



# FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR MARKETS, RISK & RESILIENCE

[basis.ucdavis.edu](http://basis.ucdavis.edu)

## ABOUT US

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risk and Resilience (MRR) at UC Davis develops and tests financial and market innovations that take the most promising agricultural tools for families in developing economies from the lab to the field. Our mission is to generate and transfer knowledge and innovations that promote resilience and empower rural families, communities and markets to share in inclusive agricultural growth.

The MRR Innovation Lab focuses the most advanced tools in development economics and related fields on three core themes:

- **Resilient Escapes from Poverty:** Bundled programs that can have a bigger and more lasting impact on persistent poverty than the sum of their parts.
- **Financial and Agronomic Innovations for Inclusive Growth and Resilience:** Expanding the potential of insurance, stress-tolerant seeds and other tools to manage the risk of drought, flood or other disasters.
- **Resilient Systems for Broadly-based Agricultural Growth:** Ensuring that markets and other social systems are competitive and do not bypass women and young people.

Projects supported by the MRR Innovation Lab are generating evidence in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia. Many of these projects are led by African researchers, under the ALL-IN initiative, co-managed with the International Centre for Research and Development (ICED) (see reverse).

The MRR Innovation Lab is one of many Feed the Future Innovation Labs that draw on the expertise of top U.S. colleges and universities in collaboration with developing country research and educational institutions to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges in agriculture, food security, and nutrition. Led by U.S. universities, the Feed the Future Innovation Labs are on the cutting edge of efforts to research, develop, and take to scale safe and effective technologies that address current and future challenges posed by a changing climate and the need to feed a growing global population.

### CONCEPT SPOTLIGHT: RESILIENCE+

Effective risk-management tools can benefit families in two ways. First, families are more immediately able to withstand a shock. Second, when a family knows they are protected, they may invest to improve their assets and income above where they began. This virtuous circle can become self-reinforcing. The MRR Innovation Lab calls this phenomenon Resilience+.

Rural families in developing countries already do their best to manage risk. Their strategies may prevent starvation but tie up cash that could be invested in improved seeds or veterinary services that increase income. This is how risk itself keeps a family poor. Better tools to manage risk open the door for Resilience+.

The MRR Innovation Lab has found evidence that multiple interventions have delivered Resilience+. Experience with and trust of the intervention are critical: families must know that they will be reliably protected from shock in order to make the investments that generate Resilience+.

# ADVANCING LOCAL LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION AND NETWORKS (ALL-IN)

## ALL-IN Projects

Over its five-year funding cycle, ALL-IN is supporting 12 research projects with budgets of up to \$500,000:

### Ethiopia

- The Distributional Impacts of Large-Scale Land Transactions

### Ghana

- Reducing Poverty Among Women by Strengthening the Shea Value Chain
- Pairing Small-Scale Irrigation and Index Insurance to Manage Risk and Expand Access to Credit
- Digital Communication to Reinforce Nutrition and Household Resilience
- The Impact of Irrigation on Improved Productivity and Market Value for Smallholder Farmers

### Kenya

- Soil Testing for Acidity Management on Smallholder Farms
- Impact of Agro-Weather Information on Productivity in Farming Communities

### Malawi

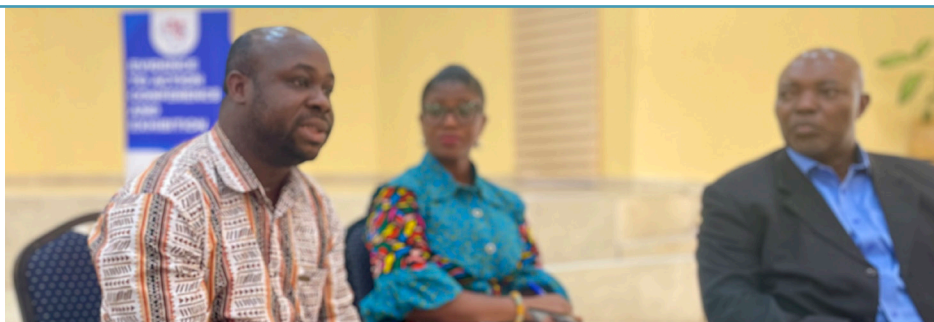
- Digital Innovations to Improve Market Access for Horticultural Produce

### Nigeria

- Adapting to Climate Risk with Mutual Weather-Index Crop Insurance
- Digital Literacy, Output Market Access, and Demand for Rural e-Commerce
- Linking Financial and Agricultural Innovations for Women Farmers' Resilience

### Uganda

- Strengthening the Resilience and Empowerment of Women Smallholder Farmers



Created under the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risk and Resilience (MRR) in partnership with Africa-based International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED), ALL-IN is a research grant program that also builds local leadership and innovation to meet local development challenges in a way that is inclusive, effective and sustainable. ALL-IN nurtures leadership and innovation among skilled African researchers in development economics and related fields. Those researchers take the lead in defining research priorities and act as principal investigators on large-scale research projects. Shifting research leadership to African countries provides the historically under-resourced research community the funding to continue to develop while utilizing their clear pathways to policy impacts.

ALL-IN fosters capacities among four groups critical to the future of African research for development:

- **Researchers.** African researchers are the central focus of ALL-IN's investment. Along with their research grant, principal investigators are paired with a mentor at a U.S. university, who consults on methods and challenges throughout their large-scale research project.
- **Universities.** Many recipient universities have no experience managing large-scale research grants or US Government funding. ICED staff build the capacity of respective administration staff at universities to ensure effective award management and compliance with the terms of the award.
- **Students.** Graduate students at African universities, under the mentorship of the principal investigators, hone their technical skills as they contribute to the research. Many ALL-IN projects also host workshops for students interested in pursuing research and evaluation careers.
- **Policymakers.** Local researchers are uniquely positioned for engagement with policymakers. Their local knowledge and connections enable them to strategically approach policymakers, while their consistent in-country availability fosters long-term relationships and trust building. ALL-IN projects host workshops for government officials to build their understanding and appreciation of scientific research and evaluation, creating demand for evidence to support decision making.

*As the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future works to give families and communities in some of the world's poorest countries the freedom and opportunity to lift themselves out of food insecurity and malnutrition. By equipping people with the knowledge and tools they need to feed themselves, Feed the Future addresses the root causes of poverty and hunger, helping people end their reliance on aid and creating important opportunities for a new generation of young people—all while building a more stable world.*