

news letter.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.

TETFund Centre of Excellence
in Food Security (TCoEFS),

University of Jos

TCoEFS Quarterly Newsletter
April 2025 (Second Quarter)

WELCOME TO OUR LATEST QUARTLY EDITION.

At the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS), we believe that the path to national development runs through the farm. Our work focuses on building resilient food systems, promoting sustainable agriculture, and creating knowledge that drives real change.

ADVANCING AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

As a national platform committed to driving sustainable food systems in Nigeria and beyond, the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS) continues to play a pivotal role in knowledge generation, evidence-based policymaking, and the practical transformation of agricultural practices across diverse ecological zones.

TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security. University of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria



**TRANSFORMING
AGRICULTURE. ONE
PARTNERSHIP AT A
TIME**



READ MORE

TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH



FEEDING THE FUTURE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

Vision Statement:

To be a Centre of Excellence for training and applied research that enhance households' food security and improved livelihoods in Nigeria and Africa.

Mission Statement:

Our applied research in Food security is to enhance access by all people to safe and nutritious food needed to maintain a healthy and active life and are not at risk of losing such access.

RECENT UPDATES:

GENETICS INNOVATION

Using Genetics to Meet the Food Demand of 2050

SUSTAINABILITY

Why the TETFund Centre of Excellence Matters

PARTNERSHIP

Sasakawa Africa Association and GIZ join forces with TCoEFS to drive institutional innovation



VICE CHANCELLOR APPOINTS PROF. DAUDA BAWA AS DIRECTOR OF TCOEFS



Prof. Dauda Bawa

Agricultural Extension and Rural Development

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos, Prof. Tanko Ishaya, has officially appointed Prof. Dauda Bawa as the new Director of the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS).

Prof. Bawa, is a Professor of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture. He is a widely respected academic and development expert with over 20 years of experience in rural development, agricultural technology adoption, and climate change mitigation.

This appointment comes at a critical time when the Centre is expanding its institutional partnerships, deepening research in climate-resilient agriculture, and supporting national policy dialogues around sustainable food systems.

In announcing the appointment, the Vice Chancellor commended Prof. Bawa's outstanding academic achievements, development-sector experience, and practical engagement with community-led agricultural transformation in Nigeria.

"Agriculture must serve both the farmer and the future. At TCoEFS, we will ensure research leads to resilience, and knowledge transforms lives."

— **Prof. Dauda Bawa**, Director, TCoEFS



Outgoing Director, Prof. Amaza, handing over leadership to the newly appointed Director of the TCoEFS, Prof. Dauda Bawa.

»» FEATURED INSIGHTS

Sasakawa Africa Association and GIZ join forces with TCoEFS to drive institutional innovation

The TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security, University of Jos, under the leadership of Prof. Dauda Bawa was pleased to host a high-level advocacy and engagement visit by the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) team in partnership with the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), under the ongoing SIFTAS Project –*Strengthening Institutional Frameworks for Transformative Agricultural Systems* in Nigeria.

As part of its strategy to support sustainable agricultural transformation, the SAA delegation, led by Dr. Bidemi Ajibola and Mr. Patrick Akpu, along with GIZ Technical Adviser, Mr. Mwanlong Dashen, and representatives of the Potato Multi-Actor Platform (MAP) – Ms. Sarah Kwarpo and Ms. Grace Mamswa – engaged with key institutions in Plateau State, including the University of Jos.



"Potato Agroforestry has the potential to double farmer incomes, restore degraded land, and stabilize yields under climate stress."

Dr. Bidemi Ajibola, Project Manager, SIFTAS, SAA Nigeria.

"This is not just a project. It is a paradigm shift toward building resilient and inclusive food systems."

Prof. Dauda Bawa, Director, TCoEFS, UNIJOS.

During the visit, strategic discussions were held around the need to:

- Integrate climate-smart and regenerative agriculture, particularly potato agroforestry, into academic curricula and training manuals;
- Strengthen institutional frameworks that promote innovative agricultural practices such as Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS), contract farming, and cooperative models;
- Support the development and mainstreaming of evidence-based agricultural policy frameworks that advance sustainable food systems and enhance resilience across agricultural value chains.





Sasakawa Representatives at a meeting with Management and Scientists of the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security.

KEY OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

As an institution at the forefront of research, innovation, and capacity development in agriculture, the TETFUND Centre of Excellence in Food Security, UNIJOS, reaffirms its commitment to:

1. Collaborate with stakeholders in mainstreaming transformative agricultural approaches;
2. Support policy and curriculum development that aligns with sustainable development goals (SDGs);
3. Promote inter-institutional partnerships that drive innovation and rural development.

We express our appreciation to the SAA, GIZ, and MAP teams for this meaningful engagement and for recognizing the University of Jos as a key partner in advancing food security and agricultural transformation in Nigeria.

We look forward to deepening this collaboration and translating shared ideas into impactful outcomes for farmers, communities, and the broader agricultural sector.

Meeting Date: April 28, 2025

Location: Centre of Excellence in Food Security, University of Jos

Together, we are working toward a future where innovation, sustainability, and policy intersect to secure Nigeria's food landscape.

USING GENETICS TO MEET THE FOOD DEMAND OF 2050: A REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL LECTURE



USLGE
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.

USLGE AND KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY IN COLLABORATION WITH FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY OF JOS

GUEST LECTURER

TOPIC: USING GENETICS TO MEET THE FOOD DEMAND OF 2050

ZOOM: <https://bit.ly/41Ytt3t>

Friday 4th, April 2025
2:30PM - 04:30PM WAT

Aliyu Akwe Doma Indoor Theatre,
Naraguta Campus, UniJos.
For inquiries, contact: +234 803-4390-119 | bawadb@unijos.edu.ng

Dr. Bob Weaber
Professor & Extension Specialist,
Kansas State University
Expert in Beef Breeding, Genetics & Cow/Calf Production

GUEST

CONVENER

CHIEF HOST

Dr. Martins Sieber
President / CEO, USLGE

Dr. Dauda Bawa
Professor of Extension and Rural Development
Cochran Fellow / Alumni

Prof. Tanko Ishaya
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Jos

...giving together leading experts, faculty, students, industry stakeholders, policymakers, and researchers to discuss the future of beef breeding, genetics, and sustainable livestock production in Nigeria

Genetics, Livestock, and the 2050 Food Security Equation

As part of its ongoing knowledge-sharing initiatives, the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS), in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jos, hosted a high-impact international lecture on April 4, 2025, titled:

“Using Genetics to Meet the Food Demand of 2050.”

The event was held at the Aliyu Akwe Doma Indoor Theatre, Naraguta Campus, and featured a keynote lecture by Dr. Bob Weaber, Professor of Animal Science and Extension Specialist at Kansas State University, and an internationally recognized expert in beef breeding and cow/calf production systems. Also in attendance was Dr. Martin Sieber, President/CEO of the US Livestock Genetic Export (USLGE), the partnering institution.

PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

Physical Participants: 311

Virtual Participants: 41

Attendees included the Vice Chancellor, Deans, Directors, and representatives from the Plateau State Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Environment, as well as staff from ACRoSAL, L-PRES, and NASREA.

KEY THEMES FROM THE LECTURE

The session focused on the crucial role of genetics and genomic technologies in tackling the food security challenges of the 21st century. Dr. Weaber emphasized that to sustainably feed a global population of over 9.7 billion by 2050, science—particularly animal genetics—must be central to our agricultural strategy.



The Vice chancellor, Deputy Vice chancellor Academics and Administration, Visiting Lecturers, Convener and the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture.

Highlights included:

- Genetic selection for environmentally adaptable cows
- Enhancing reproductive efficiency, feed conversion, and disease resistance
- Strategies for lowering greenhouse gas emission intensity
- Developing economically efficient and climate-resilient livestock systems

He stressed the urgency of using advanced breeding strategies to improve sustainability metrics in meat and dairy production—calling genetics a cornerstone for the future of food security.



Group photograph of some of the lecture participants

Policy & Research Recommendations

Dr. Weaber presented a roadmap for scaling genetic technologies in African livestock systems:

- Develop national breeding schemes tailored to local ecosystems
- Establish a robust database for animal performance tracking
- Facilitate crossbreeding and genomic selection programs
- Train extension personnel and researchers in genetic tools
- Build commercial-scale farms to anchor innovation and productivity



Director of TCoEFS Meets Governor of Plateau State

As part of activities surrounding the recent high-level lecture on “Using Genetics to Meet the Food Demand of 2050”, the Director of the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security, Prof. Dauda Bawa, led a courtesy visit to the Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency Barr. Caleb Mutfwang.

The visit was made alongside Dr. Bob Weaber of Kansas State University and Dr. Martins Sieber, President/CEO of USLGE, who were in Jos for the lecture organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jos.

DISCUSSIONS:

Explore state-level priorities in livestock development and agribusiness

Align the Centre’s research and training programs with Plateau State’s agricultural transformation agenda

Discuss opportunities for investment in climate-smart livestock systems and genetics

WHY THE TETFUND CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN FOOD SECURITY MATTERS



In the heart of Nigeria's Middle Belt, nestled within the highlands of Plateau State, the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS) at the University of Jos stands as a national beacon for agricultural innovation, research, and impact.

More than just a research centre, TCoEFS is a strategic instrument for actualizing Nigeria's vision for sustainable food systems. Our work is deeply aligned with the country's Medium-Term National Development Plan (2021–2025), the Nigeria Food Systems Transformation Pathways, and SDG 2 — Zero Hunger.

At a time when Nigeria faces growing food security challenges—from climate change to market instability and youth unemployment—the Centre is boldly stepping into the gap with real solutions rooted in science, policy, and community transformation through innovative agricultural practices.

"To drive true transformation, we must connect knowledge with practice, and research with reform. TCoEFS is committed to this integration — not in theory, but in action."

— Prof. Dauda Bawa, Director, TCoEFS

Our Core Mandate

Applied Research for Impact: We conduct multidisciplinary research that doesn't end in academic journals — it ends in farmers' fields, policy frameworks, and rural livelihoods transformation. Our work spans climate-resilient agriculture, food systems innovation, nutrition, and ecological sustainability.

Curriculum Reform & Human Capital Development: Through collaboration with faculties and agricultural institutions, we are redesigning what it means to study agriculture in Nigeria. From hands-on training to entrepreneurial skill-building, we are equipping the next generation of agri-leaders and innovators.

Policy Engagement & Evidence-Based Advocacy: Our research feeds directly into policymaking. We work closely with ministries, development agencies, and national stakeholders to translate evidence into reforms — creating a feedback loop between the field and the legislative table.

Technology Transfer & Innovation Bundling: We promote and scale field-tested solutions, from regenerative potato agroforestry models to smart irrigation, pest management, livestock transformation and management and post-harvest innovations. Bundling innovations means delivering holistic packages that meet farmers' real-world needs.

Strategic Partnerships & Institutional Collaboration: We thrive on collaboration. Whether with national research institutions, international development agencies, local cooperatives, or agribusiness leaders

MOMENTS THAT MATTER



ACCESS PHOTOS & RECORDINGS FROM
OUR RECENT EVENT: "USING GENETICS TO
MEET THE FOOD DEMANDS OF 2050"

[Lecture Event Images](#)

[Overview Video](#)

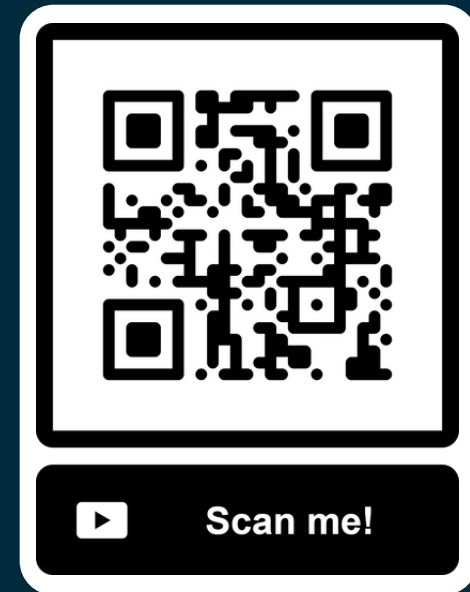
[Zoom Recording](#)

WHAT'S NEXT AT TCoEFS?

Get Involved: Share Your Voice with TCoEFS
We're building a vibrant, inclusive community of researchers, students, farmers, policymakers, and thought leaders.

You can contribute by:

- Sharing your research or project with us
- Participating in our demo days or training programs
- Submitting content or questions for our podcast
- Becoming a TCoEFS campus ambassador or partner



*Don't miss the gallery
from April's events –
Also now live on our
LinkedIn page!*



Are you passionate about food systems, climate-resilient agriculture, or rural innovation? So are we. Let's connect.

Contact Us:

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tcoefs@unijos.edu.ng

<https://unijos.edu.ng/tcefs>

University of Jos, Permanent Site, Plateau State, Nigeria

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/tetfund-centre-of-excellence-in-food-security-tcoefs-university-of-jos/>

Did You Know?

- Nigeria loses up to 50% of perishable crops post-harvest.
- One cow's genetics can influence the productivity of over 10,000 offspring.
- Potato agroforestry improves soil carbon levels by 25% over 3 years.
- Plateau State is one of the highest-producing regions of Irish potatoes in West Africa.

We Want to Hear From You!

Are you a student, researcher, policymaker, or farmer interested in sustainable agriculture?

Send us your story, insight, or innovation to be featured in our next issue.

Email: tcoefs@unijos.edu.ng

Tag us on LinkedIn with: #TCoEFS

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TCoEFS

Vision Statement

“We envision a Nigeria where innovation meets tradition, science empowers farmers, and food systems work for all.”