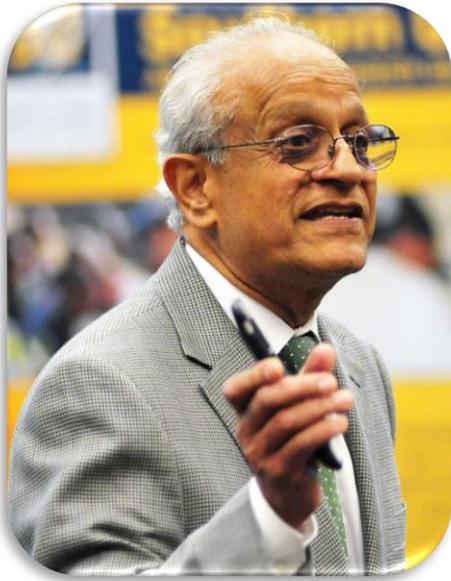


USDA/NIFA Top Official holds seminar at SU Agricultural Land-Grant Campus



The director of USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy held a seminar titled, “National Institute of Food and Agriculture: An Update from Your Federal Partner” on April 25, 2017 at the SU Ag Center.

During his presentation, Ramaswamy discussed the fact that people are dying because of food all over the world. Some, due to lack of food and some because there is too much food.

He went on to say that Americans need to reduce the amount of food that we waste every year.

“We lose about a third or half of all the food we make before it makes it to the dinner table,” said Ramaswamy. “We are wasting and losing about \$120 billion annually.

Food waste is not only happening in homes; it’s also happening in restaurants,” citing huge serving portions and how grocery stores throw away bruised fruits and vegetables.

He encouraged the students in the room to develop new ideas to make what was once called unusable food attractive, like the creators of Ugly Juice, LLC, which uses aesthetically imperfect fruits and vegetables to make their juices.

Ramaswamy also warned the audience that nutrition and agricultural scientists must find solutions to problems such as hunger, obesity and access to nutritious foods or the situation will get worse by 2050 – the year many scientists have predicted that the global populations will surpass 9 billion people and will increase the demand for food and fiber.

Prior to the seminar, Ramaswamy met with 1890 student scholars, members of the Land-Grant Campus’s executive team and USDA/NIFA grant recipients from the SU Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

A luncheon for Dr. Ramaswamy was also held in the Donald C. Wade House on the Southern University Baton Rouge Campus. While at the luncheon, Dr. Ramaswamy was able to speak and network with SU Land-Grant Campus Chancellor-Dean, Dr. Bobby Phills; SU Land-Grant Campus Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr. Andra Johnson; SU System President-Chancellor, Dr. Ray Belton; SU Baton Rouge Campus Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs & Provost, Dr. M. Christopher Brown; SU Law Center Chancellor, Dr. John Pierre and other system dignitaries.

Photos of Dr. Ramaswamy’s visit are available at our [Google album](#).