

CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE & FOOD EXPLORATION WORKSHOP



JUNE 2024

PREPARED BY

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FARM FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

“The content, discussions and panel guest and speakers were perfect. The lunch and learns were inspiring and needed especially for students of color.”

“The overall experience with CAFE was exceptional. I really enjoyed the panel discussion and hands on help each student received.”

“I really learned a lot about how ... to network and communicate with other people and sharing my ideas and what I like about agriculture.”

“I enjoyed the whole experience. I really enjoyed learning about myself and hearing the different backgrounds from others.”

The Farm Foundation CAFE (Careers in Food and Agriculture Exploration) Student Workshop is made possible by the SAPLINGS (System Approach to Promote Learning and Innovation for the Next GenerationS) grant, in partnership with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T) as part of their \$18.1 million grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Participating in this five-year project will help us to continue our work nurturing emerging food and agricultural leaders, foster strong and beneficial relationships, and encourage open and objective sharing of diverse perspectives.

We were thrilled to partner with NC A&T on our 2024 program which brought nine promising undergraduate students from 1890 land-grant institutions to campus. Over the course of our two-day workshop the students explored career opportunities in agriculture, developed new skills for positioning themselves on the job market, expanded their networks, and left with a transformational experience and new tools to carry them into their future careers. We are grateful to the many faculty, staff, and guest speakers who shared their time and resources with our first cohort of CAFE students.

The future of agriculture is bright, and Farm Foundation is proud to play a role in cultivating the next generation of diverse food and agriculture professionals.



ABOUT FARM FOUNDATION



FARM FOUNDATION IS AN ACCELERATOR OF PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR AGRICULTURE. WE ACCELERATE PEOPLE AND IDEAS INTO ACTION USING OUR LEVERS OF POLICY, INNOVATION, AND EDUCATION.



We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit working across the food and ag value chain to build momentum behind meaningful solutions to some of the most important challenges facing farmers and, by extension, our industry as a whole. Our fiercely nonpartisan approach means we are uniquely able to address issues with objectivity and inclusivity, bringing together diverse perspectives from influential people and organizations to discuss and develop solutions. We support food and agriculture by meeting challenges with a relentless dedication to ensuring all the right stakeholders are involved and engaged in building something for the greater good —providing an agenda-free zone to achieve a shared vision for a better future for food and ag. We move with speed, purpose and agility to make the greatest impact in the most important areas in the shortest amount of time.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The CAFE (Careers in Ag and Food Exploration) Student Workshop provides undergraduate students from 1890 land-grant institutions an opportunity to enhance their understanding of the food and agricultural sector and the myriad career opportunities available therein. Beyond cultivating additional interest and understanding in agriculture, this program will also help students with building a professional network, preparing for the job market or further education, learning about additional opportunities available to students in agriculture and related fields.

OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Increase participant's knowledge and understanding of career options in agriculture.
- Increase participant's knowledge and understanding of government and agencies' roles in policy making for agriculture.
- Increase participant's knowledge and understanding of key current and emerging trends in agriculture.
- Increase participant's knowledge and understanding of production agriculture systems.
- Increase participant's knowledge and understanding of their working strengths and frustrations.
- Increase participant's knowledge and understanding of their personal and professional values.
- Provide participants with resume critiques and tips to provide them with a resume that is ready to share with future employers.
- Increase participant's knowledge and understanding of the networking opportunities LinkedIn provides and how it can elevate their personal brand.
- Increase participant's confidence in networking with new people and potential employers.
- Prepare participants with an elevator pitch to introduce themselves concisely and confidently.
- Prepare participants for job interviews.
- Participants will have set SMART personal and professional goals.

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

2024 CAFE SESSIONS

The 2024 CAFE Student Workshop Cohort



Mya Blake
Tennessee State
University



Addison Bonner
North Carolina
A&T University



Rickinsha Calbert
Tennessee State
University



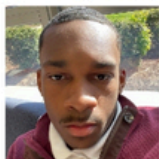
Destinae Davis
Southern University
and A&M College



Emma Douglas
Tennessee State
University



Christopher Hills
Southern University
and A&M College



Jeffery Jackson
Tennessee State
University



Arion Jones
Tennessee State
University



Dorrien Oliver
Tennessee State
University



Eriana Pitts
Tennessee State
University

The 2024 CAFE session was held May 20-21 at North Carolina A&T University Farm Pavilion in Greensboro, North Carolina. On day one of the workshop participants learned about their “Working Genius,” assessed their personal values and how they affect their career choices, worked on building their resumes, had a discussion about being an involved student with MANRRS National Graduate Student President Kayla Braggs, toured the North Carolina A&T University Farms, worked on bolstering their LinkedIn presence, and created and practiced their elevator pitches.

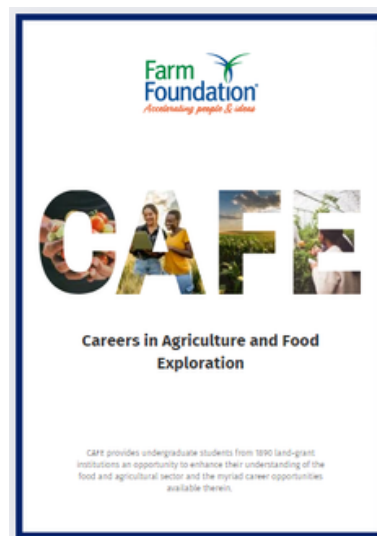
On day two students were able to have a panel discussion with current leaders in agriculture, including Fabiola Perez of John Deere, Sylvester Miller of FMC, Jack Long of National Wheat Growers, Milosh McAdoo of BASF, and Dr. Shandrea Stallworth of Purina. Participants also dove into careers in agriculture and researched ways to get involved in their chosen industry as a student. Over lunch, the students were able to have a career discussion with Kianna Wilson of FMC. That afternoon, students learned tips about preparing for job interviews, SMART goal setting, and discussed next steps of implementing what they learned once they get back to school.

Finally, the group was able to visit the Syngenta Crop Protection North America Headquarters. While visiting Syngenta, the students were able to meet with senior leaders in agriculture, gain a better understanding of the work that Syngenta does globally, and learn about internship and career opportunities with Syngenta.

WORKSHOP TOPICS & TOOLS

PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH TOOLS TO SUCCEED

In addition to the robust programming scheduled outlined on the next page, students were provided with several tools to add to their professional success and confidence. Some examples are provided below.



A CAFE notebook was created to help guide the work and goals of the participants throughout the workshop and beyond.

Students also completed a "Working Genius" assessment for a professional self-evaluation.





WORKSHOP TOPICS & TOOLS

PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH TOOLS TO SUCCEED

Day 1: Cultivating the Leader in You

9:00-9:05 am Welcome/Overview
9:05-9:15 am Pre-Assessment
9:15-9:45 am Student Introductions
9:45-10:00 am Overview of Working Genius
10:00-10:45 am Review of Results and Next Steps to Apply Your Working Genius
10:45-11:00 am Break
11:00-11:30 am Values-The Connection to Personal and Professional
11:30 am-12:30 pm Resume Blitz
12:30-1:15 pm Lunch and Learn with Kayla Braggs
1:15-2:15 pm NC A&T Farm Tour
2:30-3:15 pm Leveraging LinkedIn
3:15-4:00 pm Elevator to the Top
6:00-8:00 pm Evening Activity Spare Time Greensboro

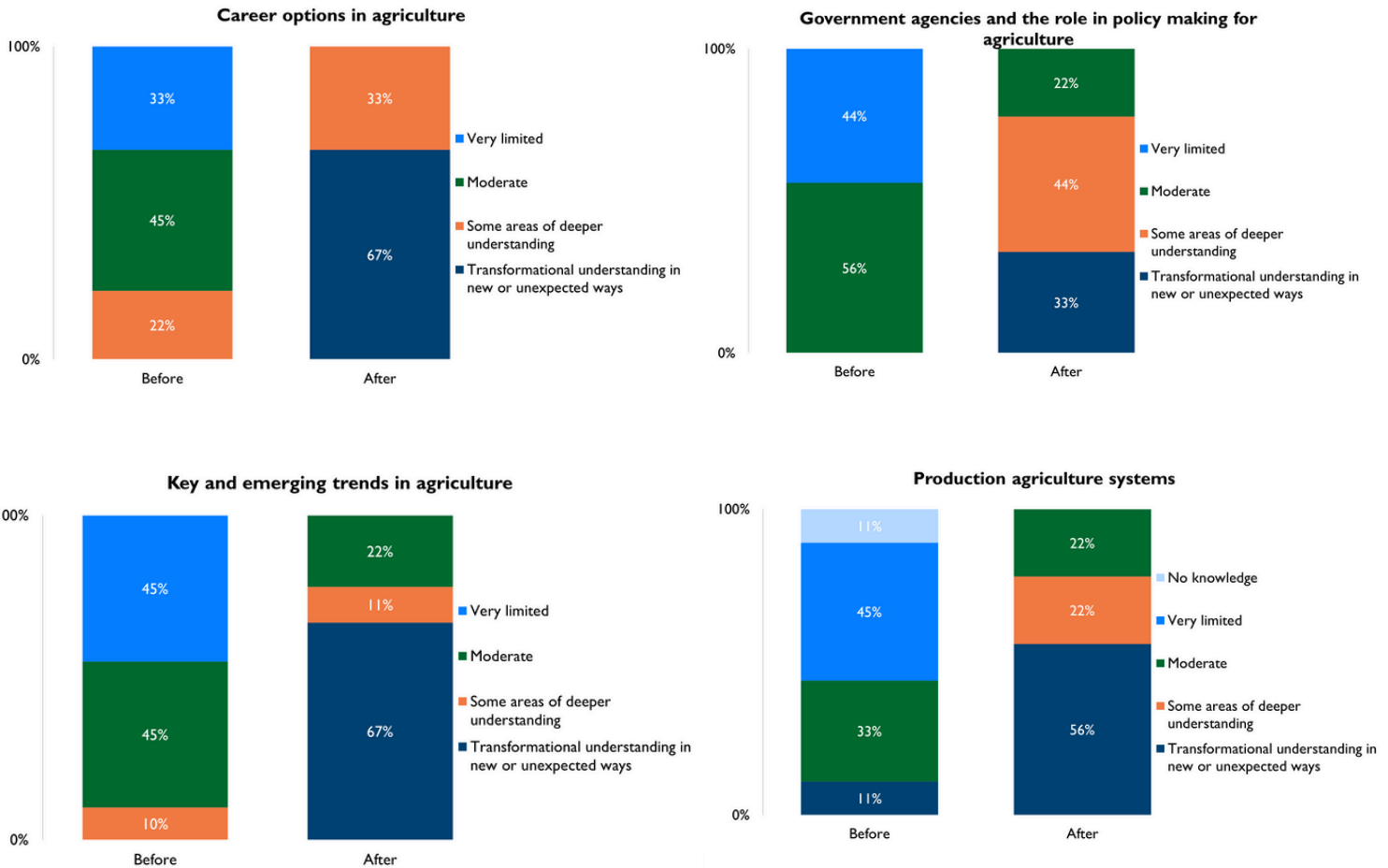
Day 2: Leaders in Food & Agriculture

9:00-9:15 am Morning Energizer
9:15-10:30 am Ag Leader Panel - Agriculture Careers
10:30-10:45 am Break
10:45-11:45 am Opportunities in Agriculture
12:00-12:45 pm Lunch and Learn with Kianna Wilson, Manager of Industry Relations FMC Corporation
12:45-1:45 pm Next Steps to Ace the Interview
1:45-2:45 pm SMART Goals & Next Steps/Post Assessment
2:45-4:00 pm Syngenta Greensboro Office
4:00-4:30 pm Travel Back to Hotel
5:15 pm Meet in the Lobby
7:20-8:30 pm Evening Activity Breakout Games Greensboro

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

STUDENTS COMPLETED A PRE AND POST ASSESSMENT TO MEASURE GROWTH IN THE KEY OBJECTIVES OUTLINED BY THE PROJECT

Students were asked a series of questions that focused on their knowledge and understanding about various agriculture topics and fields:

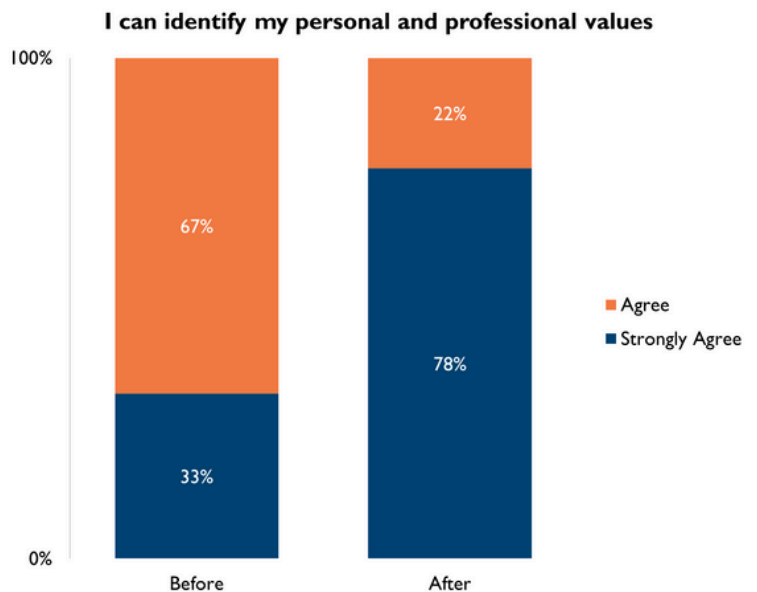
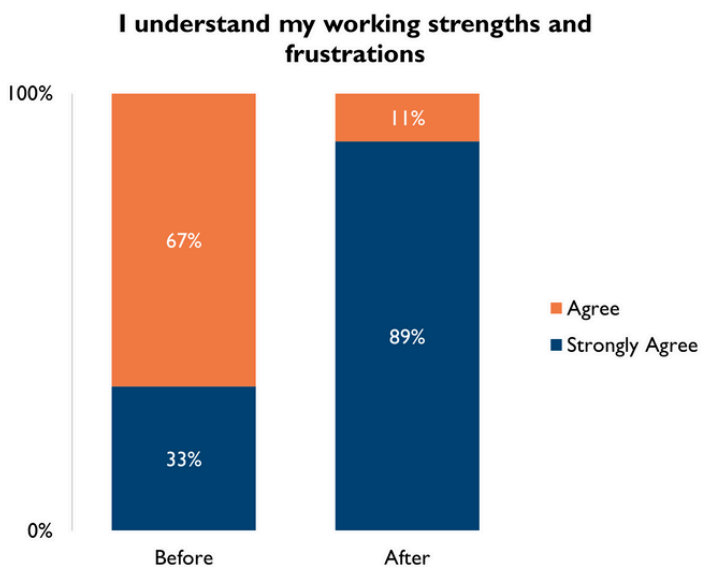
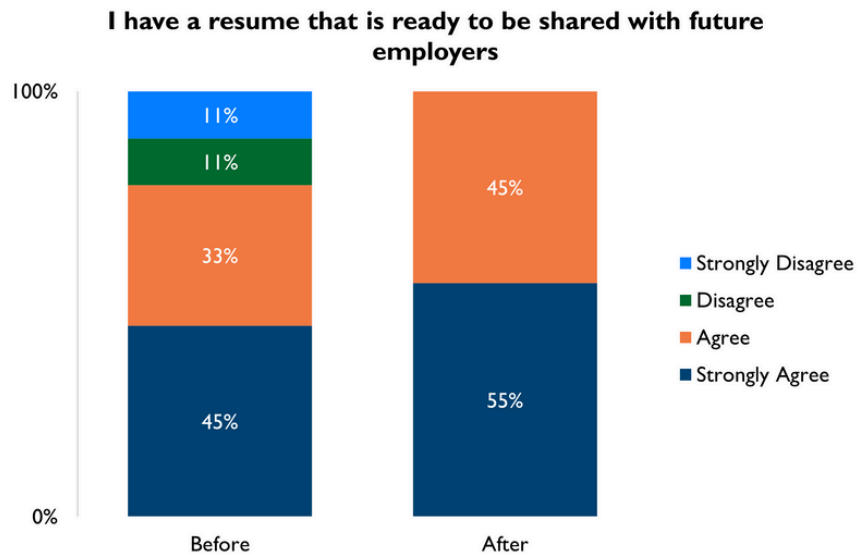
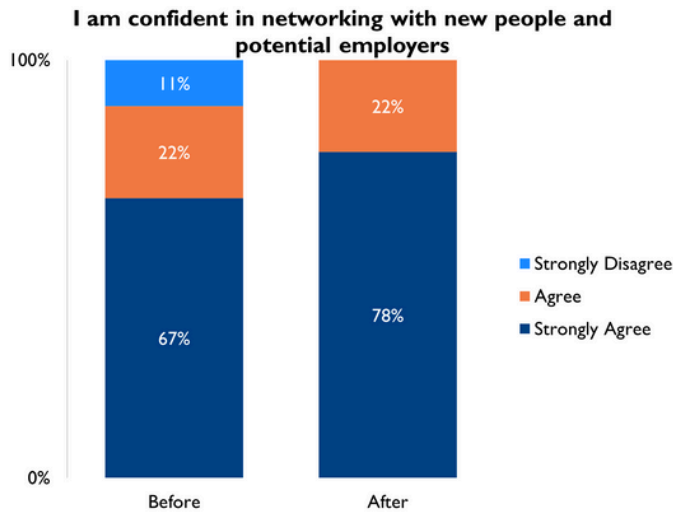


The results of the assessments show **significant and transformational** shifts in **understanding** of (1) **career options** in agriculture, (2) **government agencies and policy making** in agriculture, (3) key and emerging **trends** in agriculture, and (4) **production agriculture** systems. Even in instances where the students at the pre-assessment had indicated they had some knowledge of a particular topic area, the post-assessments show that the students left the program **no longer believing they had limited knowledge** in any of of these topic areas.

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

STUDENTS COMPLETED A PRE AND POST ASSESSMENT TO MEASURE GROWTH IN THE KEY OBJECTIVES OUTLINED BY THE PROJECT

Students were asked a series of questions that focused on their personal and professional strengths.



The results of the assessments show **significant and transformational** shifts in their **confidence** and **career readiness**. Students received **dedicated and targeted mentoring** on not only their resumes and LinkedIn preparation, but also on giving an **elevator pitch**, **setting goals**, and reflecting on their **personal and professional values** as they explore careers in agriculture.



PROJECT TIMELINE

FUTURE PROJECT PLANNING

TASK	START DATE	END DATE
RECRUITMENT APPLICATION OPEN	MARCH 10, 2025	APRIL 7, 2025
PARTICIPANT SELECTION	APRIL 14, 2025	APRIL 14, 2025
PROGRAM PLANNING	JANUARY 2025	APRIL 2025
CAFE 2025 PROGRAM	MAY 18, 2025	MAY 20, 2025

THE 2024 CAFE COHORT WILL HAVE A FOLLOW UP CHECK IN MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2024.

THE 2024 CAFE COHORT WILL BE ADDED TO THE FARM FOUNDATION NEXT GENERATION ALUMNI NETWORK FOR FURTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS THAT MADE THE WORKSHOP SUCCESSFUL



We established some key partnerships to elevate the experience for the CAFE program participants. In addition to the overwhelming support provided by North Carolina A&T through the use of facilities, farm tours, and faculty support, we also leveraged our diverse and multi-generational network to create networking panels and tours during the program.

The students also had the opportunity to tour the Syngenta Crop Protection headquarters and received a behind the scenes tour and participated in several Q&A sessions to explore future career opportunities.

PANEL REPRESENTATION

- BASF
- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS
- FMC
- JOHN DEERE
- NESTLE PURINA

TOUR SUPPORTERS

- NORTH CAROLINA A&T
- SYNGENTA



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

The project budget is outlined below. The information shared in this table provides the projected cost associated per year with the CAFE workshop.

CAFE BUDGET ITEM	BUDGET
Airfare (\$800 x 12)	\$9,600.00
Hotel (\$600 x 12)	\$7200
Meals (\$70 per day 3 days x 12)	\$2520
Staff Travel (\$800 x3)	\$2400
Staff Hotel (\$600 x3)	\$1800
Staff Meals (\$70 per day 3 days x3)	\$630
Course Supplies	\$1050
Indirect Fee	\$2800
Total Cost	\$28,000

The Farm Foundation CAFE Student Workshop is made possible by the SAPLINGS (System Approach to Promote Learning and Innovation for the Next GenerationS) grant, in partnership with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University



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Ways to Connect

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