



Tuesday, June 26, 2018

350 Scientists from 50 Countries Meet in Accra to Advance Research in Agriculture, Nutrition and Health

Accra, Ghana – The 3rd Annual Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health (ANH) Academy Week is being held this week in Accra. This international conference is organised by the global research network ANH Academy, led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's (LSHTM) IMMANA programme (Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions), and the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH). This year, the Academy Week is held in partnership with the University of Ghana and the African Nutrition Society, alongside other partners.

The conference will be opened by representatives of the organisers and partners including: Dr. Amos Laar, President of the African Nutrition Society; Mphumuzi Sukati, Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa; John Nortey, Deputy Director, Statistics, Research & Information Directorate, Ministry of Food and Agriculture; and Paulina Addy, Director, Women in Agricultural Development, Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Over the course of the week, attendees will gather to share and discuss innovative research being conducted linking the fields of agriculture, nutrition, and health. Presenters will include not only big names in these fields, such as Jan Low, Winner of the 2016 World Food Prize, but also researchers in early stages of their career, many of whom come from across Africa and Asia. Dr. Matilda Laar, a Ghanaian scientist, will be giving a keynote address about how working across sectors and academic disciplines has helped improve her award-winning work on the Ghana school feeding programme.

“The ANH Academy Week is not an ordinary week. It’s one of those rare weeks where eminent scientists engage on issues that matter to all of the 7.6 billion people on earth – health, nutrition, agriculture. This week, Accra is the place that every scientist interested in nutrition, and health should be,” said Dr. Amos Laar, President of the African Nutrition Society.

Following successful meetings in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2016 and Kathmandu, Nepal, in 2017, the ANH Academy returns to Africa this year, with Ghana chosen as the host in order to bring the conference to a different part of the continent.

“We are delighted to hold this year’s ANH Academy Week in Ghana,” said Dr. John McDermott, Director of A4NH. “Having the Academy Week in West Africa will allow researchers from the region to share their pioneering research with colleagues elsewhere, and engage the next generation of West African researchers with research leaders globally.”

Suneetha Kadiyala, Associate Professor at LSHTM and Principal Investigator of IMMANA, added: “ANH Academy is committed to facilitating learning and sharing across countries, regions, and sectors. Ghana is leading the way in agriculture and nutrition research and policy on the continent and we could not think of a better location for this important gathering.”

Organisers expect more than 350 attendees from Ghana and across Africa, as well as from South Asia, Europe, Australia and the Americas, from over 50 countries.

From the conference, organisers expect new connections to bring about increased collaborations across borders, disciplines, and perspectives. A particular focus will be connecting researchers to policymakers and agencies implementing programmes on the ground. It is hoped that this groundbreaking research will inform policies and practices to improve the state of agriculture and nutrition in Africa and globally.

“The ANH Academy Week in Ghana is timely. Ghana is striving to make her food price monitoring system nutrition sensitive to better align with governments' focus on ensuring food security and allowing more nutrition-sensitive decision making in agriculture. We hope the whole world through the Academy Week will put Ghana on the spot in this light” - noted Professor Daniel Sarpong, Dean, School of Agriculture, University of Ghana and of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.

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The Agriculture, Nutrition & Health (ANH) Academy is a global research network in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health to serve as a platform for learning and sharing. It is jointly founded by the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH), the programme on Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA) led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH).

ANH Academy Week 2018 is jointly organised by IMMANA, A4NH, and LCIRAH, in partnership with the University of Ghana, the International Food Policy Research Institute, Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA) and the African Nutrition Society. ANH Academy Week is funded with the UK aid from the UK government, with additional sponsorship from a variety of partners.

To learn more, please visit www.anh-academy.org or contact

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