



Board for International Food and Agricultural Development 183rd Public Meeting (Virtual)

Agricultural Growth, Economic Transformation, and the Journey to Self-Reliance: Implications for USAID Programming

Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 | 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm Central Daylight Time

Background and Meeting Objectives:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is reorienting its strategies, partnership models, and program practices to achieve greater development outcomes and strive toward a future where foreign assistance is no longer necessary. The approach, outlined in the Agency's Policy Framework¹, emphasizes the concept of "self-reliance"²—defined as the capacity and commitment of a country to plan, finance, and implement solutions to solve its own development challenges in an effective, inclusive, and accountable way.

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD)³, an advisory committee to USAID, will convene a public meeting to better understand the concept of economic transformation—how underdeveloped and agrarian-based countries shift from subsistence agriculture to a commercially oriented economy with diverse agricultural, manufacturing, and service sectors—and how it contributes to a country's resilience to shocks, such as COVID-19, and its progression toward self-reliance. Authors of a BIFAD-commissioned study will share preliminary findings and lessons learned on emerging success stories in agricultural and economic transformation and will discuss the implications of this evidence for USAID's agricultural and food security development and social safety net priorities and programming.

¹ <https://www.usaid.gov/policyframework>

² <https://www.usaid.gov/selfreliance>

³ BIFAD is a seven-member, presidentially appointed advisory committee to USAID established in 1975 under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended. The provisions of Title XII mandate that USAID bring the assets of U.S. universities to bear on development challenges in agriculture and food security.

This meeting is open to the public and will be livestreamed via Zoom. On the basis of testimony, including public comments shared at this meeting, BIFAD will provide formal findings, conclusions, and recommendations to USAID on best-bet operational and programmatic investments for catalyzing agricultural productivity and economic transformation. The meeting recording, along with meeting minutes, will be available in archive form following the meeting.

Format: A 2.5-hour virtual 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

- 1:00 p.m. **BIFAD Welcoming Remarks and Introduction of BIFAD Members**
[Mark Keenum](#), President, Mississippi State University and Chair of BIFAD
- 1:05 p.m. **Recognition of Outgoing BIFAD Member**
[Mark Keenum](#), President, Mississippi State University and Chair of BIFAD
- 1:20 p.m. **Welcome Remarks**
[Jim Barnhart](#), Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security and Deputy Coordinator for Development for Feed the Future
- 1:25 p.m. **BIFAD Framing Remarks**
[Pamela Anderson](#), Director General Emerita, International Potato Center
- 1:30 p.m. **Agricultural Productivity and Economic Transformation: Introduction to Concepts and Lessons Learned from Country Case Studies**
- *[Thom Jayne](#), University Foundation Professor of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University*
 - *[Adesoji Adelaja](#), John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy, Department of Agriculture, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University*
 - *[Louise Fox](#), Non-resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, Global Economy and Development, Africa Growth Initiative.*

- [Keith Fuglie](#), Senior Economist, Structure, Technology, and Productivity Branch, Resource and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

2:25 p.m. **Improving the Quality of Government Spending on Agriculture**

[Danielle Resnick](#), Senior Research Fellow and Theme Leader, Governance, Development Strategies, and Governance Division, International Food Policy Research Institute

2:35 p.m. **BIFAD Questions**

Moderated by [Clara Cohen](#), BIFAD Executive Director, USAID

3:00 p.m. **Public Comment Period**

Moderated by [Clara Cohen](#), BIFAD Executive Director, USAID

3:20 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

[Thom Jayne](#), University Foundation Professor of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University

3:25 p.m. **Meeting Adjournment**