My career goal is to contribute to mitigating agriculture’s environmental footprint through sustainable soil health practices. The FFAR Fellows cohort provides a rich space to create a community and defined environment to develop leadership skills, learn teamwork skills, and build a pool of resources that I can apply to my career aspirations.

FFAR Fellows represent over 30 universities in the U.S. and Canada and perform research across the spectrum, including:

- agronomy
- animal science
- biological & ag engineering
- civil engineering
- computer science & systems engineering
- crop & soil science
- entomology
- food science
- horticulture
- microbiology
- plant pathology...and more

Seldon Kwafio
2022-2025 FFAR Fellow
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

For more information:
ffarfellows.org
Program Objectives

Develop leadership competencies that enhance current and future individual productivity and well-being

Connect young scientists across research domains and geographic areas to promote multi-disciplinary understanding and problem-solving

Broaden PhD students career options and create links to sectors beyond academia

The professional development training I received as a FFAR Fellow was transformational. The training helped me to effectively communicate, teach, mentor, lead, and negotiate. It gave me tools and resources to manage stress effectively so that I can avoid short-term burnouts and maintain longterm productively--critical to pursuing my passion as a plant scientist.

FFAR Fellows are PhD students studying food and agricultural sciences in universities across the U.S. and Canada

The FFAR Fellows Program is managed by North Carolina State University and jointly funded by the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research and industry and other sponsors.

Over the 3-year period members of each cohort (25 fellows):

Attend five in-person meetings and monthly virtual sessions to build leadership competencies

Create and execute annual professional development plans

Have mentor-mentee relationships with industry scientists and others outside of academia