Independent Consultative Process for the Implementation of the *Feed the Future* Research Strategy

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Goals of the Process

- **Meaningful input to USAID and other implementing agencies** – Process structured around the Feed the Future Research Strategy that was first drafted in January and finalized in May.

- **Broad consultation** – Outreach to US and international research communities and to other interested stakeholders: the NGO community, government, the private sector.
Timeline

- **January 2011** - Workshop held at Purdue University to set the context for the discussion and frame a process.

- **May 9-27** - Three-week “e-consultation” conducted to solicit broad input and identify major research challenges and questions.

- **June 21-23** - Forum to be held in Washington, DC to refine the research challenges identified in the e-consultation.
Establishment of a Working Group

- Brady Deaton, U. of Missouri & BIFAD Chair
- Elsa Murano, BIFAD
- Michael Carter, UC - Davis
- Ken Cassman, University of Nebraska
- Tag Demment, APLU
- Gebisa Ejeta, Purdue University
- Julia Kornegay, NC State University
- Uma Lele, Independent Consultant
- Bruce McPherson, Penn State University
- Kathie Olsen, ScienceWorks
- Barbara Stoecker, Oklahoma State U.
- Eugene Terry, Independent Consultant
- DeeVon Bailey, Utah State University
- David Joslyn, Chicago Council

Ex Officio

- Rob Bertram, USAID/(EGAT/ESP/IRB)
- Alex Deghan, USAID (PPL/ST)
- Robert Easter, BIFAD
- Hiram Larew, NIFA, USDA
- J. Vern Long, USAID
- Susan J. Owens, USAID (ODP/BIFAD)
- Clara Cohen, USAID
- Anita Regmi, USDA
- Butler Malcolm, APLU
- Dan Raiten, NICHD, HIH
The Process – first steps

- Development of a White Paper to
  - Lay out a framework for a broader consultation
  - Identify preliminary key issues
  - White Paper is available at www.aplu.org/FTFresearch
The E-consultation – May 9-27

- 1,180 registered
  - Over 85 different disciplines represented
  - Over 900 written contributions
- 2,159 unique visitors to e-consultation website from 102 countries

- **Week 1** – Broad examination, critique of the Feed the Future Research Strategy
- **Weeks 2-3** – Identification of major research challenges and specific research questions and projects under each major research challenge
Key Themes – a selection

☐ 1: Sustainable intensification is a useful unifying concept, but need to better define what “sustainable” means and ensure it is tied to other goals of the FTF research strategy.

☐ 2: In its dealings with researchers, FTF would be better off identifying, framing, and supporting research on key problems, rather than crafting too specific an agenda; Invest in programs, not projects.

☐ 3: Capacity-building needs focused research and programmatic attention.
Research Challenges

1. Advancing the productivity frontier
   a: Increase the productivity potential of high priority crops and livestock
   b: Improve soil fertility, quality, and conservation
   c: Reduce postharvest losses

2. Transforming production systems
   a: Build human and institutional capacity
   b: Improve the distribution of relevant research outputs, and the ability of researchers to learn from intended beneficiaries
   c: Better understand and manage the risk environment
   d: Build stakeholder capacity

3. Enhanced nutrition and food safety
   a: Improve availability of, and access to, a high quality diet for women and infants
   b: Ensure safer diets for women and infants

4. Cross-cutting challenges
   a: Determine what works
   b: Develop food systems that mitigate and increase resilience to the effects of climate change
   c: Examine agriculture in the context of the wider economy
Forum – June 21-23

- Took place at the Washington Convention Center, following the announcement of this year’s World Food Prize Laureate.
- 400 people; registered
- Strong and diverse representation from US universities, NGOs, private sector and USG
Some personal observation

- 3 dimensions of tension
  - Spatial scale
  - Time: the Short-Term Development Trap
  - Public versus Private

- Challenge: How to coordinate central determined research agenda with country driven process

- Capacity Building

- The strength of the FTF Concept

- Follow on
The FTF Research Strategy

- Relationship to the APLU/BIFAD led process
  - Strategy
  - On going process of engagement
  - Existing programs and our recommendations
THANK YOU