

AFRICANS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY WORKING GROUP

Tuesday March 7, 2017 at 5:00pm
442 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley



March meeting topic

How can genomics help enable food sovereignty in Africa?

Abstract

In the context of surging global population, climate change, and threats from pests and diseases, there is an urgent need for the improvement of African staple crops. Modern genetic tools, such as high-quality genome assemblies, can facilitate more efficient breeding of these crops. In this talk, the starchy root cassava will be used to illustrate the role of genomics in fighting food insecurity in Africa.

Bio

Jessica Lyons is a postdoc in Dan Rokhsar's lab in the Molecular and Cell Biology department at UC Berkeley. She studies genomics of cassava and yam, in collaboration with researchers in Africa and around the world.

Facilitators

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The Africans Food Sovereignty Working Group at Cal is a venue for activists, organizers, researchers, policy makers, scientists, filmmakers, and anybody else interested in Africa's and the African diaspora's food systems. The working group's goals are to critically reflect on projects, scholarship, and information that engage with the experience of African communities and social movements both in the Continent and in the diaspora who are at the frontline combating food insecurity, climate change, and redesigning alternative food systems utilizing ecological and sustainable methods. The events of AFSWG are free and open to the public.