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Board for International Food and Agricultural Development 181st Public Meeting

Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of COVID-19: Impacts and Interventions

Thursday, June 4, 2020 | 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time

Background and Meeting Objectives:

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and measures put in place to stop its spread will have impacts on all intermediate results of the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy, including agricultural productivity, livelihoods, markets, trade and policy actions, food consumption and nutrition, hygiene, and resilience. The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), a presidentially appointed advisory board to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will convene a virtual public meeting to share the thinking of leading experts in food security and nutrition that relates to COVID-19 impacts. This will include consideration of the most promising short-, medium-, and long-term responses across several key areas: farm-level productivity, markets and trade, access to finance, nutrition, safe and hygienic food systems, gender, and national and local policy. The meeting will include presentations of credible modeling data about the scale and breadth of anticipated food security impacts in the developing world and a summary spanning near to longer-term interventions and guidance that may help to mitigate COVID-19 impacts. The meeting will also provide leading sources of curated information (e.g., landing pages for information related to the crisis and response). The meeting is intended to help to support decision making by USAID and its partners and stakeholders working to advance food security, nutrition, and resilience at global, regional and national levels.

BIFAD is a seven-member, presidentially appointed advisory board to USAID established in 1975 under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended. The provisions of Title XII concern bringing assets of U.S. universities to bear on development challenges in agriculture and food security, and the BIFAD's role is to help carry out this function.

Format: A 2-hour live-streamed meeting, open to the public, with an expert panel and a 20-minute public comment period. The recorded audio/video and minutes will be available in archive form.

Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations: On the basis of testimony, including public comments shared at the meeting, BIFAD will provide formal findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Agency on best-bet operational and programmatic investments.

AGENDA

1:30 p.m. **Board Member Introductions and Opening Remarks**

[Mark Keenum](#), *President, Mississippi State University and Chair of BIFAD*

1:35 p.m. **Opening Remarks and Stage Setting**

[John Barsa](#), *Acting Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)*

1:40 p.m. **Overview of Food Systems and Food Security Impacts**

[Johan Swinnen](#), *Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)*

1:50 p.m. **Promising Interventions to Support Food Systems and Nutrition**

Moderator:

- [Rajul Pandya-Lorch](#), *Director of Communications and Public Affairs & Chief of Staff in the Director General's Office, IFPRI*

Speakers:

- **National and local policy interventions to support trade, finance, markets, and enterprises**
 - [Carl Pray](#), *Distinguished Professor, Department of Agriculture, Food, and Resource Economics, Rutgers University*
- **Interventions to support One Health and hygienic markets**
 - [Jimmy Smith](#), *Director General, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)*
- **Interventions to support nutrition, social protection, emergency response, and access to nutrition and health services**
 - [Shawn Baker](#), *Chief Nutritionist, USAID*
 - [Marie Ruel](#), *Director of Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division, IFPRI*
- **Interventions in Nigeria: A Case Study**
 - [Saweda Liverpool-Tasie](#), *Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University*

- **Linking agricultural growth and resilience outcomes for long-term recovery**
 - [Maximo Torero](#), Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

2:45 p.m.

Questions by BIFAD and discussion

Moderated by Rajul Pandya-Lorch, Director of Communications and Public Affairs & Chief of Staff in the Director General's Office, IFPRI

3:10 p.m.

Public comment period

Clara Cohen, BIFAD Executive Director, USAID (Moderator)

3:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjournment