



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Administrator

July 7, 2014

Dr. Brady Deaton, Chancellor Emeritus
Executive Director
Institute for University Leadership in International Development
University of Missouri
104 Ellis Library
Columbia, MO 65201-5149

*Thanks Brady for your
outstanding leadership
of BIFAD! Raj*

Dear Dr. Deaton:

Thank you and the BIFAD members for the submission of your report on May 2, 2014, "BIFAD Review of Strategic Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD) Issues and the Role of USAID and Title XII under the Feed the Future Program." In particular, I would like to thank BIFAD member Gebisa Ejeta, who chaired the BIFAD HICD study working group. We commend the HICD study team chair Victor Lechtenberg at Purdue University, as well as team members Ralph Dean Christy at Cornell University; Albert Ayeni at Rutgers University; and Carol Kramer-Blanc.

We are taking into consideration all of the recommendations in the HICD report. I appreciate BIFAD's commitment to this issue, and I especially appreciate your thoughtful cover letter. The main recommendation of the report—deepening support for higher education partnerships—is a high priority for USAID. We are evaluating the role of such partnerships across the Agency, and look forward to working alongside you to strengthen collaboration with universities in the future.

We already have increased the number of partnerships under the Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Center recommended by the BIFAD to 24 Innovation Labs with U.S. universities, as well as five additional partnerships with U.S. universities that focus on human and institutional capacity development. We continue to explore ways to augment these efforts.

The study's four key areas of recommendations all merit further consideration:

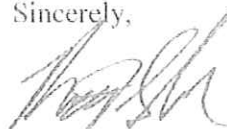
- Strengthening institutional capacity and partnerships to advance impact pathways;
- Expanding access to U.S. higher education systems by students from Feed the Future countries;
- Enhancing collaboration among U.S. and Feed the Future universities and the private sector;
- And enabling access to U.S. technology for education providers, small businesses, and smallholder farmers.

These recommendations are extremely important to USAID, and we look forward to working with you to advance them moving forward. In doing so, we can form groundbreaking public-private partnerships that not only drive technological advances, but also improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable people.

I acknowledge BIFAD's intention to sponsor an international e-consultation with key stakeholders to respond to the BIFAD study and think this is an excellent idea. I encourage BIFAD to work closely with our Agency's Bureau for Food Security in putting together this e-consultation. I believe that it will produce innovative ideas that build upon the HICD study recommendations—and above all, give a greater voice to our partners across the developing world. We at USAID plan to use the results of the e-consultation process to further enhance our collaboration with U.S. universities and stakeholders

Thank you again for sending this report. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,



Rajiv J. Shah

cc: Tjada McKenna, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Food Security, USAID