

DR. THOMAS B. GILL

Dr. Thomas (Tom) Gill is an international, interdisciplinary development professional who has worked in agriculture and rural development for the past 22 years. Gill currently serves as the Smith Chair in International Sustainable Agriculture and Director of International Programs at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, leading strategic vision and global program development across the institute. Gill has served as President (2019-2020) of the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD) and as Chair (2015-16) of the International Agriculture Section for the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU). His experience and research interests include smallholder household decision-making in sustainable agroecosystems and participatory approaches to capacity development, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

Academic Qualifications

- 2010 Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Ecology (concentration: farming systems), University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
2003 M.Sc. (Distinction), Tropical Agricultural Development, Reading University, U.K.
2001 B.A. & M.A. (Hons), Geography, Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge, U.K.

Professional Experience

- 2015-present Smith Chair in International Sustainable Agriculture and Director of International Programs, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Knoxville, TN.
Assistant Professor (2015-2020); Associate Professor (2020-2025); Professor (2025-present)
2009-2015 Assistant Professor of International Agriculture (2012-2015) and Assistant Director of International Programs, College of Agricultural Sciences, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.
2007-2008 Research Associate, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Kenya
2006-2009 Teaching/Research Graduate Assistant, University of Florida, School of Natural Resources and Environment, Gainesville, FL.
2004-2006 Seed Bank Manager and Agriculture Intern, Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO), North Fort Myers, FL.
2001-2002 Volunteer Teacher, Zeu Secondary School, Nebbi, West Nile, Uganda, Africa Inland Mission (AIM) International

Selected Recent Publications

Dahal B, DeLong KL, Muhammad M, Prince M, Nisengwe R, Goertz H, **Gill T** (2025). Assessing preferences for broiler chicken and indigenous chicken in Rwandan restaurants: Implications for sustainable poultry industry development. *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review* 28(1), 74-92. doi: [10.22434/ifamr.1006](https://doi.org/10.22434/ifamr.1006)

Pekarcik G, Ader D, **Gill T**, Richards J (2023). Assessing impact of parental involvement on scaling agricultural technologies from school garden to home farm in Cambodia. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*. doi: [10.5304/jafscd.2023.123.006](https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2023.123.006)

Gill T, Willcox A (2022). Building global leaders through field research and extension experiences in Belize. *Journal of International Agricultural Education and Extension* 29(2), 24-42. doi: [10.4148/2831-5960.1013](https://doi.org/10.4148/2831-5960.1013)

Gill T, Nisengwe J, Goertz H, Ader D, McGehee K, Nshuti R, Gumisiriza A, Smith M, Urban E (2021). Strengthening smallholder engagement and integration in the Rwandan commercial broiler value chain. *World's Poultry Science Journal*. doi: [10.1080/00439339.2021.1975523](https://doi.org/10.1080/00439339.2021.1975523)

Eissler S, Ader D, Huot S, Brown S, Bates R, **Gill T** (2021). Wild gardening as a sustainable intensification strategy in northwest Cambodian smallholder systems. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*. doi: [10.5304/jafscd.2021.103.006](https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2021.103.006)

Gill T, Ader D, Hok L, Cheat S, Pao S, Lear A (2020). Living fences for improved smallholder livestock systems in Cambodia. *Forests, Trees and Livelihoods* 29(4). doi: [10.1080/14728028.2020.1827049](https://doi.org/10.1080/14728028.2020.1827049)

Gill T, Urban E, Ader D, Nisengwe R, Garner E (2020). Piloting a commercial broiler production model for smallholders in Rwanda. *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development* 20(2). doi: [10.18697/ajfand.90.18925](https://doi.org/10.18697/ajfand.90.18925)

Glenna L, Borlu Y, **Gill T**, Larson J, Ricciardi V, Adam R (2017). Food security, sweet potato production, and distance to trade centers in northern Ghana. *FACETS*. doi: [10.1139/facets-2017-0027](https://doi.org/10.1139/facets-2017-0027)

Gill T, Bates R, Ricciardi V, James D (2017). Capacity development in agricultural education and training in Cambodia: a SWOT analysis. *The Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education* 24(1), 34-50. doi: [10.5191/jiaee.2017.24105](https://doi.org/10.5191/jiaee.2017.24105)

Selected Project Experience

2023-2025 PI for USAID “Agricultural Leaders for Tomorrow (ALOFT)”. Leading USAID’s signature global extension program, Farmer-to-Farmer, for Southeast Asia, with projects in Cambodia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. **\$4,999,946.**

2023-2025 PI on USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service Scientific Exchange Program: “African Animal Feed and Fertilizer Innovation”. **\$299,600.**

2022-2027 PI for USDA/FAS and USAID “Country Support for New and Updated Global Food Security Strategies”. Provided support to Bangladesh, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia USAID missions. **\$300,000.**

2020-2023 Co-PI for USAID “S3 Cambodia: Scaling suitable sustainable technologies for smallholders”. Collaboration with Royal University of Agriculture (Cambodia) University of Battambang (Cambodia), SwissContact, Tennessee State University, and CIRAD. **\$749,999.**

2017-2020 PI for USAID/Rwanda and Africa Sustainable Agriculture Project Foundation Global Development Alliance, “Feed the Future: *Tworore Inkoko, Twunguke* (Let’s raise chickens for profit)”. Public-private partnership with Zamura Feeds, Ltd., Rwanda. **\$1,914,153.**

Selected Teaching Experience

The University of Tennessee (2015-present)

AGNR 180 Global Dynamics: Food, Biodiversity and the Environment

ALEC 485/585 Global Sustainable Development Goals

The Pennsylvania State University (2009-2015)

INTAG 100 Introduction to International Agriculture

INTAG 300 Agricultural Production and Farming Systems in the Tropics

INTAG 480 International Agriculture Capstone

INTAD 820 Graduate Seminar in International Agricultural Development

Selected Honors and Certifications

2024 Success in Multidisciplinary Research Award, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

2023 Graduate, class 18, LEAD21.

2023 Graduate, Executive Leadership Institute, University of Tennessee System.

2015 Teaching Award of Merit, NACTA (North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture).