



NESTLÉ
FOUNDATION

for the study of problems of nutrition in the world

SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

CELEBRATING THE NESTLÉ FOUNDATION'S
60TH ANNIVERSARY

&

THE LAUNCH OF THE NESTLÉ FOUNDATION
ALUMNI NETWORK AFRICA

**60 years of training, capacity building
and research partnerships
for sustainable nutrition**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

West African Genetic Medicine Centre – WAGMC / University of Ghana



Guest of Honor

Hon. Prof. Titus Beyuo, MP, member of Ghana's parliamentary health committee

Key Note Speaker

Prof. Anna Larrey, Adjunct Professor of Nutrition at the University of Ghana and Member of the Nestlé Foundation Council

Organizing Committee

Nestlé Foundation: Prof. Wilna Oldewage-Theron, Nestlé Foundation Council; Mr. Thomas Hauser, Nestlé Foundation Director

University of Health and Allied Sciences: Prof. Paul Amuna, Mr. Joshua Odinakachi, Mr. Joseph Sam

SPEAKERS

Key Note Speech

Prof. Anna Larrey (Ghana): Nutrition at the frontiers of a changing Environment: Global nutrition situation and policy actions

Testimonial Talks

- Prof. Reginald Annan (Ghana)
- Dr. Omotola Ogundairo Yetunde (Nigeria)
- Mr. Habimana Jean de Dieu (Rwanda)
- Dr. Margaret Kabahenda (Uganda)



Researchers funded by the Nestlé Foundation

- **Ms. Sika Jeanne Gwladys Gnanvi (Benin):** Safety Aspects of Edible Dried Locusts (*Ornithacris turbida*) Consumed in Benin: A Case Study of Malanville
- **Prof. Marie Modestine Kana Sop (Cameroon):** Food based approaches from traditional foods to formulation of complementary foods for malnutrition management and capacity building
- **Prof. Imar Djibrine Soudy (Chad):** Impact of the consumption of spirulina (*Spirulina platensis*) produced in the Lake Chad regions (Lake and Kanem) on the vitamin A status of “mother-newborn” couples: Chadian approach to a traditional food “Dihé”
- **Dr. Abageda Mulatu Belachew Tefera (Ethiopia):** Effectiveness of couple-based breastfeeding education and support interventions on optimal breastfeeding practices in central Ethiopia: a cluster-randomized controlled trial
- **Dr. Abderahim Ahmadou (Mali):** Addressing Aflatoxin Contamination in Raw Milk in Mali: The MILKSAFE Project for Improved Food Safety and Public Health
- **Mr. Cassamo M. Ismail (Mozambique):** From Agrobiodiversity to Food Security: Evidence and Lessons from Smallholder Farmers in Northern Mozambique
- **Ms. Grantina Modern (Tanzania):** Determination of an enteric bacteriome profile as a possible biomarker for growth in children below two years of age in Iringa region of Tanzania



HON. PROF. TITUS BEYUO, MP

BIOGRAPHY

Professor Titus Beyuo is a man whose life and work truly reflects the spirit of service, leadership and excellence. He is a member of the 9th Parliament of the 4th Republic of Ghana, representing the Lambussie Constituency. He serves as a member of the Health Committee and a member of the Subsidiary Legislation Committee. He is the Board Chairman of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and a Member of the Board of the Ministry of Health.

He is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology from the University of Ghana. He has also expertise in the field of Clinical Epidemiology and Clinical Pharmacology. He previously served as a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. He is an Alumnus of the National Institute of Health, Fogarty Global Health Fellowship Program with the Vanderbilt, Emory, Cornell and Duke (VECD) Universities consortium.

Prof. Titus Beyuo obtained his Bachelor of Science in Medical Science, Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery and Master of Philosophy in Pharmacology Degree from the University of Ghana. He obtained his PhD in Epidemiology from the Utrecht University in the Netherlands. He is a Fellow of both the West African College of Surgeons and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons. He obtained a certificate in Health Administration and Management from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. His scholarly works has focused on improving care outcome for medical complication of pregnancy such as hypertensive disorders, sickle cell diseases and diabetes. He is a clinical trialist with interest

in medicines used in pregnancy. His research has received grant support from organization such as the European Union, the National Institute of Health, the Gates Foundation, University of Michigan, the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and the University of Ghana. He has over 40 publications in peer review journals and several conference papers and abstracts.

He was a Member of the Presidential Committee of transitioning University of Ghana Medical Center from the Ministry of Health to the University of Ghana. Prof. Beyuo is Member of the international federation of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO) and served on its committee long-term health impact of pregnancy for a term. He also served on the disciplinary subcommittee on the 13th and 14th Governing Council of the nurses and midwifery Council of Ghana. He is an entrepreneur and co-founder of the Comprehensive Care Group and a farmer. He is a former general secretary of the Ghana medical association. He is married with four kids.



PROF. ANNA LARTEY

Adjunct Professor of Nutrition at the
University of Ghana and Member of the
Nestlé Foundation Council

BIOGRAPHY

Anna Larthey is a nutritionist whose career has spanned academia, international organizations, and research. She is currently an Adjunct Professor of Nutrition at the University of Ghana.

Dr. Larthey served as Director of Nutrition at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy, where she led FAO's work on Food Systems for Nutrition. Before joining FAO, she spent nearly three decades at the University of Ghana, rising to the rank of Professor of Nutrition and conducting extensive research on maternal and child nutrition.

She served as President of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) from 2013 to 2017 and is currently a Council Member of the Nestlé Foundation.

Dr. Larthey has received numerous honours and awards, including the University of Ghana Best Researcher Award (2004), an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from McGill University, Canada (2018), the IUNS Lifetime Achievement Award (2022), the African Nutrition Society's Nevin Scrimshaw Award (2024), and, most recently, the University of Guelph Alumni of Honour Award (2026). She was also a recipient of a Nestlé Foundation Research Grant in 1995.

Dr. Larthey holds a PhD in Nutrition (Fulbright Scholar) from the University of California, Davis, a Master's degree in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Guelph, Canada, and a BSc in Nutrition and Biochemistry from the University of Ottawa, Canada.

ABSTRACT

NUTRITION AT THE FRONTIERS OF A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT: GLOBAL NUTRITION SITUATION AND POLICY ACTIONS

Anna Lartey, Department of Nutrition and Food Science,
University of Ghana

This presentation is influenced by the upcoming 7th global Micronutrient Forum Conference in Accra, Ghana in September 2026, which aligns with the theme of the conference.

The world is facing major challenges including environmental degradation, geopolitical instability, unprecedented donor funding cuts. Extreme weather conditions are significantly reducing global crop yields and nutrient quality, exacerbating stunting and widespread micronutrient deficiencies. Concurrently, geopolitical conflicts disrupt essential food, water, and health systems, while donor funding cuts risk a reversal of decades of global nutrition progress.

As a result, the world remains severely off-track to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 2 (on zero Hunger and improved nutrition) by 2030, with billions unable to afford healthy diets and childhood obesity surpassing underweight trends globally for the first time. To mitigate this crisis, a coordinated, multisectoral framework is required. Recommended policy actions include leveraging innovative blended financing and domestic resource mobilization, implementing food environment regulations like fiscal tax on unhealthy foods, front-of-pack labelling, and mainstreaming nutrition into universal health coverage. Empowering women and youth within sustainable agrifood systems is essential to driving resilient food systems transformation and safeguarding global public health.



PROF. REGINALD ANNAN

Professor of Public Health Nutrition
and Head of the Nutrition Unit in the
Department of Biochemistry and
Biotechnology, College of Science, KNUST,
Ghana

BIOGRAPHY

I am a Professor of Public Health Nutrition and Head of the Nutrition Unit in the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, College of Science, KNUST, Ghana. My research focuses on maternal, adolescent and child nutrition, food systems, food composition and translational research, nutritional epidemiology, and implementation science. I currently serve as Principal Investigator of a landmark WCRF-funded study investigating risk factors for breast cancer among women in sub-Saharan Africa. I also direct the PTFI KNUST Centre of Excellence and the Quality Assurance Framework for Assessment of Nutrition Africa (QAFANA) Centre.

Over the years, I have led and collaborated on research programmes supported by the Nestlé Foundation, Gates Foundation, WCRF, and IDRC, and have served as a consultant to UNICEF, WFP, WHO, IAEA, MSF, and IARC. I have supervised more than 20 PhD candidates and over 100 Master's students. I have played key leadership roles in national nutrition and food systems policy, including contributing to the development of Ghana's Food-Based Dietary Guidelines and co-facilitating the country's National Food Systems Transformation Pathways, reflecting my commitment to translating research into policies, programmes, and innovations that improve nutrition, strengthen food systems, and advance public health across Africa.

ABSTRACT

THE NESTLÉ FOUNDATION: BUILDING EVIDENCE, BUILDING RESEARCHERS, IMPROVING LIVES

My testimonial will reflect on how the Nestlé Foundation's support enabled my research programme to address critical questions in adolescent girls' and women's nutrition and their implications for maternal and birth outcomes. The Foundation's investment generated a strong body of evidence, including publications on the determinants of iron deficiency anaemia among pregnant adolescents, predictors of adverse birth outcomes in adolescent pregnancies, maternal dietary practices, and the relationships between nutrition, socioeconomic conditions, and birth outcomes in Ghana.

Beyond these scientific contributions, the Foundation's support created a lasting legacy through capacity strengthening. Over the years, the programme has supported the training and mentorship of eight PhD candidates, many of whom are now contributing to nutrition research, teaching, and policy in Ghana and beyond. For me, the Nestlé Foundation's greatest impact has not only been the knowledge generated but also the people developed—building the next generation of African nutrition scientists who will continue to improve the health and nutrition of women, adolescents, and future generations.



DR. OMOTOLA OGUNDAIRO YETUNDE

Department of Human Nutrition, Faculty
of Public Health, College of Medicine,
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State,
Nigeria

BIOGRAPHY

Adebayo, Yetunde Omotola (née Ogundairo) is an early-career researcher in community and public health nutrition. She holds a PhD in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. She received her bachelor's degree in Food Science from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, Oyo State, also in Nigeria. She currently serves as a faculty member in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at Bowen University, one of Nigeria's oldest and leading faith-based institutions. Her research interests are in maternal, infant, and young child nutrition. She is an active member of several professional organisations, including the Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN), the Nutrition Society (UK), International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS), Federation of African Nutrition Societies (FANUS), African Nutrition Society (ANS), and International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHML).

ABSTRACT

TESTIMONIAL SPEECH ON MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE NESTLÉ RESEARCH FOUNDATION

My journey with the Nestlé Research Foundation has been the most defining experience of my scientific career. Looking back, I can confidently say that the foundation has not only supported my research financially but has also shaped my career growth, expanded my international scientific network, and strengthened my commitment to improving nutrition through evidence-based research. This journey began in September 2018 when I attended the 8th African Nutrition Conference (ANC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During the experts' breakfast meeting with early-career researchers, I had the privilege of meeting Professor Paolo Suter, former Director of the Nestlé Research Foundation, and Professor Wilna Oldewage-Theron, a Professor of Nutritional Sciences, to discuss my research ideas. What initially seemed like a simple conversation about my research interests led to thoughtful questions, encouragement, and constructive feedback that helped me redefine and conceptualise my research.

As a follow-up to the meeting, I was encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent to the foundation as an initial step for a small research grant. After submitting the letter of intent, I got an email requesting the full research proposal. During the preparation of the letter of intent and full research proposal, Prof Wilna Oldewage-Theron provided significant technical and scientific guidance to the overall proposal write-up. In September 2019, I received an email from the foundation that my proposal had been awarded a \$49,434 grant to support my doctoral thesis. This grant enabled me to complete my research on Effect of a drama-based intervention programme

on breastfeeding self-efficacy and breastfeeding outcomes of rural pregnant women in Lagelu and Egbeda Communities in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. It also generated high-quality scientific evidence using a multidisciplinary approach that would have been difficult to undertake otherwise. This award represented a vote of confidence in my research and a milestone in my academic career as an emerging scientist.

The foundation has also funded my participation in conferences, some of which include the 5th Federation of African Nutrition Societies (FANUS) Conference in Dakar, Senegal (2023); the 9th African Nutrition Conference (ANEC/ANC IX) in Cape Coast, Ghana; and the most recent International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS-ICN) Conference held in Paris, France (2025). Most of these opportunities were made possible through the support of the Nestlé Research Foundation.

Today, as I reflect on my journey, I remain deeply grateful to the Nestlé Research Foundation for believing in my vision at an early stage of my career. Its support transformed not only my doctoral research but also my professional trajectory, equipping me with the skills, confidence, and global exposure needed to advance nutrition research that addresses real-world public health challenges. I hope to sustain this gesture by mentoring the next generation of researchers and contributing to scientific knowledge that improves nutrition and health across Africa and beyond.





MR. HABIMANA JEAN DE DIEU

Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, School of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda.

BIOGRAPHY

Jean de Dieu Habimana is an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, School of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda. He specializes in Public Health Nutrition, Maternal and Child Nutrition, and community-based nutrition interventions.

He is currently awaiting his PhD defense following doctoral research on the epidemiological patterns of childhood stunting among poor households in Rwanda using a sequential explanatory mixed-methods approach. His research interests include child growth and development, nutrition-sensitive interventions, maternal empowerment, food security, WASH, and improving nutrition outcomes among vulnerable populations. He has contributed to scientific publications on childhood stunting, maternal determinants of child growth, and community-based strategies for malnutrition prevention.

Beyond research, Jean de Dieu has extensive experience in teaching, student mentorship, and community engagement. He teaches courses in human nutrition, maternal and child nutrition, public health nutrition, and nutrition-related disorders. His work focuses on generating evidence to inform nutrition policies and interventions that improve population health.

ABSTRACT

MY PHD JOURNEY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE NESTLÉ FOUNDATION

My PhD journey has been shaped by perseverance, continuous learning, and the financial support of the Nestlé Foundation where I conducted research on the epidemiological patterns of childhood stunting among poor households in Rwanda, addressing one of the country's most pressing Public Health Challenges.

My doctoral training began with the fellowship of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA), where I gained skills in research methods, scientific writing, and grant proposal development. Building on this foundation, I secured funding from the Nestlé Foundation. During the course of my PhD, the research evolved from a positive deviance approach to a broader epidemiological investigation of childhood stunting. Throughout this transition, the Foundation remained flexible, patient, and confident in the value of the research.

The Foundation's support enabled successful field data collection before my doctoral training experienced delays and CARTA support ended. This allowed me to complete data analysis, disseminate the findings, and develop as an independent researcher. While I began my PhD with limited experience in scientific publishing, the journey resulted in three published papers and another manuscript currently in the publication pipeline, all contributing evidence to improve childhood nutrition in Rwanda.

Beyond completing my PhD, this experience strengthened my research capacity and scientific writing skills, leading to contributions to more than 20 peer-reviewed publications and supporting my career as an Assistant Lecturer in Human Nutrition and Dietetics. Looking back, the Nestlé Foundation's support extended beyond financial assistance; its confidence, flexibility, and patience enabled me to overcome challenges, generate meaningful scientific evidence, and continue contributing to nutrition research that can improve the health of vulnerable populations. Thank you to Nestlé Foundation.



DR. MARGARET K KABAHEMA

Senior Lecturer
Department of Food Technology
and Nutrition
Makerere University

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Kabahenda is a nutritionist. Holds MSc and PhD in Foods and Nutrition from University of Georgia (USA); BSc Food and Nutrition: Dietetics from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (USA); and AAS in Hospitality Management from Parkland College (USA).

Dr. Kabahenda's research focuses on developing nutrition education interventions to improve of dietary practices during pregnancy and complementary feeding; to skill teachers to integrate nutrition education and physical activity in their routine childcare and teaching, plus nutrition education of health workers and caregivers to improve management of diet-related non-communicable diseases. She attributes her success to working with multidisciplinary research teams including experts from agricultural production and extension, curriculum development, and linguistics.

Her current research focus is to improve access of culturally-appropriate nutrition education resources for service providers (especially health workers, agricultural extension workers, teachers, and community social workers) so as to improve the mainstreaming of nutrition education in public health programs.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONIAL SPEECH

1. My experiences with the Foundation: Particularly appreciate Foundation for supporting my career in nutrition education research:

2008 - 2010

Received a grant of \$5,000 for a needs assessment to inform the development and implementation of a *“Community-based Nutrition Intervention to Improve the Nutrient-density of Meals for Young Children (6-24 months) in central Uganda.”* This supported an MSc student in the Applied Human Nutrition program at Makerere University to conduct (i) 4 focus group discussions with 45 women with children 0-24 months to improve understanding of child-feeding knowledge, attitudes, and practices and (ii) a cross-sectional survey of 232 mother-child dyads to improve understanding of caregiver feeding practices and children dietary intake and nutritional status.

2013 - 2017

Did not get funded by Foundation to implement the nutrition education interventions; however, the findings from needs assessment were used by another MSc student in the Applied Human Nutrition program at Makerere University to implement his dissertation research funded by the Nutrition Innovations Lab-Africa (NIL-A) project under the Tuskegee University capacity building program. We developed training material to be used by Village Health Teams (VHTs) and implemented a 3-arm pilot nutrition intervention comprised of nutrition education using food groups (test intervention), nutrition education using IYCF cards (standard

treatment), and engaged caregivers in weekly hair-dressing sessions (true controls).

2019-2021

I was engaged as an in-country collaborator/co-investigator on Nestlé Foundation supported doctoral research of Joel Komakech from Oklahoma State University on a project titled *Peer groups to improve feeding practices and child nutrition in post-emergency settlements in Uganda* under the supervision of Prof Barbara Stoecker. Notably, Joel was one of the enumerators on my first \$5000 needs assessment research supported by Nestlé Foundation (Study 1)

2020-2022

Following discussions after the visit of Dr. Paolo Suter, we tried to submit a proposal at our departmental level to support a pilot dietetics internship program (training of preceptors as we engage students in pilot internship). Not supported and still looking for funding and collaborations.

2023-2025

Received pilot study/training grant of \$20,000 to develop and implement a pilot intervention titled *“Empowering Preschool Teachers to Integrate Nutrition Education in their Routine Teaching to Advance Child Health (TEACH-Nutrition Project Kindergarten)”*. We (i) conducted needs assessment (15 key informant interviews with school administrators, 13 focus group discussions with teachers and 6 with parents, and individual interviews with 53 teachers to identify barriers and supports for integration of nutrition education and physical activity in routine childcare activities; (ii) interviewed 454 parents to characterize preschoolers’ dietary practices with a special focus on food packing and snacking patterns plus physical activity levels; (iii) conducted anthropometric assessment of 454 parent-child dyads to determine the prevalence and risk factors of malnutrition among preschoolers; (iv) collaborated with experts from the National Curriculum Development Centre to develop a teachers’ resource manual to be used by pre-primary teachers to enhance their nutrition knowledge and nutrition education practices; and (v) trained 33 teachers from 20 schools using the draft resource manual on how to integrate nutrition education and

physical activity in their routine childcare/teaching engagements with learners at pre-primary level. The draft manual is still being revised and we expect to implement this intervention soon.

2. Summary/Conclusions

Lessons learnt from overall interactions with the Foundation.

What the Foundation means to me personally?

Why does the Foundation help us achieve what we do?

*"...All awards require **regular, strict** and **stringent audit requirements** and **periodic research progress and financial reports** will be expected...." NF 2008*

3. My expected future engagements with the Foundation

(i) Research and capacity building:

- Grant-seeking to complete the teachers' resource manual and assess the effectiveness of the intervention in different contexts, especially in rural areas.
- Write more training grants, especially with doctoral, so as to contribute more to capacity building in nutrition education to address critical public health concerns in Africa.

(ii) Peer-to-peer mentorship and collaborations

- Build on existing collaborations to develop more nutrition education resources to improve nutrition education and training so as to contribute to improved awareness and healthy dietary practices and physical activity especially in contexts of populations with limited resources and low literacy levels.
- Participate and contribute towards continuous professional development trainings for nutrition practitioners and other professionals (teachers, health workers, and agricultural extension workers)



MS. SIKA JEANNE GWLADYS GNANVI

Doctoral School of Agronomic and Water Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

BIOGRAPHY

Sika Jeanne Gwladys GNANVI is a Beninese doctoral candidate in Bio-engineering of Food Processes. Her research focuses on sustainable food systems, with particular emphasis on the safety, acceptability, and nutritional potential of edible insects in Africa.

As a Nestlé Foundation grantee, her doctoral research investigates the microbiological safety of dried locusts consumed in Benin, contributing to the generation of evidence that supports food safety, public health, and food security. She is committed to advancing the safe utilization of indigenous food resources as part of sustainable nutrition strategies.

Passionate about science communication, she is dedicated to translating scientific evidence into practical knowledge that informs policy and decision-making. Her work aims to strengthen local food systems through the valorization of indigenous foods, enhancing their competitiveness and market positioning at regional and international levels, ultimately contributing to better nutrition and sustainable livelihoods across Sub-Saharan Africa.

ABSTRACT

SAFETY ASPECTS OF EDIBLE DRIED LOCUSTS (*ORNITHACRIS TURBIDA*) CONSUMED IN BENIN: A CASE STUDY OF MALANVILLE

Sika Jeanne Gwladys GNANVI, Dr Ifagbémi Bienvenue,

Prof. Polycarpe KAYODE

Doctoral School of Agronomic and Water Sciences,

University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

In northern Benin, dried locusts (*Ornithacris turbida*) are an essential traditional food and source of income. However, no previous study has simultaneously evaluated the microbiological safety and physicochemical quality of *O. turbida* along the traditional value chain. This study assessed the microbiological quality of 20 dried *O. turbida* samples collected from three local markets in Malanville (Malanville, Guéné, and Mokassa) and monitored changes in microbiological and physicochemical quality across traditional processing stages: fresh, blanched, blanched-then-sun-dried, and the ready-to-eat product (seasoned with onion and pepper and lightly fried in a small oil).

Market samples exhibited high total aerobic mesophilic counts (7.16–8.96 log CFU/g) and fecal coliform loads (2.19–7.03 log CFU/g), with no apparent differences among markets based on descriptive comparisons. Traditional processing significantly reduced staphylococci, Enterobacteriaceae, and total coliforms ($p < 0.01$), but failed to significantly reduce fecal coliforms ($p = 0.510$). The blanched-then-sun-dried stage emerged as the most critical processing stage, showing the highest microbial loads together with extreme nitrogenous spoilage indices (TVB-N: 151.8 mg N/100 g; TMA: 34.6 mg N/100 g), far exceeding commonly accepted thresholds. These findings suggest that slow or inefficient sun-drying may promote microbial proliferation and protein degradation. In contrast, the ready-to-eat product showed the lowest microbial loads but also exhibited lower protein content and higher lipid oxidation.

These results demonstrate that heat treatment alone is insufficient to ensure the microbiological safety of traditionally processed locusts. An integrated preventive approach; prioritizing hygienic collection, optimized drying practices, and protection against post-processing recontamination; is needed to strengthen food safety along the edible locust value chain. The findings provide a scientific basis for developing evidence-based recommendations and supporting discussions with value chain actors to improve traditional processing practices.

Keywords: edible insects; *Ornithacris turbida*; microbiological quality; traditional processing; physicochemical quality ; alteration, food safety; Benin.





PROF. MARIE MODESTINE KANA SOP

Laboratory of Biochemistry, Faculty of
Sciences, University of Douala, Cameroon:
BP 24157 Douala

BIOGRAPHY

Pr. KANA SOP Marie Modestine is an Associate Professor in Biochemistry with specialization in Food Sciences and Nutrition at the Faculty of Science, Département of Biochemistry, University of Douala, Cameroon.

She serves as Coordinator of the Professional Masters in Biotechnology, Dietetics and Nutrition and has been lecturing Food Chemistry, Biochemistry and Nutrient Metabolism for 25 years.

She has been a mentor in AWARD Program and has received many research grants, including two research grants from the Nestlé Foundation for the solution of Nutrition in the world, in 2012 and 2023. She has authored more than 65 scientific publications and presented over 30 communications at national and international scientific meetings in nutrition and food Chemistry.

Her research focuses on Cameroon local foods, beverages and plants to combat the double burden of malnutrition.

She has been optimizing fermentation of cereals and legumes to formulate nutrient-rich complementary foods with high macronutrient digestibility and micronutrient bioavailability with optimized nutrient intakes.

She mentors many MSc and PhD students and works to reduce the gender gap in African STEM.

ABSTRACT

FOOD BASED APPROACHES FROM TRADITIONAL FOODS TO FORMULATION OF COMPLEMENTARY FOODS FOR MALNUTRITION MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING.

Malnutrition remains a major public health problem in developing countries, particularly in Cameroon, where limited access to nutritious food and adequate health services contributes to stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiencies in children. Community-based approaches and the use of local food resources represent promising strategies to address these challenges.

The objective of this work was to develop and evaluate sustainable approaches for the prevention and management of malnutrition through, on the one hand, community interventions adapted to low-resource contexts and, on the other hand, the formulation of improved complementary foods using local raw materials.

Two projects funded by the Nestlé Foundation were implemented. The first assessed food based approaches to reduce malnutrition. It showed that food diversification combined with supplementation were very effective to reduce malnutrition rate in rural community. The second project focused on the formulation of complementary foods based on local plant matrices subjected to technological pre-treatments to reduce antinutritional factors such as phytates, tannins, oxalates and trypsin inhibitors in order to improve nutrient bioavailability.

The results of the community interventions demonstrated their potential to improve the prevention and management of malnutrition at low cost. The pre-treatments applied to the raw

materials significantly reduced antinutrient factors (respectively, reduced phytate, oxalate, tannin and trypsin inhibitor content by 56.51%, 79.26%, 96.78% and 71.03%) and significantly improved protein digestibility and mineral bioavailability, thereby increasing the nutritional quality of the complementary foods. These studies showed that the combination of food diversification using pretreated local resources constituted an effective and sustainable strategy to reduce childhood malnutrition, and improve nutritional status of young children, thus, supporting public health policy in Cameroon.

These projects also strengthened research capacity through the training of 5 PhD students and 5 master's students, with more than 12 articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

Keywords: Cameroon, malnutrition, complementary foods, formulation, antinutritional factors, local resources.





PROF. IMAR DJIBRINE SOUDY

Université de Ndjamen, Tchad

BIOGRAPHY

SPECIALTY: NUTRITION AND HEALTH

- Since July 2024: Full Professor at CAMES (African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education) ;
- From 2020 to the present: Director General of the Food Quality Control Center (CECOQDA) ;
- Lecturer and Researcher, Faculty of Human Health Sciences (FSSH)
 - University of Ndjamen, Chad.

DISCLOSURES AND ROUTES

- September 2011: Doctorate in Food and Nutrition Sciences, Blaise Pascal University of Clermont-Ferrand (France);
- 2011-2013: Postdoctoral Study NUTRITION-HEALTH at the Faculty of Medicine Xavier Bichat, University Paris Diderot Paris 7 (France).
- Knight of the National Order of Chad, April 2022;
- Special Award OAPI 2018 (African Intellectual Property Organization);
- Campus France Trophy 2025 for service rendered to the scientific community;
- December 2000: Obtaining the YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD at the Conference of the Society of Biosciences in Cameroon;
- From 2004 to 2005: Research internship at the Food and Nutrition laboratory of VetAgroSup - Université de Lyon (France);
- From 2018 to 2020: General Rapporteur of CAMES CTS SNA (African and Malagasy Council of Higher Education).

- Since 2022: Member Expert in Food Security of the African Union.
- Since 2022: Provision of education in Hygiene, Quality and Food Safety at the Interstate Center for Higher Education in Public Health in Central Africa (CIESPAC-CEMAC), Brazzaville-Congo;
- Since 2023: Delivery of Food Quality Control Courses at the University Denis SASSOU NGUESSO, Brazzaville-CONGO.

PATENT

Co-autor of Patent intituled : Composition pharmaceutique ou diététique pour inhiber l'absorption intestinale du sucre. FR 1201589 du 14 Juin 2012. Bruno ETO, SOUDY Imar Djibrine et MAHAMOUD Yousouf. Brevet obtenu et disponible en ligne depuis le 06 décembre 2013 dans le site de l'INPI (Institut National de Propriété Industrielle, Paris-France).

INVITATION IN TELEVISION BROADCASTS (CHAD) :

- Regular guest on the show 'Alimentation et vie' on Télé Chad;
- Regular guest on the show 'Télé Nutrition' at Electron TV (Chad).

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

I am the author of 27 scientific articles published in indexed, peer-reviewed international journals.

ABSTRACT

IMPACT OF THE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRULINA (SPIRULINA PLATENSIS) PRODUCED IN THE LAKE CHAD REGIONS (LAKE AND KANEM) ON THE VITAMIN A STATUS OF “MOTHER-NEWBORN” COUPLES: CHADIAN APPROACH TO A TRADITIONAL FOOD “DIHÉ”

Imar Djibrine Soudy^{1,3,*}, Regine Minet-Quinard²,
Oumalkher Youssouf Adam¹, Nodjidara Daframbaye⁴,
Ngartoubam Khadidja Otonta⁴, Madjilom Ndouba Kode⁴,
Khadidja Moussa⁴, Mahamat Nour Djidda⁴, Vincent Sapin²

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BACKGROUND

Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) is a real public health problem in Chad and in the Sahel countries. Indeed, VAD (Vitamin A<0.7 µmol/L) constitutes one of the main endemic causes of high morbidity and mortality following various attacks and infections, particularly in pregnant women, newborns and children. In other words, the early stages of life play a crucial role in shaping the determinants of health and disease. Understanding how nutritional interventions, such as spirulina consumption, affect newborns can provide valuable

insights into improving their nutritional status and long-term health outcomes. However, spirulina (*Spirulina platensis*), a natural source of β -carotene, is traditionally prepared under the name “*Dihé*” around the Lake Chad region. The main objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of spirulina consumption on the biological parameters of vitamin A (retinol) status in a cohort of “mother/newborn” couples.

METHODOLOGY

This study funded by the Nestlé Foundation was conducted at the Gozator hospital in Ndjamena (Chad) among pregnant women consuming spirulina (n=34) versus those who did not consume it (n=34) and followed them through to delivery in order to assess the impact of spirulina consumption on maternal and newborn nutritional outcomes. Vitamin A status was assessed by the HPLC method in maternal and umbilical cord blood. Plasma concentrations of RBP, TTR, albumin, orosomucoid proteins and CRP were measured by the VISTA Dimension System. Maternal characteristics of spirulina consumers (SP+, n=34) versus those who did not consume it (SP-, n=34) and the characteristics of babies born from women who consume spirulina (SP+, n=34) versus those who did not consume it (SP-, n=34) were also determined in this study.

RESULTS

Serum retinol concentrations were significantly higher in pregnant women consuming spirulina (SPI+) ($0.90 \pm 0.17\mu\text{mol/l}$) versus those who did not consume it (SPI-) (0.67 ± 0.16) ($P=0.006$). Serum concentrations of retinol taken from the umbilical cord were significantly higher in SPI+ babies ($0.72 \pm 0.15\mu\text{mol/l}$) than in SPI- babies (0.54 ± 0.19) ($P=0.047$). On the other hand, serum beta-carotene concentrations were very low and statistically similar in SPI+ babies ($0.020 \pm 0.009\mu\text{mol/l}$) as in SPI- babies (0.021 ± 0.003). Statistical differences were observed between the groups (SP+ # SP-) for BMI, which was significantly lower in the SPI- ($P=0.006$). This BMI result was perfectly correlated with the values obtained for birth weight in the two groups, which were statistically lower in babies born from (SP-) mothers.

CONCLUSION

The results confirmed that β -carotene in spirulina was an effective positive modulator of blood retinol status. “*Dihé*” (Spirulina) is

a potential natural source of highly convertible β -carotene to achieve good vitamin A status in healthy women living near Lake Chad. This study generally made it possible to improve knowledge on the potential beneficial effect of the consumption of “Dihé” in pregnant women and indirectly in newborns, in terms of vitamin A, an essential element for good fetal-maternal health.

Key words: Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD), spirulina, mother-newborn couple, Chad.

This project is supported through funding from the Nestlé Foundation







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BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Mulatu Abageda is affiliated with the Department of Reproductive Health, School of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Wachemo University, Ethiopia. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Gondar and a Master's degree in Maternity Health Nursing from Jimma University. He also pursued a Ph.D. at Jimma University, with a research project focusing on support for optimal breastfeeding practices. Previously, he worked as a staff nurse at Pawe Hospital and as an assistant lecturer and department head at Hosanna College of Health Science.

He is currently an assistant professor of Public Health at Wachemo University (since September 2025) with over 19 years of experience in public health research and teaching. He secured grants from the Nestlé Foundation for his Ph.D. His research interest focuses on optimal breastfeeding practices, maternal and child nutrition in resource-limited settings. Dr. Abageda has contributed to several peer-reviewed publications and actively collaborates with national researchers

EFFECTIVENESS OF COUPLE-BASED BREASTFEEDING EDUCATION AND SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS ON OPTIMAL BREASTFEEDING PRACTICES IN CENTRAL ETHIOPIA: A CLUSTER-RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

BACKGROUND

Optimal breastfeeding is essential for the survival, growth, and development of children, as well as the health of mothers. Globally, optimal breastfeeding practices are still low: only 42% of newborns start breastfeeding (BF) within the first hour of birth, 41% of infants less than 6 months of age are exclusively breastfed, and only 45% of mother's breastfeed for at least two years. Male partners play a vital but frequently neglected role in the promotion of breastfeeding practices. The effect of couple-based breastfeeding interventions on optimal breastfeeding has not been studied in the Ethiopian context. Therefore, the objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of couple-based breastfeeding education and support on optimal breastfeeding practice in Hadiya Zone, central Ethiopia.

METHODS

A cluster-randomized controlled trial and phenomenological qualitative study design was conducted. The intervention was provided to the mothers and male partners by trained health care workers selected from nearest health center. Mothers and their male partners in the Intervention Group (IG) received antenatal and postnatal breastfeeding education and support from the third trimester of pregnancy until 6 months postpartum, whereas participants in the Control Group (CG) received routine care. The breastfeeding education and support intervention is comprised of three components: 1) group education, 2) providing specific take-home print materials, 3) Individual home visit. A total of

408 couples in their third trimester pregnancy were recruited to either the intervention group (204) or a control group (204) from 16 clusters (Kebeles) and the duration of the intervention was 9 months. DID and Generalized Estimating Equation (GEE) model was used to evaluate the effect of the intervention on optimal breastfeeding practice. P values < 0.05 were used to declare statistical significance. A thematic analysis was performed by using Atlas Ti7 software for qualitative study.

RESULTS

In the qualitative study, four themes and nine sub-themes emerged from mothers' and fathers' perspectives of male partners' support for breastfeeding. The themes include the following: sociocultural barriers to male support; emotional and practical support; education and exposure access for fathers; and economic hardships and work-related barriers. The couple-based breastfeeding support intervention showed meaningful improvements in both parental behaviors and infant health. Mothers who received the intervention alongside their partners were significantly more likely to practice optimal breastfeeding and reported higher confidence in their ability to breastfeed. Compared to those receiving routine care, the intervention group saw a 17.5% increase in optimal breastfeeding practices and a 20.9% boost in mothers' breastfeeding self-efficacy. Male partners also showed more support, and their practical support increased by 30.9%. These changes were not only statistically significant but also practically important. Further analysis using the GEE model confirmed that mothers in the intervention group were 38% more likely to breastfeed optimally and 48% more likely to feel confident about breastfeeding. Their male partners were 78% more likely to actively support breastfeeding. Most strikingly, the intervention had a powerful effect on infant health: infants whose parents received this support experienced a 92.7% reduction in reported illness during the intervention period.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The interviews with mothers and fathers showed that while many male partners wanted to help, they faced challenges like cultural expectations, lack of information, work pressures, and financial strain. Parents who took part in the intervention saw clear improvements: mothers felt more confident in breastfeeding, and

fathers became more knowledgeable, had more positive attitudes, and gave stronger support. The study also found that when fathers were more involved, breastfeeding practices improved, and babies were much healthier, with a significant drop in illness. We recommend to scale up the involvement of male partner during pregnant mother forum, to give extended paternity leave, and perform future studies with three arm design.

Trial registration: *ClinicalTrials.gov identifier (NCT number):* NCT05173454, First registered on 30/12/2021

Keywords: optimal breastfeeding practice, breastfeeding self-efficacy, child morbidity, education and support, male partner support, Ethiopia



DR. ABDERAHIM AHMADOU

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BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Abderahim Ahmadou is an academic, researcher, and consultant specializing in food science, nutrition, food safety, and agricultural development. He holds a PhD in Food Science and Nutrition from the University of Montpellier, France, and has over a decade of experience in research, higher education, and international development. His work focuses on food safety, mycotoxin risk assessment, nutrition, sustainable agri-food systems, and the strengthening of agricultural value chains in West Africa. He has collaborated with institutions including the World Food Programme (WFP), CIRAD, and the Rural Polytechnic Institute of Training and Applied Research (IPR/IFRA) in Mali. Dr. Ahmadou has led and contributed to several research and development initiatives on food quality, nutrition, and public health and is a recipient of the Nestlé Foundation's research grant for the MILKSAFE project on mycotoxin contamination in raw milk in Mali.

ABSTRACT

ADDRESSING AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IN RAW MILK IN MALI: THE MILKSAFE PROJECT FOR IMPROVED FOOD SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Aflatoxin M1 contamination of milk represents an important food safety and public health concern in many low- and middle-income countries, where dairy production systems rely heavily on locally produced animal feeds that are susceptible to fungal contamination. In Mali, milk is a key source of nutrition for children and adults alike, yet limited information has been available on the occurrence of aflatoxins in dairy value chains and the factors driving contamination.

The MILKSAFE project, supported by the Nestlé Foundation, was established to generate scientific evidence on aflatoxin contamination in dairy production systems in the Kolokani and Kita regions of Mali and to identify practical interventions for reducing exposure. The study combines field surveys, feed and milk sampling, laboratory analyses, and risk assessment to evaluate contamination levels, identify critical control points, and characterize the practices associated with increased risk. The project also promotes awareness among dairy producers and other stakeholders on good agricultural and feed management practices that contribute to safer milk production.

This presentation will summarize the main findings of the project, highlight lessons learned from conducting food safety research in resource-constrained settings, and discuss the implications for nutrition, public health, and dairy sector development. Particular emphasis will be placed on the value of multidisciplinary partnerships and locally adapted interventions in strengthening food safety systems and protecting vulnerable populations from mycotoxin exposure.

The experience of the MILKSAFE project demonstrates how targeted research, supported by international collaboration, can inform evidence-based policies and contribute to safer, more resilient, and nutrition-sensitive food systems in West Africa.



MR. CASSAMO M. ISMAIL

Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAM), Northwest Regional Delegation, Lichinga, Mozambique

BIOGRAPHY

Cassamo M. Ismail is a researcher at the Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAM), Northwest Regional Delegation, based in Lichinga, Niassa Province, Mozambique. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Forestry Engineering from Universidade Lúrio, Mozambique, and a Master's degree in Production Sciences, Management and Conservation of Natural Resources from Universidad de Los Lagos, Chile.

His research focuses on sustainable agriculture, agroecology, climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, land-use change, and food security. He has collaborated with national and international organizations, including the Provincial Union of Farmers of Niassa (UPCN) and ICRISAT, on research and development initiatives. He currently leads community-based projects promoting agrobiodiversity, climate change adaptation, sustainable livelihoods, and food and nutrition security among smallholder farmers in northern Mozambique. His research has been published in peer-reviewed international journals and emphasizes soil conservation, ecosystem restoration, land-use change, and the integration of traditional knowledge into sustainable agricultural systems.

ABSTRACT

FROM AGROBIODIVERSITY TO FOOD SECURITY: EVIDENCE AND LESSONS FROM SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

Food insecurity remains a persistent challenge in northern Mozambique, where climate variability, recurrent droughts, pests, and limited access to agricultural inputs threaten the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. This presentation highlights findings from a study involving 369 farming households in Cuamba District, Niassa Province, which examined the relationship between agrobiodiversity and household food security. A household-level Agrobiodiversity Index (ABI) was developed using indicators of dietary diversity, crop diversity, livestock integration, and agroecological practices.

Generalized Propensity Score and regression analyses were used to assess the effects of agrobiodiversity on food security outcomes. The results revealed high levels of food insecurity and low dietary diversity among surveyed households. However, households with higher levels of agrobiodiversity demonstrated significantly better food security outcomes, including reduced food insecurity and longer periods of adequate food provisioning. The study further identified access to seeds and livestock, secondary education, non-farm income sources, and perceived productivity benefits as key drivers of agrobiodiversity adoption. Based on these findings, a practical framework is proposed for scaling agrobiodiversity through improved seed systems, crop diversification, agroecological practices, climate-resilient technologies, capacity building, and supportive policies. The findings demonstrate the potential of agrobiodiversity as a sustainable pathway to strengthen food security, improve resilience to climate shocks, and promote rural development in vulnerable agricultural communities. Lessons from northern Mozambique provide valuable insights for similar smallholder farming systems across Sub-Saharan Africa and other regions facing food and nutrition security challenges.

Keywords: Agrobiodiversity; food security; dietary diversity; smallholder farmers; climate resilience.



MS. GRANTINA MODERN

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Nelson Mandela African Institution of
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BIOGRAPHY

Grantina Modern is a PhD fellow in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from the University of Dar es Salaam and an Assistant Lecturer at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Arusha. Her research focuses on the microbiome and child growth by examining the children gut microbiome as a biomarker of childhood stunting in Tanzania, asking why growth failure persists even where food production is abundant. Her doctoral study profiles the age-driven gut bacteriome of children under two in Iringa, linking early-life exposures, WaSH practices and dietary factors to microbiome composition and growth outcomes. This work builds on her earlier research into environmental enteric dysfunction and stunting. Her nutrition research has been supported by the Nestlé Foundation since 2020. Passionate about STEM education and public health, she actively engages in mentorship, community projects, scientific advocacy and career guidance while serving on the Board of the Tanzania Human Genetics Organisation.

ABSTRACT

DETERMINATION OF AN ENTERIC BACTERIOME PROFILE AS A POSSIBLE BIOMARKER FOR GROWTH IN CHILDREN BELOW TWO YEARS OF AGE IN IRINGA REGION OF TANZANIA

Grantina Modern, Aneth David, Kilaza Samson, Beatus Lyimo, Ianina Altshuler, Sylvester Lyantagaye

Stunting, defined as height-for-age below -2 standard deviations of the World Health Organization (WHO) child growth standards median, is influenced by nutritional and environmental factors. It remains a public health challenge in Tanzania, particularly in Iringa (prevalence 57%, exceeding the national average of 30%), despite abundant food production. This study explored the gut bacteriome as a potential biomarker for child growth and its association with water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) practices. A community-based cross-sectional study (September-October 2024) enrolled 297 children aged 5-24 months in Iringa, collecting fecal samples and household data on growth metrics, WaSH, feeding practices and illness. Children were excluded if they: (i) were above 24 months of age; (ii) lacked parental consent or withdrew participation; or (iii) had received antibiotics within the prior 4 weeks. The study's protocol was approved by the Northern Tanzania Health Research Ethics Committee (KNCHREC) with approval number KNCHREC00021/01/2024 renewed to KNCHREC00021/01/2024/b. Written informed consent was obtained from parents/guardians of the selected children. The V3-V4 region of the 16S rRNA gene was sequenced using Illumina MiSeq and analysed with QIIME2 and R for alpha and beta diversity, differential abundance (ANCOM-BC) and random forest (RF) modelling. Overall, 60.5% of the children were stunted. Stunting was associated with older age, male gender, discontinued breastfeeding, poor feeding diversity, toilet sharing and residence location ($p < 0.001$, $p = 0.049$, $p = 0.001$, $p = 0.001$, $p = 0.001$ and $p = 0.005$, respectively). Significant differences in bacterial community composition were observed between stunted and

normally growing children (Shannon index $p = 0.0053$; Bray-Curtis $p = 0.001$). A shared core bacteriome was identified in both groups, influenced by environmental and dietary factors. Normally growing children were enriched with genera broadly associated with gut barrier integrity, immune maturation, SCFA production and healthy early-life microbial colonization including *Bifidobacterium*, *Rothia*, *Olsenella*, *Slackia*, *Lactobacillus*, *Gemella* and *Oscillibacter*, while stunted children showed enrichment of *Prevotella*, *Akkermansia*, *Fusobacterium*, *Acinetobacter*, *Alistipes*, *Odoribacter*, *Fournierella* and *Ruminococcus* torques group. Age was the most consistent predictor of gut microbial diversity. Although stunted and normally growing children share a core bacteriome shaped by common exposures, their gut microbiome compositions differ significantly, with distinct taxonomic enrichment patterns associated with each growth outcome. Promoting diverse complementary feeding, continued breastfeeding and improved hygiene could mitigate risks and inform targeted interventions in these regions.



NAME	AFFILIATION	TITLE OF PROJECT
Dr. Madeleine Nienaber	Nelson Mandela University, South Africa	Application of a Household Food Security Index to Evaluate the Impact of COVID-19 on Child Food Security in Low-Income Households in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa
Prof. Folake Samuel	University of Ibadan, Nigeria	Infant feeding support beyond mothers: A multi stakeholders synthesis from Ogbomoso, Nigeria
Ms. Imosi Oyesola Olatunji	University of South Africa, South Africa	Infant Feeding Support Beyond Mothers: A Multi-Stakeholder Synthesis from Ogbomoso, Nigeria
Dr. Frank Ekow Atta Hayford	University of Ghana, Ghana	Impact of Maternal Nutritional Knowledge and Child Feeding Practices on the Nutritional Status of Children in Low Resource Settings
Dr. Hedwig Acham	Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda	Nutritional quality of porridge from enriched bitter cassava flour (Manihot esculenta-Crantz) for infants and young children (6-23) months

Dr. Robert Fungo	Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda	Optimization of ProVitamin A Maize and Iron-Rich Bean- Based Composite Flour for Improved Child Nutrition
Prof. Francis Zotor Susanne Lauber Fürst	University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho	FoNedu (Food Nutrition Education) A Play-Based Pilot of Locally Adaptable Nutrition Education Combined with School Gardening in Rural Ghana
Prof. Amos Laar	University of Ghana, Ghana	Ghana's Food Environments: How Do We Make Them Health-Promoting and Disease-Preventing?
Ms. Gifty Emefa Dokpoh Dr. Faith Agbozo	University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho	Food Purchasing Behaviours and Snacking Habits of Primary School Children attending Schools Implementing the Ghana School Feeding Programme and Nutrition-Friendly School Initiative
Prof. Richmond Aryeetey	University of Ghana, Ghana	Evidence to inform Food systems and nutrition security for children and women in Ghana

Prof. Fidelis Kpodo	University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho	Effect of Spirulina-Sesame Pectin Complexes on Nutritional, Functional and Sensory Properties of Yoghurt
Prof. Dorcus Kigaru	Kenyatta University, Kenya	Implementation of Community-based nutrition counselling interventions in Kenya: Obesity management project among women in Nyeri County, Kenya
Mr Deprince Nakensy N'Dri Prof. Ali Jafari	Mohammed VI University of Sciences and Health	Nutritional transition among Sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco: Dietary practices, dietary diversity and metabolic implications
Prof. Marie Modestine Kana Sop	University of Douala, Cameroon	Food Based Approaches from Traditional Foods to Formulation of Complementary Foods for Malnutrition Management and Capacity Building
Dr. Abageda Mulatu Belachew Tefera	School of Public Health, Wachemo University	Effectiveness of couple-based breastfeeding education and support interventions on optimal breastfeeding practices in central Ethiopia: a cluster-randomized controlled trial

Prof. George Ooko Abong	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Building Capacity, Driving Innovation, Creating Impact: Food and Nutrition Lessons from the University of Nairobi, Kenya
Dr. Abderahim Ahmadou	Unit of Food Technology, IPR/ IFRA de Katibougou, Bamako, Mali	Addressing Aflatoxin Contamination in Raw Milk in Mali: The MILKSAFE Project for Improved Food Safety and Public Health
Mr. Cassamo M. Ismail	Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAM)	From Agrobiodiversity to Food Security: Evidence and Lessons from Smallholder Farmers in Northern Mozambique
Ms. Jane Odei	University of Ghana, Ghana	Dyslipidaemia Risk Among Schoolchildren in Ghana
Dr. Rosemary Akolaa	University of Environment and Sustainable Development	From Indigenous Food to Functional Nutrition: Optimising a 100% Dawadawa Product for Adolescent Nutrition in Ghana
Dr. Rosemary Akolaa	University of Environment and Sustainable Development	Acceptability and Perceived Suitability of Nutrient- Enriched Gari Formulations for Adolescent School Feeding in Ghana

Dr. Phylis Addo	University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho	Adherence to Continued Breastfeeding Recommendations and Associated Factors Among Mothers of Children Aged 12-24 Months in Selected Districts of Ghana
Mr. Samuel K. Apedo	University of Ghana, Ghana	Salt Intake, Obesity and Hypertension among Ghanaian Adults: Evidence from the RODAM Prospective Cohort
Dr. Christiana Nsiah-Asamoah	University of Cape Coast, Ghana	Nutrition-Friendly in Name or Practice? Implementation Gaps in School Food Policies, Food Availability, and Adolescent Diets in Ghana
Dr. Tonderayi Mathew Matsungu	Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe	Advancing Nutrition, Food Systems and Public Health in Zimbabwe: Current Research Portfolio and Areas of Expertise
Ms. Faustina Naa LArtey	Regional Institute for Population Studies University of Ghana	Education and Anemia among Women of Reproductive Age in Ghana: Evidence from the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey

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AGENDA

09:30 – 10:00	Registration and Coffee/Tea	
10:00 – 10:30	Opening	Prof. Paul Amuna, Prof. Wilna Oldewage, Mr. Thomas Hauser
10:30 – 11:15	Key Note Speech	Prof. Anna Lartey
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee/Tea Break	All
11:30 – 12:30	Testimonial Talks - 10 mins speech + 5 mins Q&A	
11:30 – 11:45	Prof. Reginald Annan (Ghana)	
11:45 – 12:00	Dr. Omotola Ogundairo Yetunde (Nigeria)	
12:00 – 12:15	Mr. Habimana Jean de Dieu (Rwanda)	
12:15 – 12:30	Dr. Margaret Kabahenda (Uganda)	
12:30 – 13:30	Stand-up Snacking Lunch Poster Sessions	All
13:30 – 14:00	Key Note Vision and Funding Policy of the Foundation	Mr. Thomas Hauser, Prof. Wilna Oldewage
14:00 – 15:45	Scientific Presentations - 10 mins speech + 5 mins Q&A	
14:00 – 14:15	Ms. Sika Jeanne Gwaldys Gnanvi (Benin)	
14:15 – 14:30	Prof. Marie Modestine Kana Sop (Cameroon)	
14:30 – 14:45	Prof. Imar Djibrine Soudy (Tchad)	
14:45 – 15:00	Dr. Abageda Mulatu Belachew Tefera (Ethiopia)	
15:00 – 15:15	Dr. Abderahim Ahmadou (Mali)	
15:15 – 15:30	Mr. Cassamo Mohamed Ismail (Mozambique)	
15:30 – 15:45	Ms. Grantina Modern (Tanzania)	
15:45 – 16:30	Pan Africa Alumni Network - Official kick-off	Hon. Prof. Titus Beyuo, Paul Amuna, Wilna Oldewage, Thomas Hauser
16:30	End of event and departures	All