Overview

The Food Security Group (FSG) at Michigan State University (MSU) is a self-organized team of faculty and graduate students who believe that good food and nutrition policy, informed by solid empirical evidence that is generated jointly with local partners and shared with decision makers in multiple ways, can transform economies and lives in developing countries. FSG brings this vision to bear in conducting collaborative research, working actively with local partners to engage in policy analysis and advising, and building local capacity to address issues of food security and nutrition.

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FSG’s approach is informed by an understanding of the structural transformation of economies – relatively predictable changes in economic structure that happen as incomes rise. Globalization accelerates the changes typically seen during structural transformation. FSG generates new empirical data and information to understand how these changes are playing out in each of the countries where it works. This broad strategic understanding, wedded to detailed local knowledge, serves as a foundation for program and policy design that helps a country use its particular strengths to promote robust, equitable, and sustainable economic growth.
FSG also engages in capacity building and collaborations with local partners that include local universities and research centers, ministries of agriculture, and international and regional organizations. While most of FSG’s work takes place in Africa, it has a global presence with work also in Asia and Latin America.

FSG is based in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics (AFRE) within MSU’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Faculty members from other departments also participate in FSG. Currently, the FSG team includes 26 faculty members, 7 of them based in field project offices in Africa and Asia, 5 grant-funded support staff, and 13 graduate research assistants. It has been a major contributor to the international research, outreach, and human and institutional capacity-building mission of CANR and MSU since the early 1980s.

Resources

Funders for FSG projects include the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) (representing about 80% of FSG’s portfolio), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), the International Potato Center (CIP), and others. Currently, FSG’s lead project is the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy (FSP). Feed the Future is the U.S. Government’s Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative, and is funded through USAID. FSP works in eleven African countries, one in Asia (Myanmar), and in Haiti and Venezuela in Central and Latin America.
What we research

• Agrifood System Transformation
• Climate Change
• Gender
• Household Income and Livelihoods
• Impact Assessment
• Input Use and Market Development
• Land
• Nutrition
• Policy Research and Capacity Building
• Sustainable Agricultural Intensification
• Training and Capacity Building
• Value Chain Analysis
• Youth Employment/Entrepreneurship
Where we work

THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Burkina Faso
Ghana
Kenya
Malawi
Mali
Mozambique
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Tanzania
West Africa / Sahel Region
Zambia

OTHER COUNTRIES

Cambodia
Haiti
Myanmar
Venezuela
Who we are

28 FACULTY MEMBERS

Belton, Benjamin, Assistant Professor
Boughton, Duncan, Professor and Chief of Party, Myanmar
Caputo, Vincenzina, Assistant Professor
Crawford, Eric W., Professor
DeYoung, David, Research Associate
Donovan, Cynthia, Associate Professor
Haggblade, Steven, Professor
Jayne, Thomas, Professor
Kone, Yenizie, Senior Economist and Chief of Party, Mali
Liverpool-Tasie, Lenis Saweda, Assistant Professor
Longabaugh, Steven, Project Management Associate
Maredia, Mywish, Professor
Mason, Nicole, Assistant Professor
Mather, David, Assistant Professor
Minde, Isaac, Professor
Muyanga, Milu, Assistant Professor
Nankhuni, Flora, Associate Professor and Chief of Party, Malawi
Nakasone, Eduardo, Assistant Professor
Nyang, David, Associate Professor and Chief of Party, Tanzania
Ortega, David, Assistant Professor
Payongayong, Maria, Survey Research Specialist
Porter, Maria, Assistant Professor
Reardon, Thomas, Professor
Smale, Melinda, Professor
Tasie, Oyinkansola, Assistant Professor
Theriault, Veronique, Assistant Professor
Tschirley, David L., Professor
Yeboah, Felix Kwame, Assistant Professor

WITH 5 STAFF
AND 13 GRADUATE STUDENTS

Contact
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