

STEMconnector®

INNOVATION LABS



FOOD & AG CAREERS INNOVATION LAB

The **STEMconnector Food & Ag Careers Innovation Lab** is a membership group with the goal of engaging the next generation in STEM careers in food and agriculture. The Innovation Lab is a reimagining of the prior STEM Food & Ag Council of STEMconnector, whose vision is to develop the requisite human capital to drive the innovation necessary to sustainably feed over nine billion people by 2050. The Food & Ag Careers Innovation Lab convenes key players from industry, non-profits, higher education, and the public sector in order to maximize impact through collective action.



About Feed, Nourish, Thrive

Launched by the STEM Food & Ag Careers Innovation Lab in 2015, Feed, Nourish, Thrive is an initiative to help those currently making decisions about their future (largely high school, undergraduate and graduate students) explore various interesting and fulfilling STEM careers in food and agriculture. The vision of the project is to create and curate a portal with dynamic content to engage young people in an interesting way.

The Feed, Nourish, Thrive site **Website Focus:** will be continually modified and updated, to accommodate the changing opinions and interests of the target audience. The Innovation Lab will use external and internal channels, including live events, to reach as wide an audience as possible.

Diverse Populations
Non-Traditional Food and Agriculture Backgrounds

User Experience
Inspirational and Aspirational Stories

Themes -
Themed content, on a predetermined timeline, that interests the intended audience.

Profiled Individuals -
Profile employees and students of member organizations with STEM careers in food and agriculture.

Members & Partners -
Innovation Lab Members and Partners will showcase stories from their organizations.

Why Food & Agriculture?

We will need to feed more than

9 Billion
people by
2050

There are expected to be almost

58,000
job openings in food and agriculture each year.

Only

3%

of students have access to agriculture and food education.



Innovation Lab Benefits

- Branding- Each member organization will receive branding in all relevant documents, blog posts, press releases and presentations.
- Project Working Groups- Individual member organizations can choose to join a designated Working Group.
- Online Content- Member organizations will have the opportunity to highlight programs and initiatives they are currently engaged with on FeedNourishThrive.com
- Research- Research and reports conducted by Innovation Lab members and partner organization will be open and shared with Lab members.
- Formal and Informal Networking Opportunities- Opportunity to network, both physically and through virtual convenings, with other high-level, like-minded individuals working STEM food and agriculture fields.

2018 Innovation Lab Events

In addition, Lab members are invited the STEMconnector All Member Summit, May 18, 2018, Washington, DC

Innovation Lab Workshop

April 4-5, 2018
Washington, DC



Innovation Lab Virtual Meeting

July 18, 2018
Webinar/telecom



Innovation Lab Workshop

November 2018
Kansas City, MO



Past & Key Activities

- 2014 - Release of Food & Ag Workforce Report
- 2015 - Launch of Feed, Nourish, Thrive Campaign
- 2016 - Launch of FeedNourishThrive.com
- 2017 - Inaugural #AGis Outreach Event

Participants of Lab Meetings Include

Community Colleges:

Des Moines Area Community College
Ivy Tech Community College

Foundations:

American Farm Bureau Foundation
Noble Foundation

Government:

USDA: Agriculture Research Service
Economic Research Service
Food & Nutrition Science
Research Education & Economics

Universities:

Tuskegee University
University of California, Davis
Florida International University

Industry:

ADM
CHS
Cargill
Diversified Search
DowDuPont
Mead JohnsonNutrition
Monsanto

Nationwide

PepsiCo
Smithfield Foods

Professional Societies:

Alliance of Crop, Soil and
Environment Science Societies
American Society of Plant Biologists
International Food Information Council

Youth Development Organizations:

Agriculture Future of America
MIND Research Institute
National FFA Organization