Looking to the Future: Capacity Development and Feed the Future

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Outline

- Rationale
- History
- Impact
- Changing environment
- Multiple challenges
- Toward an investment framework
- Key questions for discussion
- Next steps
Why Invest in Agricultural Sector Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD)?

• Capacity development is needed for effective performance across the sector
  – Research, extension, agribusiness, universities, policy institutions, ministries, and others

• New capacities are needed for developing countries to address opportunities and challenges in agriculture
  – Globalization, new markets, new technologies, climate change

• Capacity creates the conditions where aid is no longer necessary in the countries where we work
History

• **1950s**: Early programs established ministries, extension services, agricultural banks, marketing systems, land tenure agencies, universities, etc.

• **1960s & 70s**: Investments in long-term training
  – National Ag Research Systems (NARS) support; degree programs

• **1990s & 2000s**: Declining investments in universities and NARS
  – Emphasis on primary education; parallel deterioration of in-house agriculture capacity

• **Late 2000s**: Renewed interest in human and institutional capacity development and agricultural education and training
Impacts of USAID Investments

- Capacity developed in **63** agricultural universities in **40** countries from the 1950s to 1996
- Thousands trained
  - **2001–09 USAID-funded agricultural training**
    - Academic programs (degree and non-degree) – 2,667
    - Technical programs (various) – 3,162
  - **1960–1998: USAID-funded agricultural training**
    - Academic programs (degree) – 15,588
    - Technical programs (various) – 25,211
- Impact went beyond technical skill development, including “soft” and managerial skill development; graduates went on to high-level positions
USAID Funding for Agricultural Education Institutions--1951-2004 (US$ million)
Changing Environment for HICD

USAID:

• 2008: Agency-wide HICD policy
• 2010: USAID Forward
• 2011: Administrator’s charge to BIFAD
• 2012: Gender Equality and Female Empowerment policy

Partners:

• CAADP/Kampala Ministerial
• Tertiary Education Mechanism for Africa (TEAM-Africa)
Multiple Levels of Capacity Development

Enabling Environment

Organization

Individual
Multiple Challenges to Address

- Professional capacities (human resources gaps)
- Demographic challenges (population growth)
- Organizational challenges
- Public policy environment
- Critical infrastructure and technology
- Linkages among agents of innovation
- Coordination with partners
- Alignment of interventions with plans (e.g., CAADP)
The “How”: Proposed Principles of Capacity Development Interventions

- Country-led/demand-driven plans and donor alignment
- Best practices, analysis, evaluation, focus on what works
- Integrating human, organizational, and environmental capacity development dimensions
- Coordination
- Accountability
Proposed Priority Areas: Levers of Change Across the Agricultural Innovation System
Proposed Approach: Platform Investments

Missions identify capacity development needs based on strategies.

USAID Mission

USAID Mission

USAID Mission

USAID Washington (BFS + Others)

Missions access capacity development services from central programs. Prevents duplicative design, economizes on management and administrative costs, and provides shared learning.

USAID Washington and mission field staff involved in program implementation.
Platform Example: Borlaug 21st Century Leadership Program

- New 5-year Feed the Future program
  - $13.5 million investment in 2011 with potential for Mission contributions

- Strengthens human & institutional capital base to promote innovation

- Critical entry points:
  - Educational institutions
  - Developing researcher capacity

Photo: Borlaug Foundation
Capacity Development in Research

Women-focused

- African Women in Agricultural Research & Development (AWARD)
- Targeted USDA Borlaug Fellows

Long-term Degree Training for Developing Country Students

- Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research & Development (BHEARD)
- Borlaug Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Program (LEAP)

Long-term Degree Training for U.S. Students

- US Borlaug Fellowship in Global Food Security
The U.S. Borlaug Fellows in Global Food Security Program

The U.S. Borlaug Fellows in Global Food Security program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to expand the pool of U.S. food security professionals who have the scientific base needed to effectively study and manage the global landscapes in support of sustainable food systems. The program is comprised of two key elements; a Graduate Research Fellowship Grant Program and a Summer Institute on Global Food Security.

The intended objectives of the U.S. Borlaug Fellows in Global Food Security program are:
- To help train a new generation of interdisciplinary U.S. scientists with fluency in global food security and the skills to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to apply new innovations and technologies,
- To support the key research themes of the Feed the Future initiative and increase understanding of the links between agricultural production, nutritional status, natural resource conservation, and development,
- To foster cross-cultural understanding and dialog and the kinds of long-term relationships that are developed through on-the-ground collaborative work, and
- To work with international partners to sustain a growing global learning community.
USDA Borlaug Fellowship Program

The Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program (Borlaug Fellowship Program) helps developing countries strengthen sustainable agricultural practices by providing scientific training and collaborative research opportunities to visiting researchers, policymakers, and university faculty. The Borlaug Fellowship Program has provided over 500 fellowships for agricultural professionals from 64 developing countries worldwide.

News

- USDA and USAID announce 2012 Borlaug Fellowship Program for several countries. Only female applicants will be selected for this announcement. Deadline is April 5, 2012.
Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development Program (BHEARD)

Request for Applications

This Request for Applications (RFA) and subsequent selection process is for an Implementing Entity (IE: a US higher education institution or consortium of institutions) to manage the Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development Program (BHEARD). The program, part of US Agency for International Development’s Borlaug 21st Century Leadership Program, announced in June 2011, honors the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug and is a major new effort to train individuals and strengthen developing country public and private institutions, enabling them to take advantage of scientific and technological breakthroughs to promote innovation across the agricultural sector. BHEARD is primarily a long-term degree (MS and PhD) agriculture and food security training program in support of the goal of agricultural-led growth and poverty reduction.

CLICK HERE FOR LINK TO RFA.

QUESTIONS?
To ask a question about the RFA please email: Paula Villagrasa Morera, or check the F.A.Q.
Capacity Development in Post-Secondary Education

Strengthening agricultural universities, technical and vocational schools
• Modernizing Agriculture and Education Training Systems (MAETS)

Supporting Africa-led strategy to strengthen tertiary agricultural education
• USAID-World-Bank partnership supporting “TEAM Africa” and donor alignment process
Capacity Development in Extension

Extension and Advisory Services
- Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services (MEAS)
- mFarmer

Mobile Solutions and Outreach
- mFarmer
Capacity Development in Entrepreneurship

Increasing Capacity for Agricultural Leaders
- Africa Leadership Training and Capacity Building (Africa LEAD)

Supporting Cooperatives and Service Organizations
- Cooperative Development Program (CDP)
Capacity Development in Policy and Data

Strengthening Policymaker Capacity to Promote Enabling Environments
• Enabling Agricultural Trade (EAT)
• Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS)

Strengthening Host Country Agricultural Statistical Agencies
• Joint activity with USDA National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) and Economic Research Service (ERS)

New Comprehensive Policy Support & Implementation Program Under Development
Some Critical Questions and Issues for Feedback

- Is an agricultural innovation system framework an effective way to align and integrate a range of investments?
- What are the best ways to serve the field linking central USAID and Mission investments? How can we make our framework whole-of-government, drawing on HICD resources across USG agencies?
- How will HICD objectives corresponding to FTF, CAADP, country objectives, and investment plans be defined? How will benchmarks for achievement be set?
- How can the private sector contribute to HICD?
- How can donors, countries, private sector work together to coordinate/track investments and impacts of a diverse set of HICD programs, against common objectives and benchmarks for achievement?
Progress and Next Steps

• 2011: BIFAD HICD working group reviews HICD literature, convenes discussion at WFP Oct 2011
• April-May 2012: BIFAD HICD working group provides input on draft framework
• June 2012: BIFAD/BFS/Feed the Future convenes informal stakeholder consultation on revised framework with partners in USAID Bureaus, Missions, USG agencies, US universities, country and development partners
• July 2012: HICD Framework finalized
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Thank you!