



CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME JAMES KEELEY

DATE OF BIRTH 28 July 1968

NATIONALITY British

LANGUAGES English: Mother tongue
Mandarin Chinese: Able to work in Chinese, HSK Level 6 certification
French: Working knowledge
Amharic: Basic

COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

China, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan

EXPERTISE

Food and agriculture, China development specialist and monitoring and evaluation expert with over 25 years experience as researcher, project manager and analyst, with expertise in:

- Climate smart agriculture and agritech policy, innovation and programming.
- Engagement in a range of agricultural development initiatives in varied contexts in Asia and Africa, combining analytical skills with support for practical interventions
- Chinese policy and institutional context and China in the world expertise acquired through participation in numerous research, project and analytical activities over 20 years.
- Political economy analysis, thinking and working politically
- Monitoring, learning and evaluation, including leading a CGIAR project evaluation, and contributing to evaluation of UK-China Global Health Support Programme pilots; and DFID China Country Programme Evaluation. Skilled in theory of change
- Project management. Managed a £10 million UK-China-Africa/South East Asia triangular cooperation programme with pilot projects, capacity building, research challenge fund and knowledge sharing component; worked closely with Chinese agencies leading SSC activities.
- Qualitative and participatory research methods, including key informant interviews and focus groups; facilitation and stakeholder engagement skills
- Working level Chinese (HSK 6 Certification)

QUALIFICATIONS

1995 - 1997 MPhil (Development Studies), University of Sussex, UK
1987- 1990 BA (Politics), University of York, UK

EMPLOYMENT

Independent consultant (2010 – present)

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Senior Researcher (2006-2010)
Independent consultant (2003-2006)

Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Research Officer (1999-2003)

Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Research Assistant (1997-1999)

Voluntary Service Overseas, China (1991-4)

OTHER ROLES

Associate – The Policy Practice (2008 to present)

Honorary Associate – Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (2022 – present)

Governor - John Watson Community Special School, Oxfordshire (2021- present)

EXPERIENCE

FCDO PROPCOM+ NIGERIA

Oct-Nov 2024

Co-lead on Food and Agriculture Macro Political Economy Analysis study analysing Federal and state government and private sector responses to macroeconomic changes and the food security crisis in Nigeria

CHEMONICS, GREEN GROWTH PROGRAMME BID

Nov 2024 to present

Technical consultant for bid development for FCDO Green Growth Programme

GREAT-BRITAIN CHINA CENTRE

Oct 2024-Mar 2025

FCDO China Capabilities Study

Co-lead for capabilities analysis, and analysis of UK China research and analysis capabilities, feeding into UK HMG China Audit

FCDO, PROPCOM+ NIGERIA

July 2024

Political economy analysis of digital extension in Nigeria

Team Leader for PEA study of Nigerian extension system and status and prospects for public and private digital extension

SOLIDARIDAD, July-Oct 2024

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy design consultancy

Team member contributing knowledge on inclusion and agricultural commodity supply chains

BRITISH EMBASSY BEIJING

Jan 2024 – ongoing

China, Global Challenges and Security: Engagement in a Contested World.

Member of Institute of Development Studies and RUSI team researching engagement with China on global challenges. Responsible for food and agriculture component, covering digital agriculture and advanced biotechnology.

OXFORD ANALYTICA

Feb-April 2024; Nov 2024

Policy and drivers of change analysis for digital agriculture, seeds and inputs for Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa

NATURAL ENGLAND, District Level Licensing External M&E Technical Expert

Jan-April 2024

Redesign of Theory of Change, Evaluation Framework and Monitoring Strategy for Natural England Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing Scheme (through Evidence and Impact Oxford), a major UK biodiversity conservation scheme.

LANDELL MILLS, EU TRUEFISH Programme**Feb-Dec 2023**

Design, facilitation and coordination of a China study tour for African aquaculture specialists, for capacity building and lesson learning on aquaculture value chain development to support fish farmer livelihoods.

FCDO UK-BRAZIL-AFRICA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION TRIANGULAR COOPERATION MECHANISM SCOPING STUDY (managed by Landell Mills)**Oct 2022 – April 2023**

Team leader for a scoping study for FCDO on the design of a UK-Brazil-Africa Triangular Cooperation mechanism for agricultural research, development and innovation for people, nature and climate. Consulting with African and other stakeholders on strategic partners and priorities, technical entry points and modalities for the mechanism.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES (PART TIME)**Sep 2021- Nov 2023**

Member of three person team carrying out a scoping study and networking for Rockefeller Brothers Fund grant held by International Institute for Asian Studies, University of Leiden, on collaboration with China on shared challenges global public goods and international development. Responsible for work on food and agricultural systems, identifying priority issues and modalities for collaboration.

INNOVATE UK Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN), Design of India-South Africa- UK Agri-tech Transfer Trilateral Pilot**Feb 2022 – Sep 2023**

Consultancy inputs to design trilateral cooperation facility for agri-tech transfer program between India, South Africa and the UK for UK FCDO, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa, and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), India, focusing on development of neglected and underutilised crops for climate, nutrition, food security.

GREAT BRITAIN CHINA CENTRE**MAR - APR 2022**

Design of high-level dialogue series for key UK stakeholders on strategic engagement with China on public goods and shared challenges, including on sustainable food and agricultural systems.

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY REVIEW, THE POLICY PRACTICE**NOV 2020- FEB 2021**

Part of two-person team for strategic review of Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade partnership with Government of Papua New Guinea on agriculture for rural development. The consultancy assessed agricultural development priorities and opportunities in PNG, including for food crops and key export crop value chains through use of certifications; reviewed the current Australian agricultural investment portfolio for PNG, and identified opportunities a strategic, inclusive, gender-aware, nutrition and livelihood oriented agriculture program.

OXFORD ANALYTICA**JUNE 2020 - ongoing**

Presentations on biodiversity, food security and China to corporate clients. Contribution to report for the EU on use and regulation of pesticides banned in the EU in Africa informed by understanding of rural development contexts (particularly in Kenya); regular author Daily Brief articles including on sustainability, biodiversity and development issues and Chinese politics.

ADVISOR, MOBILITY FOR AFRICA (PART-TIME)**JAN 2018 to DEC 2020**

Adviser and part of the founding team for a start-up company introducing Chinese electric mobility and renewable energy solutions to rural Africa, with pilot in Zimbabwe. Mobility for Africa seeks to promote rural development, particularly for women, by piloting three-wheeler tricycles powered by batteries using off-grid energy (www.mobilityforafrica.com), and linking these to livelihood opportunities and improved service delivery.

**TEAM LEADER, END OF PROJECT EVALUATION OF WORLD FISH AFRICA FISH TRADE PROJECT, LANDELL MILLS
DEC 2019 to MAR 2020**

Team Leader for Fish Trade evaluation, a CGIAR World Fish multi-country project with AU partners designed to understand the scale and importance of informal fish trade in Africa for rural development and livelihoods, and to deliver institutional and policy innovations and capacity building to support development of the trade. The evaluation involved a remote multi-country survey, document analysis, key informant interviews, review of work on fish trade and food safety, gender analysis, and case studies in Zambia and Malawi, using focus groups and interviews to assess the project theory of change, delivery of results, and contribution to outcomes and impact.

**TRILATERAL COOPERATION AND MEL EXPERT, DESIGN OF CHINA-AUSTRALIA-PAPUA NEW GUINEA HEALTH SECURITY PROJECT PHASE 2
JULY-AUG 2019**

Contributed expertise on partnering with China and trilateral cooperation to project design for this health security project, including outline design of program logic, indicators and other MEL aspects of the project design document.

**Lesson-learning FACILITATOR, EU Sudan smallholder food Security programme
JAN-FEB 2019**

Designed and facilitated an end of project learning and communication event for key sector stakeholders for a five year EU program on conservation agriculture, value chain development and food security in Sudan.

**TEAM MEMBER, Evaluation of DFID Global Health Support Programme, ITAD
JAN-JULY 2018**

Evaluation of UK-China trilateral cooperation pilots with capacity building components on maternal and child health in Myanmar (improving service delivery outcomes in a complex environment) and malaria control in Tanzania (developing a model for active case management service delivery) as part of the DFID Global Health Support Programme evaluation (for ITAD), with field work in China, Myanmar and Tanzania. As part of wider GHSP evaluation recommended opportunities for partnership with China in health in these countries, including within the context of the Belt and Road Initiative.
team leader, DFID-China

**TRILATERAL COOPERATION LESSON-LEARNING REVIEW, IMC AND LANDELL MILLS
SEP – NOV 2017**

Review of UK DFID China's Trilateral Cooperation and donor approaches to partnership with China in third countries, assessing achievements and lessons, and making recommendations on future strategy. The review focused on the pilot component of the Global Health Support Programme, Community Based Disaster Management and Agricultural Technology Transfer. This consultancy was well-received and has help shaped strategy for the next phase of UK work with China on international development.

**HEAD OF PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICE, AGRITT
MARCH 2013 – MAY 2017**

Led delivery of £10 million UK Department for International Development (DFID) funded trilateral agricultural cooperation programme, developing strategy and coordinating implementation and results management for technology transfer and capacity building pilot projects for value chain development in Malawi (aquaculture) and Uganda (cassava, including consideration of food safety aspects). Responsible for managing PMO team in China, UK, Uganda and Malawi, and coordination of African implementing partners and Chinese technical assistance, and overseeing project monitoring, procurement and reporting on outputs and outcomes; managed £3m Research Challenge Fund with Chinese, UK and developing country teams in Africa and South East Asia testing agricultural innovations in a range of sub-sectors (including in Laos and Cambodia); also delivery of a range of communication initiatives on effective agricultural technology transfer, including engagement with the FAO South-South Cooperation Programme. Regular engagement with government ministries and agencies, including Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture in China, Ministry of Agriculture, Uganda, and Department of Fisheries, Malawi. AgriTT won the British Expertise award for Best International Collaborative Project in 2017.

CONSULTANT, IRISH AID

2011-2013

Provided long-term agricultural analyst and project management inputs to Irish Aid for a smallholder agricultural research and extension programme in Tigray and SNNPR regions of Ethiopia, focusing on climate resilience and priority nutrition crops, developed implementation plans in participation with government partners, designed the project M&E system, and produced lesson learning products.

CONSULTANT, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (IIED) AND OTHERS

2010-13

Project manager and lead author for study on **large-scale land investments in Ethiopia for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), this involved leading a small team conducting field work in different regions and working effectively with the Ethiopian government to secure support for the study and access to government datasets. The study included case studies in lowland regions including Somali region, Bench Maji zone, SNNPR and Benishangul and Gambella.

TEAM LEADER of review for the Ford Foundation and IIED on pro-poor agricultural certification schemes including organic certification and sustainability standards in China, Vietnam, Indonesia and India, as a tool for market access and impacts on rural livelihoods.

Contributor to **UK Food and Climate Research Network study on using a sustainable food systems approach in China.**

Edited '**Green China**' book for the Ford Foundation and IIED sharing lessons from China's environment and development experiences.

Reviewer for DFID Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), managed by ITAD. SENIOR RESEARCHER, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (IIED)

2006-2009

China lead at IIED, responsible for developing IIED's China engagement strategy. Managed research on China-Africa development, as well as on many other food and agriculture and China related themes, including developing a strategy for engagement with sustainable agriculture in China for the UK Department for Farming, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Research on value chains and certification for Ford Foundation, on social and environmental impacts of animal protein production for Oxfam-Novib. Led consultancy study for DFID China identifying opportunities to work with China on global public goods including in global public health, agriculture and climate change.

DFID CHINA COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION

2009

Member of DFID China Country Programme Evaluation team (managed by ITAD), responsible for inputs on climate change and the Sustainable Development Dialogues.

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

2003 – 2006

International expert working on a consultancy for **UNDP on Rights Based Approaches to development in China, with fieldwork in Jiangxi.** Consultant on **two studies on the DFID project portfolio in China**, focusing on health and education sectors among others. **China lead for UK think tank Demos Atlas of Ideas** project mapping China's science innovation capacity.

RESEARCH OFFICER, INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (IDS)

1999 – 2003

Research on science policy processes for new agricultural technologies, particularly GM crops and biotechnology, in China and Africa (with funding from DFID, ESRC and Rockefeller Foundation). Designed and delivered training on public participation and biosafety management for UNEP in South and South East Asia, led government capacity building workshop in Sri Lanka (including for ASEAN country stakeholders).

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (IDS)

1997-1999

Researcher working on institutions, policies and processes for soil fertility, agricultural intensification and natural resource management in Africa, with a focus on Mali, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe and international development partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Bank. In Ethiopia worked closely with SOS Sahel, Mekelle University College, and Hawassa University and the links between local implementation and higher level policy strategies. Research on poverty in China for DFID.

VSO VOLUNTEER TEACHER, GUANGXI, HENAN AND GUIZHOU PROVINCES, CHINA 1991-1994

Teaching English and teacher training in three colleges in Guangxi, Henan and Guizhou Chinese provinces.

PUBLICATIONS

- Keeley, J and Husain, L. (2024) [Foreign Secretary has opportunity to reset UK-China relations on global challenges](#). IDS Opinion. August.
- Husain, L. and J. Keeley, 2023. [Engaging China on global challenges: responding to the Integrated Review 2023](#). IDS Opinion. March
- Keeley, J. 2017. Review of DFID's Trilateral Cooperation with China. Report for DFID-China. Landell Mills and IMC World Wide.
- Keeley J, Wondwosen Michago Seide, Abdurehman Eid and Admasu Lokaley Kidewa, 2014. [Large- scale land deals in Ethiopia: scale, trends, features and outcomes to date](#). London: IIED
- Blackmore, E and Keeley, J with R. Pyburn and Lu Chen, 2012. [Pro-Poor Certification: assessing the benefits of sustainability certifications for small-scale farmers in Asia](#). IIED Natural Resource Issues Paper No. 25.
- Keeley, J and Zheng Yisheng (eds), 2011. [Green China: Chinese insights on environment and development](#). London: IIED
- Cotula, L., Vermeulen, S., Leonard, R. and J. Keeley, 2009. [Land grab or development opportunity: agricultural investment and land deals in Africa](#). IIED/FAO/IFAD
- Blackmore, E and Keeley, J with T. Garnett, 2009. *The Meat and Dairy Revolutions: mapping social and environmental impacts*. Paper for Oxfam-Novib
- Wilsdon, J. and J. Keeley, 2007. [China: the Next Science Superpower? Demos Pamphlet. Atlas of Ideas Series](#). (London: Demos).
- Keeley, J. 2006. Balancing technological innovation and environmental regulation: an analysis of Chinese agricultural biotechnology governance. *Environmental Politics*. Vol 15. No. 2. April.
- Keeley, J. and I. Scoones, 2003. *Understanding Environmental Policy Processes: cases from Africa*. London: Earthscan