social protection. Outside of Cornell, she is also a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Global Development. Prior to Cornell, she was a Professor of Development Economics at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Department of Economics at Tufts University. At Fletcher, she was the Co-Director of the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy and the Director of the Fletcher Leadership Program for Financial Inclusion. Jenny is the 2017 recipient of the Fletcher School Research Prize and the 2015 recipient of the Fletcher School Paddock Teaching Award. After working for Catholic Relief Services as Deputy Regional Director in West and Central Africa between 1998 and 2003, Jenny completed her PhD in Agricultural Economics at the University of California-Berkeley. In addition to her role as Co-Chair of J-PAL's Digital Identification and Finance Initiative in Africa, Jenny serves as a mentor to J-PAL regional scholars.

Adamou Hamadou

Director, Sahel Consulting

Adamou Hamadou has more than thirty years of experience in monitoring, evaluation, and research working for the Government of Niger, universities, and bi-lateral and nonprofit organizations. His primary areas of expertise include designing, planning, monitoring, and evaluating development projects and research studies within the fields of food security, agriculture, nutrition, maternal health, malaria, HIV/AIDS, microfinance, peace and conflict resolution, cash transfers and mobile phone technology, education, as well as water and sanitation. Adamou obtained his MA in Public Economics at International Christian University of Tokyo, Japan in 2013 through the Rotary Peace Fellowship. Amadou's recent work has focused on impact evaluations in Western Africa. Adamou's professional experience in Africa, and Niger specifically, has enabled him to effectively interface with local populations as well as with high-level government officials and multinational organizations. Through these projects and research studies he has sought out the views of the local population and met with government entities and funders to solicit views from all stakeholders. Over his career and during his Master's program, Adamou has developed high quality research and writing skills and had extensive experience presenting on research projects to a wide range of audiences.



Christine Negra

Senior Advisor for Climate and Agriculture, UN Foundation

Dr. Christine Negra is the Senior Advisor for Climate and Agriculture at the UN Foundation. She has over 25 years of experience as an extension agent, a researcher, and a program director, collaborating with development, research, and finance organizations to bring science into policies and markets. A recognized international agriculture consultant with experience in thirty countries, Christine specializes in climate change, sustainable agriculture, and integrated landscape management. With more than forty publications related to technical, policy, market, and finance dimensions of sustainability, Christine advances multi-sector solutions and inter-disciplinary science through professional involvement with foundations, companies, agencies, NGOs, and research centers. She holds a PhD in Soil Chemistry and an MS in Natural Resources Planning from the University of Vermont and a BA in Government Studies from Wesleyan University.



Sylvain Nafiba Ouédraogo

Deputy Executive Secretary, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)

Dr. Sylvain Nafiba Ouédraogo is a prominent researcher in the field of entomology, with a particular focus on the interactions between indigenous flora and pest species in agricultural contexts. His academic journey has included significant affiliations with institutions in Burkina Faso and France, notably serving at the Université de Dédougou and Paris-Est Sup.

His work not only contributes to the scientific understanding of pest dynamics but also addresses practical implications for sustainable agricultural practices in the region. It continues to influence both academic circles and practical applications in agriculture, particularly in the context of West African ecosystems.