



## Call for papers for a Symposium on Food Security, Migration and Innovation in Senegal and Zimbabwe: Lessons for Africa

Attaining food security is one of the key aspects of the African Union's Agenda 2063 buttressed by the Science Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA) 2024 and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). However currently not all African countries have attained sustainable food security, given that the continent has the highest undernourishment prevalence affecting almost 21 % of the population (World Bank 2018), and Zimbabwe fall in this class with a prevalence of 47%.

In Senegal, the prevalence of undernourishment has decreased from 29 % in 2000 to 11% in 2016 (World Bank 2019). Food security has been a central preoccupation of successive development strategies post-1960, all of which have made agriculture a priority sector. Yet, the country has experienced limited structural transformation and diversification policy constitutes a priority in order to be less vulnerable to exogenous shocks. As for Zimbabwe, it is a country historically renowned for food self-sufficiency and security backed by both commercial and rural grain production. The Fast-Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) in 2000 to redistribute land to peasants and domestic elites, and various factors combined to influence the decline including economic crisis, weather variability and challenges in the agro-industrial sector, disturbed this equilibrium resulting loss of agricultural productivity and increase in poverty (Moyo 2011). Currently Zimbabwe is characterised by an economic and political crisis with direct consequences on food security and migration.

This Workshop sets out to critically analyse the gendered intersections of food security, migration and innovation ecosystems at multiple levels: private investments in the agriculture, public actors' food security agenda, rural exodus and migration as well as the role frugal innovations for resource limited farmers and livelihoods bricolage of the most vulnerable households in Senegal and Zimbabwe. The key question that this symposium focuses on is: given the complexity surrounding rural-urban migration, the quest for food security, shifting agriculture industrial structures and the burden of economic development being placed on agriculture because of environmental discourses:

- What are the innovations in agriculture and food systems that are required to sustainably attain food security for these countries?
- How can agricultural activities support diverse farming models that can respond to the right to food?
- What are the obstacles to food security in Senegal and Zimbabwe and how can local food systems be restored?
- How can land tenure and agricultural policy accommodate patterns of migration and contribute to building more resilient food systems and rural labour markets?
- What are the implications of the current international food regime and outward-oriented agricultural production on domestic food security and local labour regimes?
- How are traditional patterns of pastoralists and other local migrant producers disrupted by agricultural expansion and what are the food security implications?
- What are the implications of adopting biotechnology for local food systems in these two countries?

The above dynamics are analysed in regional configurations and in global processes through these **five (5) thematic areas**: i) Food Security and financing agriculture; ii) Agricultural Biotechnology; iii) Rural versus Urban Migration, Gender and Youth Employment; iv) Innovative Agricultural Business models and attendant innovation ecosystems; and v) Sustainability and Resilience of Local Food Systems

We invite submission of papers representing all disciplines of Social Sciences, Science Technology and Innovation Studies, and Humanities. Please send your abstract by **20 April 2019** to [rdieng@ed.ac.uk](mailto:rdieng@ed.ac.uk) . The authors of selected papers will be notified by **24 April**, and are expected to submit their full paper by **7 June 2019**.