

Title: Beyond seeds and genetics: Assessment of the social impacts of genetically engineered crops in Africa under a critical lens

Date and Time: June 7, 2023, 9:00-16:30

Place: Alliot Amphitheater, Bâtiment 4, CIRAD Lavalette Campus, Montpellier, France

Description: Genetically engineered (GE) crops are at the center of efforts to achieve important social goals in Africa, notably improved food security and poverty alleviation. Recent research, however, has identified a disjuncture between the lofty goals of GE crop programs in Africa and the approaches used to assess their impacts. These findings come as calls for funding and attention to improve impact evaluation and assessment in agricultural development are growing. This day-long workshop gathers experts in the evaluative sciences, biotechnology development for Africa, and innovation studies to identify the socio-economic assessment gaps of African GE crop interventions, and suggests ways to adopt more appropriate assessment approaches in line with their broad social goals.

Modality: In-person & virtual. [Registration required](https://forms.gle/Hj3mzQkRmS4rS4b36): <https://forms.gle/Hj3mzQkRmS4rS4b36>

Program:

9:00 – 9:15 Introductory Comments

- Dr. Brian Dowd-Urbe

9:15 – 10:15 Panel Discussion: GE crops in Africa and Socio-Economic Assessment:

- Dr. Klara Fischer, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

- Dr. Dominic Glover, IDS

- Dr. Joeva Rock, University of Cambridge

- Dr. Helena Shilomboleni, University of Waterloo

10:15 - 11:00 Discussion

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:00 Keynote Lecture - Dr. Pierre-Benoît Joly

12:00 - 12:30 Discussion

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 16:15 Panel Discussion: Building Improved Assessments of GE crops in Africa: Barriers and Opportunities:

- Dr. Sélim Louafi, CIRAD

- Dr. Genowefa Blundo-Canto, Innovation, CIRAD

- Dr. Enoch Kikulwe, Bioversity International

- Dr. Joseph Batieno, INERA

16:15 - 16:30 Closing Comments

- Dr. Patrick Caron, CGIAR / MAK'IT

Biographies of Presenters



Benoit Joseph Batieno is a plant breeder and leader of the cowpea breeding team at INERA, Burkina Faso's national environmental and agricultural research institute. Dr. Batieno is the lead Burkinabè researcher on the three-country legume pod borer (LPB) resistant cowpea project.



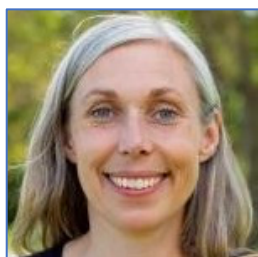
Genowefa Blundo-Canto is a scientist based at the French Agricultural Research Center for International Development (Cirad), previously based in the impact assessment units of Bioversity International and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). A development economist, her work focuses on impact evaluation of agricultural research for development (AR4D) interventions with a focus on mixed and participatory methods, systemic approaches and navigating complexity at multiple scales.



Patrick Caron is a veterinary doctor, PhD in development geography, and Director of the Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions (MAKIT). He joined the French International Cooperation Center in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD) in 1988 where he was Director-General for Research and Strategy from 2010 to 2016. He has been appointed as the Chair of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in November 2015, a position that he occupied until October 2019. He is the author of about 200 publications in international journals, books and conference proceedings.



Brian Dowd-Urbe is associate professor in the International and Environmental Studies Departments at the University of San Francisco (USF). The primary focus of his research is on the evaluation and politics of agricultural biotechnologies in Africa. He is currently a Visiting Scientist at the Université de Montpellier affiliated with the innovation research unit at Cirad, where he is working on a book project examining the knowledge production processes of agricultural biotechnologies in Africa. Dr. Dowd-Urbe is co-founder of the Mapping Biotechnologies in Africa project, a multidisciplinary project building robust public-facing datasets of biotechnologies in Africa, and Globus, a social justice journal of international studies.



Klara Fischer is associate professor in Rural Development and senior lecturer in Environmental Communication at the Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences. Klara studies how modern biotechnologies are framed in agricultural research and development, how technology discourses are turned into practice in development interventions in the global South and how they are received (embraced, transformed and contested) by smallholders in their everyday farming practices. Empirically, Klara's work is located in South Africa and Uganda.



Dominic Glover is the Rural Futures Cluster Lead at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex. Dr. Glover specializes in the study of technology and processes of socio-technical change, principally in food systems, agriculture, and small-scale farming contexts in the global South. He is a current member of the *IDS Bulletin* editorial advisory group. Dominic has served as an advisor and editor at SciDev.Net, as a member of a selection panel for the Swedish funding agency, Formas, and as a consultant to UNEP, IPES—Food, and the FAO.



Pierre-Benoit Joly, a STS scholar, is Directeur de recherche at the National Institute of Research for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE) in France. He has been the Director of the IFRIS and of Labex (Laboratory of Excellence) SITES from 2009 to 2014, and the founding director of LISIS, a research Unit based at Université Paris Est from 2015 to 2019. Since January 2020, he is the Chair of the INRAE Center Occitanie-Toulouse. His research is devoted to the study of co-production of knowledge and social order.



Enoch Mutebi Kikulwe is a scientist based at the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). Enoch's work focuses on adoption, consumer preferences, and impact assessment of various agricultural innovations and sustainable use of natural resources in smallholder farming systems of East and Southern Africa. He has vast experience in evaluating the suitability of crop productivity enhancing technologies and policies in different agro-climatic environments as well as performing rigorous econometric impact assessments of these technologies and policies on livelihoods and nutritional security.



Sélim Louafi is Deputy Director for Research and Strategy for the French Agricultural Research Center for International Development (Cirad). He has worked for more than 10 years as a social scientist in a Genetics research unit that deals with Genetic Improvement and adaptation of Tropical and Mediterranean Plants. His main interest is on science and policy interface in the field of life sciences, and more specifically agricultural biodiversity. He was also member of the Economic, Ethical and Social Committee of the French High Council on Biotechnology (2015-2020), a body in charge of advising the French government on biotechnology issues.



Joeva Sean Rock is an assistant professor of development studies at the University of Cambridge. Her research focuses on the politics of development, agricultural biotechnology, and food sovereignty. She is the author of *We are not starving: The Struggle for Food Sovereignty in Ghana* (Michigan State University Press, 2022), and the co-director of the Mapping Biotechnologies in Africa Project. She tweets at @joevarock and can be reached at jr872@cam.ac.uk



Helena Shilomboleni is an assistant professor at the University of Waterloo, Ontario Canada. She previously held a postdoctoral position with the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, based in Nairobi, Kenya. She is also an Affiliate scholar of the African Academy of Sciences. Helena's research examines how scaling different agricultural innovations can strengthen food security and build resilience for Africa's smallholder farmers.