Trip Report: INGENAES Global Symposium and Learning Exchange, Lusaka, Zambia

Dates: January 23-25, 2017

Traveler(s): Ruth M. Mendum

Institution(s): The Pennsylvania State University

Purpose:
InnovATE was invited to present at the Shift and Share portion of the INGENAES conference in Lusaka, Zambia as well as to participate in a full range of integrated activities that were the focus of the event. Unlike conventional academic conference, INGENAES was organized to allow for maximum interaction between participants both formally and informally. As such it should be understood more as a workshop and giant networking session than a conference per se. Extensive social media coverage was provided on Twitter and other platforms.

The conference consisted of only 1/3 academics. The remainder of the attendees were either development practitioners or individuals from national governments and private businesses. Because the conference was held in southern Africa, many participants were either relatively junior or from organizations that would not have been able to fund travel beyond the continent. As a result, the outreach I was able to do reached frontline individuals including those working in profoundly remote areas.

The Shift and Share presentations were organized to allow participants to gain a brief understanding of key topics and research outcomes. There were two sessions of 10-14 presenters each with a designated space in a large ballroom. Presenters were given seven minutes to introduce their subject and then there were five minutes allocated for questions. In light of the limited time, I focused on explaining the purpose and structure of the gender training modules created by the InnovATE project. We had prepared a handout with logos, contact information and the website link. Over the course of the entire conference I handed out over 200 of these cards.

In addition to the Shift and Share, I participated in the Share event. Although my purpose there was to share my research that is not a part of InnovATE, there is considerable overlap
between the gender issues that the InnovATE modules address and the gender and natural resource management research that I engage in. In addition, my research collaborator, Dr. Mary Njenga, has participated in advanced gender training at Penn State and with me and thus her conversations with conference participants about her own ability to use gender integration was helpful. This was particularly true for practitioners from national organizations in Africa.

**Site(s) Visited:**
Conference was held in the Raddison Blu hotel in Lusaka, Zambia.

**Description of Activities:**
Conference presentation and participation as described above.

**Suggestions and Recommendations:**
There is broad interest in culturally sensitive gender training in many countries and at all levels of experience and education.

While the online modules were positively received, there is also an ongoing desire for in-person training backed by university-based expertise. Because of the sensitivity of discussing gender issues even with professionals, there was a desire expressed for train-the-trainer type workshops for those who will use the modules with extension educators-in-training.

The fact that our modules can be downloaded and used on paper for use in areas where there is no electricity or Internet access was surprisingly important. I had the opportunity to download materials for one participant and it was clear that others intended to use our materials in that way. In the future it would be useful to think about a scaffolding approach where we offer a high tech Internet ready version, a downloadable Power Point version as we do now and then perhaps a downloadable version designed for use as a physical, paper object. One might even like to think about working with literacy education experts to create non-electric, non-English or even pictorial materials for use in some contexts.

For all kinds of reasons the request was made that advanced training happen in-country or regionally rather than requiring that one travel to the US. Several participants mentioned that both the time required for travel from remote areas and the financial burden of both travel and visas made this conference uniquely accessible. Beyond the pragmatic issues, gender training is a sensitive cultural topic. I spent most of the three days I was in Lusaka, talking to everyone I could reach about their needs and desires for non-controversial, culturally inclusive gender training. In my view, at this particular place and time in history, it is important for US citizens to take the time to travel to their collaborators and learn and create together in non-US spaces. There was a time when travel to the Global North was useful. Today we are at a point where gender training can best be customized with experts in the regions where the work is to be done, at their physical locations as much as possible.

When I think about the next iteration of this project I would suggest that a foundation has been laid for much more specific materials development and training activities. One participant mentioned in the Q and A that in his country (Uganda, I believe) the government is primarily focused on 14-year-old girls. I saw many heads nodding around the group. Later I had an in-depth conversation with a trainer from Peace Corps in Guatemala who wants to work with our Latin American experts on gender conflicts in that region. While our current materials can be adapted to suit either of these audiences, many frontline practitioners do not have the time, access to materials and tools, or perhaps the self-confidence, to engage in that kind of expansion. One could imagine a series of workshops with regional experts targeting specific audiences and pressing issues to be held around the world. The materials created could then be shared in the multiple formats recommended above. An additional benefit would
be that the new collaboratively produced materials would then reflect the language, images and concerns of local users together with the external framework provided by the next generation of Innovate experts from participating US universities.

List of Contacts Made:

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<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Title/Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seiler-Martinex,</td>
<td>Alene</td>
<td>Food Security Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hampson</td>
<td>Karen</td>
<td>Regional Program Manager/Farm Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sane</td>
<td>Abibou</td>
<td>Agroforestry, Program and Training/Peace Crops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agalheir</td>
<td>Caroline</td>
<td>Head of Programs/Catholic Relief Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nordin</td>
<td>Stacia</td>
<td>Nutrition Education Specialist/Uni. Of Illinois</td>
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<td>Silungwe</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Co-Founder/Zaska</td>
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Appendix:

Trip Log: (activities by day)

- Friday Jan 20 2017  arrived in Lusaka (Note that activities on Friday and the weekend were covered by other funds)
- Monday Jan. 23, 2017  
  Gave four lightning talks at the Shift and Share portion of the INGENEAS conference, participated in a Share session on my personal research topic and participated fully in conference activities.
- Tuesday and Wednesday Jan. 24-25, 2017  
  Participated in INGENEAS conference .
- Thursday Jan. 25, 2017  Flew back to Nairobi, Kenya for further research connected to another project.
INGENAES Global Symposium and Learning Exchange, January 23-25, 2017 at Radisson BLU Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia

– AGENDA –

How do we apply new knowledge and resources so that extension systems (policy, investments, direct services, training, and research) will provide more equitable support to both men and women farmers and contribute to improved nutrition? Join us as we share knowledge and multiple perspectives on how and why to integrate gender and nutrition into your extension work.

Objective #1: WHAT?
Participants will articulate multiple perspectives on how nutrition and gender integration in EAS is a good investment, which adds value to their work and improves nutrition and livelihood outcomes. From this understanding, participants can articulate at least one way in which their work can be more gender-responsive and nutrition sensitive, as they meet the needs of farmers.

Objective #2: SO WHAT?
Participants will select or recommend an action, tool, method or approach that emerged during the symposium to improve gender and nutrition integration into their work. This includes identifying goals, tools or actions and insights for evaluation.

Objective #3: WHAT NEXT?
Participants will design and commit to a specific follow up activity to do upon returning home. Participants are asked to commit to continuing the learning cycle by responding to a follow up communication, sharing what they did and what happened.

Objective #4: WHAT NEXT? Collaborative Action
Through knowledge shared and relationships created at the symposium, participants will broaden their collaborative networks and leave with seeds of new opportunities.

January 22, 2017: Registration

6:00 – 8:00 pm Registration at the check-in desk in front of the Big Dome. Everybody who is staying at the Radisson Blu Hotel or at the Protea Hotel across the street is asked to please register at this time and pick up their conference packet.
January 23, 2017 – WHAT? Setting the context and imagining possibilities (Diversity and Divergence)

8:00-8:30 am Registration for those who were not able to do early bird registration the night before. Location: Check-in desk in front of the Big Dome.

8:30-8:45 am Be engaged! **Impromptu networking** practice to build relationships and shared expectations.

8:45-9:10 am **Welcome Address** by Paul McNamara, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

  - Overview of the Event provided by Nancy White and Andrea Bohn.
  - Day 1: What is happening in the field and why it is relevant or useful? We will look at it conceptually, in practice and from an analytical perspective.
  - Day 2: A deeper dive into What and So What.
  - Day 3: What Next? What are the next best moves in the field? What can the future hold and look like?
  - Throughout we will look at things through multiple perspectives to try and understand how institutions and persons can and will change to integrate gender and nutrition into extension and advisory services, and always with input and perspectives of the farmers we serve.
  - Introduction of the Social Media Reporters.
  - KUMU Community Network Mapping explained by Aldo de Moor. The map is based on information provided by participants during registration along with responses to the survey that was sent out to selected participants. The URL for the map will be provided in the finalized version of this agenda.

9:10 – 9:30 am **Opening Remarks**. Introductions by Chance Kabaghe.

  - Permanent Secretary Julius Shawa, Government of Zambia
  - Jeannie Harvey, United States Agency for International Development

9:30 -10:30 am **Storytelling Keynote**: Where we are coming from: Highlighting the history and diverse perspectives from gender, agriculture, nutrition and extension. This will include an on-the-spot created illustrated timeline. Moderator: Andrea Bohn. Storytellers:

  - Kristin Davis – Extension
  - Clodina Chowa – Gender in Extension
  - Emily Burrows – Nutrition integration
  - Abram Bicksler – Working with Smallholders

10:45-11:15 am **Break with taking of group photo**
11:15-12:00  World Café: Reflecting on the keynote and sharing of histories. We will all be able make post-its to add to the history timeline visual and identify any critical questions we want to explore over the three days.

12:00-1:00 pm  Lunch

1:00-1:15 pm  Digging Into the Details of Experience – Explanation of Shift & Share. Participants split into groups of 14-16 and move – as a group – from presenter to presenter. Each group will get to listen to 8 of the 20 presentations. Let us explore the experiences and learnings from each presenter as they offer a 5-minute talk on their work and then have 10 minutes to answer questions and take comments for 10 minutes. Every 15 minutes, each group moves to a new station.

1:15-2:15 pm  First round of Shift & Share

UGANDA: Validation of a General Nutrition Knowledge Questionnaire for Adults. By: Richard Bukenya – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Big Dome


MALAWI: The NACDC Process for Validating Agricultural Content for IVR. By: Clodina Chowa – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Strengthening Agriculture and Nutrition Extension. Big Dome

MULTIPLE (Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania): Her Farm Radio. By: Karen Hampson, Farm Radio International. Big Dome


ZAMBIA: Why do villagers buy, grow, and gather the foods they do? By: Emily Lloyd, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Big Dome

ZAMBIA: Integrating Gender and Nutrition into Fisheries Extension. By: Steven Cole, WorldFish. Big Dome


GLOBAL: Assessing Whether Agricultural Technologies are Gender-Responsive and/or Nutrition-Sensitive: A Toolkit. By: Deborah Rubin and Wesley Laytham - Cultural Practice, LLC. Meeting Room II


2:15-2:40 pm  Break
2:40-3:45 pm **Second round of Shift & Share**

BANGLADESH: Using a Propensity Score Matching Method to Identify vs. Less Effective Practices. By: Kamal Bhattacharyya, Catholic Relief Services, and Paul McNamara, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Big Dome


AFGHANISTAN: Women’s Programming in the Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Project. By: Taryn Devereux, University of Maryland. Big Dome

UGANDA and CAMEROON: Gender Sensitive Agro Entrepreneurship and Household Nutrition. By: Beatrice Lekunga Bombey Nkwah, Sunrise Produce Marketing Cooperative Ltd. Big Dome

GLOBAL: Integrating Gender Training into Nutrition-Specific Training and Extension. By: Ruth Mendum, Penn State University. Big Dome

ZAMBIA: Community Agro Dealers. By: Alex Pavlovic- ACDI/VOCA, PROFIT + . Big Dome

SIERRA LEONE: Engaging Youth in Gender and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Aquaculture. By: Colby Jordan Silvert – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and WorldFish. Big Dome

GLOBAL: Active Teaching and Learning Activity. By: Kathleen Colverson, University of Florida. Meeting Room I

MULTIPLE (Mali, Malawi, Ghana, India, Ethiopia): Integrating Nutrition into Farmer Field and Business Schools. By: Maureen Miruka, Emily Hillenbrand, Agnes Loriba – CARE. Meeting Room III

3:45-3:50 pm All return to the Big Dome for the Panel Session:

3:50-4:45 pm **How do we know when it’s working? Monitoring, Evaluation, Indicators.** Moderator: Paul McNamara. Speakers: Musonda Mofu, Victor Pinga, Moses Musikanga, Deborah Rubin, and Brenda Boonabaana

4:45-5:15 pm Status update on the Network Map.

Review of Day 1, Preview of Day 2.

Sign up for thematic huddles on day 2.

5:30-7:30 pm Reception and **Share Fair** in the Small Dome. Presenters:

**Display tables:**


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1 No fee. Those wishing to consume alcoholic beverages can order and pay for them at the cash bar.
INDIA. Training package on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, targeting rural women and men in India. T. Sarah Hogan and Victor Pinga. Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING)

MALAWI. Extension Materials that show Agriculture’s foundational role in nutrition from Production to Consumption. Stacia Nordin – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

NEPAL. Intensive small-scale production of nutrient dense crops. Suresh Sharma - Department of Agriculture

Cocktail tables:

ZIMBABWE. Designing for behavior change in agriculture on the basis of the Barrier Analysis methodology. Abraham Muzulu - World Vision

KENYA, UGANDA and MALAWI: A transdisciplinary training model in cooking energy innovations to empower women and youth and improve nutrition. Mary Njenga, World Agroforestry Centre, and Ruth Mendum - Pennsylvania State University

ZAMBIA: Data collection challenges in the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions to improve nutrition and gender outcomes. Mulako Kabisa and Rhoda Mofya-Mukuka - IAPRI

UGANDA. Food tree buffer zones for schools. Magezi Bashir - Girls In School Initiative

Additional cocktail tables will be available for those wishing to share material, show a poster or demonstrate an artifact even if they had not previously submitted a proposal.

January 24, 2017 – SO WHAT? Why does this matter and what do we want to do with/about it?

9:00-9:30 am Welcome Back - Participate in a Human Spectrogram to get a sense of people’s thinking and experience so far about the gathering and the issues.

9:30-10:45 am Thematic Huddles in groups to deliberate. For each of these a blog was posted in advance.

- Research questions: (Blog forthcoming)
- Value propositions: (Blog forthcoming)

10:45-11:15 am Break
11:15-12:00 Insights from the thematic session. Identify what we know, what we want to learn/know. This will begin to inform what we plan for Day 3

12:00-1:00 pm Lunch

1:00-1:45 PM Network Map. Share what you are doing, learn from others. Moderated by Aldo de Moor.

1:45-2:15 pm Set up Open Space/Market Place. Explanation on how this works will be provided on site.

2:15-3:00 pm Open Space Round 1

3:00-3:30 pm Networking Break

3:30-4:15 pm Open Space Round 2

4:15-5:00 pm Harvesting learning. Reflection on how are we doing. Closing Circle.

7:00 pm Gala Dinner\(^2\) at Radisson Hotel

January 25, 2017 –WHAT NEXT: Making it real!

9:00-9:15 am Welcome Back.

9:15-9:30 am Keynote address by Paul McNamara with a focus on possibilities and actions.

9:30-10:00 am Stimulate your imagination before planning: \(25/10\) Crowdsourcing

10-11:45 am Select and design actions using techniques such as “15% Solution”, “Purpose to Practice” and “Troika Consulting”. With a floating self-paced break.

11:45-12:15 Mapping Our Actions

12:15-12:30 pm Reflecting on Our Progress

12:30-1:00 pm Wrap up of the joint part of the symposium. Thank you’s and a closing Inspirational talk by Mark Bell.

1:00 pm Gala Lunch, then handing out of evaluation forms, certificates, thumb drives.

7:00 pm Cultural Evening with Dinner at the Kalahari Lodge, Lusaka. Symposium participants are invited to attend this the post-conference dinner, but do have to pay for it on their own (US$ 20) and need to have signed up for it in advance.

\(^2\) No fee, but participants must have indicated their intent of attending the gala dinner during registration or via email to Andrea Bohn. Those wishing to consume alcoholic beverages can order and pay for them at the cash bar.
The Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services (INGENAES) project is a Feed the Future initiative funded by USAID. The project supports improvements in extension and advisory services to reduce gender gaps in agricultural extension services, empower women farmers, and improve gender and nutrition integration.

INGENAES works with policy makers, development organizations, civil society, universities, and farmer organization in Feed the Future countries. Activities include workshops, action-oriented research, technical assistance, case studies, assessments, learning exchanges, and mentoring to promote gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive agricultural extension practices.

The project is led by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in partnership with the University of California Davis, the University of Florida, and Cultural Practice LLC.