International Decade of Science for Sustainable Development

Distinguished Lecture Series

Following the successful Distinguished Lecture Series launched by the International Science Council (ISC) in 2022, as an initiative of its cluster of the International Unions and Associations Members dealing with Earth and space sciences (GeoUnions), in support of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD), the ISC GeoUnions are presenting a lecture series in recognition of the ratification by the United Nations of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD).

The lectures are aimed at highlighting the importance and role of science in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and will be of interest to researchers and students.

The third in the new series is to be presented by Professor William G. Moseley on **Tuesday 13TH May 2025 at 12h00 UTC (GMT).** Attendance is free, join the session on Zoom here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86361047315?pwd=do3fGRzmsdBiP7b8aRj38tbH8Ubygo.1

"Decolonizing African Agriculture: Food Security, Agroecology and the Need for Radical Transformation"

Professor William G. Moseley

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Prof William Moseley's new book analyzes the history of food security and agricultural development initiatives in post- colonial Africa and outlines a vision for future prosperity. The book's main argument has three parts. First, development organizations and governments will only begin to seriously address food insecurity (SDG2) in Africa when they more fully question the assertion that a narrow focus on production agriculture is the solution, an idea that is central to crop science or agronomy. Second, agricultural development must be seen as more than the first step in an industrial development process, but as a sustainable livelihood that has value in and of itself. Third, an agroecological approach, combined with good governance, will allow people to have greater control over their food systems, produce healthy food more sustainably, and enhance access to food by the poorest of the poor. Following a broad conceptual introduction emphasizing political agronomy and political ecology, Moseley reviews past food security and agricultural development experiences in four countries where he has undertaken research: Mali, Burkina Faso, South Africa and Botswana. He then examines successful efforts in each of the aforementioned countries and outlines future directions that emphasize agroecology, or the application of ecological principles to agricultural systems. He concludes with some ideas about institutions at the national, regional and international levels. To build more resilient food systems and a different kind of development, new institutions will need to emerge that support agroecology and vibrant rurality.

Professor William G. Moseley is DeWitt Wallace Professor of Geography, and Director of the Food, Agriculture and Society Program, at Macalester College in Saint Paul, MN. His research focuses on tropical agriculture, food security, environment and development, particularly in Africa. He is the author or co-author of more than 100 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters, as well as 12 books. His research has been funded by the US National Science Foundation, the US Fulbright- Hays Program, and the American Geographical Society. In 2022-2023, he was a Phi Beta Kappa scholar and in 2016 he was awarded the Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang Distinguished Scholar Award by the AAG. He currently serves as president of the Mande Studies Association (MANSA) and Vice-President of the American Association of Geographers (AAG). He previously served as a member of the United Nations High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN). His commentaries have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post and Al Jazeera English.