

# DR. THOMAS JAYNE RECOGNIZED AS THE 2021 AWARDEE FOR THE BIFAD AWARD FOR SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE IN A FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB

May 11, 2022



*Dr. Thomas (Thom) Jayne*

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (**BIFAD**) is honored to recognize Dr. Thomas (Thom) Jayne as the recipient of the 2021 Senior Researcher Award for Scientific Excellence in a Feed the Future Innovation Lab.

With this award, BIFAD recognizes research efforts that contribute to the interrelated and interdependent objectives of the U.S. Government's Global Food Security Strategy: inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth, strengthened resilience among people and systems, and a well-nourished population. Dr. Jayne is a University Foundation Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University, currently on a three-year assignment with the African Development Bank as Special Advisor to the President. Dr. Jayne is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI).

The BIFAD awards panel highlighted Dr. Jayne's impactful research on food systems transformation in Africa. Most of Dr. Jayne's more recent research and outreach is through his role as the Capacity Strengthening Lead with the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence, and as a contributor to both the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Policy and the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification.

As one example of Dr. Jayne's many extraordinary accomplishments, Jayne served as lead author on a landmark report documenting the rapid rise of medium-scale entrepreneurial African farms and their impact on the agricultural transformation process underway in much of Africa. This work led to the governments of Malawi and Zambia calling for a review of land and commercial agricultural programs in their countries.



*Dr. Jayne appointed as Special Advisor to the President of the African Development Bank in 2019, pictured here with AfDB President, Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina*

As another example, Dr. Jayne led efforts to address the challenges related to developing the capacities of African research institutions. Dr. Jayne's insights and the lessons learned in a culminating synthesis report led to transformational changes in how the Feed the Future Innovation Labs partners with African-led institutions to strengthen policy analysis capacity.

Among the most cherished aspects of his work, Dr. Jayne mentions seeing his students thrive, seeing African research and policy units becoming stronger and more influential, and seeing their research utilized by African governments and development organizations.

Beyond these accomplishments, nominators spoke of Dr. Jayne's commitment to mentoring the next generation of agricultural policy researchers and supporting leadership of policy research efforts by African institutions. Dr. Jayne's colleagues, Dr. Adesoji Adelaja and Dr. Felicia Wu, who nominated him for this prestigious award, shared that "he is a widely respected thought leader who combines incisive scholarship, a commitment to informing a diversity of audiences, and a dedication to building policy and action-oriented programs that integrate scholarship, mentoring, institution building, and policy engagement."

Dr. Jayne will be recognized at an awards presentation and lecture in fall 2022.

**ABOUT BIFAD:** The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (**BIFAD**) is a seven-member, presidentially appointed advisory board to USAID established in 1975 under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended, to ensure that USAID brings the assets of U.S. universities to bear on development challenges in agriculture and food security and supports their representation in USAID programming.

**ABOUT THE FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LABS:** The Feed the Future **Innovation Labs** draw on the expertise of top U.S. universities and developing country research institutions to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges in agriculture and food security. Led by U.S. universities, Innovation Labs are central to advancing novel solutions that support the goals of reducing global hunger, poverty, and undernutrition. The BIFAD Awards for Scientific Excellence recognize student and senior researchers for significant achievements originating from work performed under the Feed the Future Innovation Labs. Award selection criteria include scientific merit; relevance to country priorities; potential for broader impact at scale; and evidence of commitment to inclusive development and local capacity development.