The Administrator

Dr. Robert A. Easter, Chairman
Board for International Food and
Agricultural Development
College of Agriculture, Consumer and
Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
122 Mumford Hall, 1301 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Dr. Easter:

Thank you for your letter of March 28, 2008, following up the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) February 27, 2008, meeting at the National Press Club. I found our luncheon discussion most timely, especially since we are now in the midst of a global food crisis.

The President’s announcement requesting an additional $770 million to address the pressing food situation strongly suggests that it is even more urgent for BIFAD to provide strategic advice to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). I would like to learn more about how the U.S. university community can be mobilized, in partnership with the private sector, to support USAID’s development objectives. I would also like the Board’s thoughts on how BIFAD can engage U.S. agribusiness executives to share their respective companies’ long-range analyses of agricultural conditions in the next five to 25 years.

I understand that BIFAD held its Conference of Deans on April 30, 2008, and is planning to issue a white paper. I would like you to receive the recommendations set forth as soon as possible, as well as suggestions as to
what can be done in partnership with BIFAD, the university community, and the private sector to implement the recommendations.

I see BIFAD as an important “gateway” to America’s university agriculture brain trust. I look forward to receiving the upcoming recommendations from the Board and to our continued dialog.

Cordially,

Henrietta H. Fore