

# Structural Transformation of African and Asian Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAAARS+)

Kelsey Schreiber and Chris Barrett

Presented at

PARTNERING TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITY FOR APPLIED POLICY RESEARCH WITH  
IMPACT: ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER PRCI, LESSONS, AND NEXT STEPS

Washington, DC (Ronald Reagan Building)

March 6-8, 2024



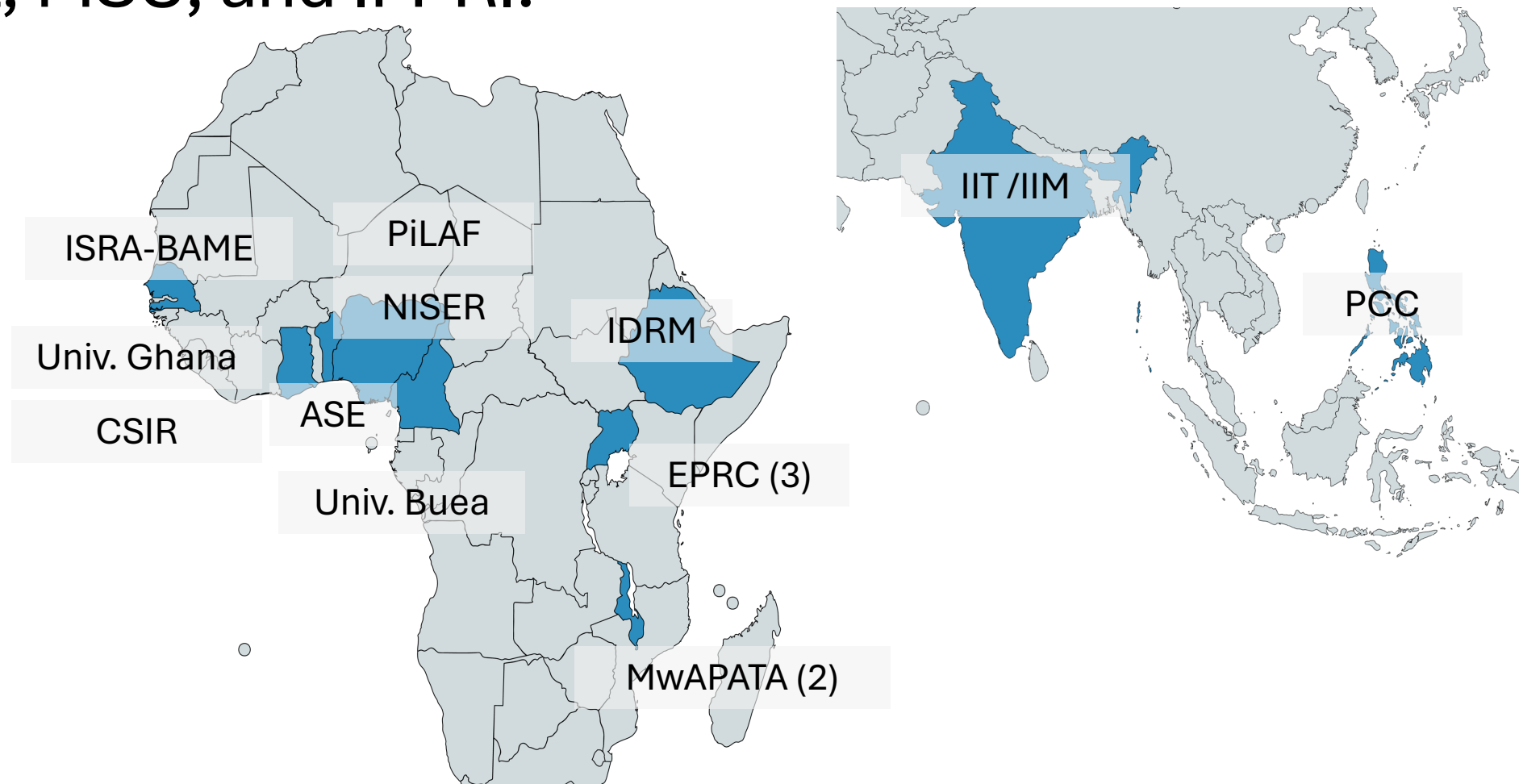
# An overview of the STAAARS+ program

Objectives	Selection	Research	Trainings	Visit	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance rigorous, policy-oriented food security research</li> <li>• Build capacity of early-career researchers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teams of 2-3 early-career researchers</li> <li>• Pair teams with mentors at Cornell, IFPRI or MSU</li> <li>• 18-month fellowship period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teams jointly author a research paper</li> <li>• Mentors assist, support, and provide feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplemental "hidden curriculum" trainings</li> <li>• 8 core topics, including research ethics, transparent research, and time management</li> <li>• Additional PRCI trainings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-week U.S. in-person work period with mentors</li> <li>• Cohort-building activities</li> <li>• Intensive feedback</li> <li>• Networking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research to policy training</li> <li>• Specific policy-oriented deliverables (e.g. policy briefs, stakeholder meetings)</li> </ul>

# 15 teams were supported over four cohorts by mentors from Cornell, MSU, and IFPRI.

## Quick Facts

- 14 women, 26 men
- 4 teams led by women
- Expanded support to institutions beyond PRCI core centers



**Key** – ASE: African School of Economics | CSIR: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research | EPRC: Economic Policy Research Centre | IDRIM: Institute of Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Studies, Bahir Dar University | IIT/M: Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode | ISRA-BAME: Institute of Senegalese Agricultural Research, Bureau of Macro-economic Analysis | NISER: Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research | PiLAF: Policy Leadership in Agriculture and Food Security | PCC: Philippine Competition Commission

# The STAAARS+ teams have generated strong research outputs.

- Journal publications
  - 2 accepted and published
  - 1 in review
  - 2 in revision
- 8 working papers
- 4 policy briefs
- 2 policy seminars
- Conference attendance and presentations

## Structural Transformation in Rural Ghana: The Trends and Drivers Policy Brief

DOWNLOAD

August 10, 2023 - Author: Monica P. Lambon-Quayefio, Kwame Adjei-Mantey, Emmanuel Adu-Danso

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### Key Policy Messages

- The pace of structural transformation has been slow.
- Improvements in access to electricity have been slow.
- Public policy should be aimed at improving electricity access and reliability through electrification through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).
- The Ministry of Food and Agriculture should lead the implementation of these policies to ensure structural transformation in the rural labour force.

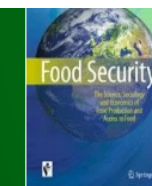
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For more information on the impacts of this type of fellowship program, please read [Schreiber et. al \(2022\)](#) for our analysis of the STAAARS program (of which STAAARS+ is the team-based analog program).

# The benefits of STAAARS+ last beyond the Fellowship period.

*“[Our mentors] helped us get funding from their respective institutes (Colgate and Cornell) for our RCT follow-up surveys and experiments, which would have been difficult otherwise.”*

Research  
Collaborations



*“I learned from [the STAAARS+] network about the Africa Talent Programme at Wageningen University, a unique Ph.D. opportunity I was eventually awarded.”*

Network Building  
and Exposure

*“[The program] enabled me to improve on many aspects such as presentation skills, writing, [and] analytical techniques... I’m imparting these skills to my fellow colleagues and students.”*

Skills Building and Knowledge Transfer

For more personal testimonials of the broader impact of this type of fellowship, please read our blog post [Decolonizing Development Economics: The STAARS Experience](#), co-authored by a STAARS alumni and STAAARS+ two-time mentor, Kibrom Abay (IFPRI).