



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

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**FAMU OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD SCIENCES  
HARRIETT A. PAUL, PI/PD**

## **FAMU ANNOUNCES THE 2024 INAUGURAL COHORT OF THE FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR HORTICULTURE TRELLIS FUND FELLOWS**

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture Trellis Fund Fellowship Program (TFFP) announces the selection of the 2024 Cohort of Trellis Fund Fellows. The TFFP is led by the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Office of International Agriculture Programs (OIAP) and supported by the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture, with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development. This program is part of the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. The TFFP connects organizations in Central America, South Asia, East and West Africa with U.S.-based graduate students who have agricultural expertise, generating benefits for both the students and the in-country stakeholders. FAMU's OIAP will annually recruit graduate students from the nation's 1890 Land Grant Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to build the graduate research fellow's cohorts through 2027. This first cohort includes nine graduate students from five 1890 Universities; FAMU, Lincoln, Southern, Tuskegee, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES).

The Trellis Fund Fellows will engage in a six-week virtual study program designed to prepare them for their research assignments. They will carry out pre-travel research and collaborative work with their host country projects using virtual platforms. The Fellows will participate in a fourteen-day capstone research experience working on the ground in their respective host countries with the projects' Principal and Co-Principal Investigators and local partners. Students will produce a Final Research Report which will catalogue their learning and service. They will also present at national conferences on their experience. "This is a land mark program for our MSI community," states Harriett Paul, the program's Principal Investigator and Project Director. "Our students are elated to have this opportunity for growth and development on the global stage. In this first cohort, we have an accomplished group of graduate students who I know will go on to be the next generation of global leaders in the food and agriculture sector," says Paul.



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FAMU will recruit and engage 40 graduate students over the four-year life of the project. “I am honored to be a part of this program and excited to work with everyone to make a difference in the future of agriculture. I hope to represent the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS), FAMU Entomology and the broader University well in the process. I appreciate everyone who made this process possible,” said Kiara Ivy, a second-year FAMU master’s student from Gainesville, Florida. When Erasmus Aduteye, a Ph.D. student in Food and Agriculture Sciences from Ghana, attending the UMES was notified that he had been selected he said, “I am excited to be among the selected candidates to work with the TFFP. The program will not only help us to come up with practical solutions to help solve challenges in the agriculture sector, but also prepare us Fellows for the task ahead after graduation. Our commitment as future leaders and agents of change to more sustainable practices is the harvest of a resilient future.” Dr. G. Dale Wesson, the Interim Dean and Director Land Grant Programs in the CAFS at FAMU says that he is proud that CAFS and its International Agriculture Unit are leading this international initiative. “This new opportunity, through the Horticulture Innovation Lab, is very empowering for our community of scholars. This work and collaboration bring together some of the best ‘Next Generation’ minds focused on creating sustainable improvements in our global food, fiber, and environmental systems. We want to thank the University of California at Davis-based Horticulture Innovation Lab and the U.S. Agency for International Development for their support of this forward-thinking and highly innovative program for MSIs.”

**For Further Information Contact:** Harriett A. Paul, Director, Office of International Agriculture and Center for International Agricultural Trade Development Research and Training, FAMU Email [Harriett.paul@famu.edu](mailto:Harriett.paul@famu.edu); Office Phone 850 599-8867; Program Website <https://cafs.famu.edu/departments-and-centers/international-agriculture/2024-trellis-fund-fellowship-program.php>



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