NSF Convergence Accelerator's 2023 Cohort Phase 1 Award

Project Title
AI-driven Smart Low-cost Ammonia Sensor (AI-SLAMS)

Awardee
Georgia Tech Research Institute

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PROJECT ABSTRACT

It is projected that the global population will hit 9.3 billion by 2050. This growth demands an increase in food production. Broiler production stands out due to its cost-effectiveness and short production cycles compared to other meat production systems. Ammonia is a common byproduct of poultry waste and has detrimental effects on both birds and workers. Proper litter management and ventilation are key in reducing ammonia levels, enhancing productivity, minimizing respiratory disease among birds, ensuring their welfare, and creating a safe working environment for workers. However, many broiler producers/farms have difficulty in measuring ammonia concentration in an affordable, reliable, and consistent way.

This Convergence Accelerator project assembles an interdisciplinary team together with the necessary expertise, resources, and infrastructure to develop an **AI**-driven, **S**mart **L**ow-cost **A**mmonia **S**ensor **(AI-SLAMS)** and demonstrate its real-world applications on poultry farms. AI-SLAMS will bring together insights and advances in chemical sensing, material science/nanotechnology, poultry science, manufacturing, AI, and data science. AI-SLAMS will identify challenges and opportunities and develop technology concepts and workforce training plans for developing and deploying a smart poultry farm ammonia monitoring system. This will help ensure health growth, adequate weight gain and welfare of birds, in association with supportive worker safety on the farm.

To accelerate the convergence and deploy the low-cost ammonia sensor for real-world application, a human-centered supply chain approach will be adopted with participation of a wide range of stakeholders including R&D researchers, users (farmers and industrial companies), device manufacturers, and federal agencies (US Poultry, FDA and USDA). AI-SLAMS education and outreach programs will particularly engage trainees from various partners including technical colleges and poultry farms to develop a diverse, competent workforce for future U.S. agriculture.