

**Board for International Food & Agricultural Development,
149th Meeting, October 18, 2006
Summary Report**

OCTOBER 18, 2006 AGENDA

- 9:40 a.m. **Welcoming and Opening Remarks**—M. Peter McPherson, Chairman, BIFAD
- 9:45 a.m. **Thirty Years of Title XII**—Edwin Price, Texas A&M
- 10:30 a.m. **Resolution: Title XII Report by R. Bissell**—William DeLauder, BIFAD
- 11:00 a.m. **University Partnerships with Private Sector Contractors**—John Thomas, USAID
- 11:15 a.m. **Resolution: Human Capacity, Training, Research and Institution Building**—Allen Christensen, BIFAD
- 11:45 a.m. **The Agricultural Knowledge Initiative India/U.S.**—Bobby Moser, The Ohio State University***cancelled*** *replaced with consideration of CRSP earmark*
- 12:15 p.m. **Adjourn for Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. Open Forum: **“Forging Critical Partnerships to Initiate a Green Revolution in Africa”**—
Moderator: Dr. Ousmane Badiane, IFPRI
- 1:45 p.m. Panel One: **Private/Public Partnerships (P/PPs) in Technology, Trade and Capacity Building**
Chair: Ms. Catherine Bertini, BIFAD and WFP Laureate
- Panelists: Dr. Calestous Juma, Harvard: Rejuvenating African Economies
Dr. Freddie Kwesiga, FARA: P/PPs to Enhance Agricultural Science, Technology Development and Dissemination***cancelled***
Dr. Hodeba Mignouna, AATF: P/PPs to Access New Research Technologies
- Panel Discussion: Q&As guided by Panel Chair**
Chair Summary
- 3:00 p.m. **Coffee Break**
- 3:15 p.m. Panel Two: **“What Is Needed for Private/Public Partnerships (P/PPs) in Technology, Trade and Capacity Building to Work?”**
- Chair: Dr. Robert Easter, BIFAD
- Panelist: Dr. Amit Roy, IFDC: Commercial Input Systems for Agriculture
Dyborn Chibonga (Beatrice Gakuba was originally scheduled), NASFAM and P/PPs to Assist Agricultural Enterprises
Dr. Shirley Malcom, AAAS: P/PPs to Build Human Capacity in Agriculture
- Panel Discussion: Q&As guided by Panel Chair**
Chair Summary
- 4:30 p.m. **USAID’s Response**—Thomas Hobgood, USAID
- 4:40 p.m. **African Ambassadors’ Response**—H.E. Dr. Amadou L. Ba, Senegalese Ambassador to the United States
- 4:50 p.m. **Concluding Remarks**—Dr. Ousmane Badiane, IFPRI
- 5:00 p.m. **Other Business and Public Comment**—M. Peter McPherson, BIFAD Chair
- 5:15 p.m. **Adjourn**

WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS, PETER MCPHERSON

BIFAD Members present included: Peter McPherson (Chair), William DeLauder, Allen Christensen, Catherine Bertini, Robert Easter and Tim Rabon.

The agenda was amended to include a discussion of whether there should be a CRSP earmark.

30 YEARS OF TITLE XII, ED PRICE, TEXAS A&M

Objectives of Study

- Complement the excellent paper by Mr. Richard Bissell that emphasizes the recent period of Title XII, especially the research component (CRSPs)...
- Review the institution-building and broader development efforts of the land grant universities since 1950

The study focused on three periods of university engagement:

- 1950-1975: Point Four, Foreign Operations Agency, International Cooperation Agency, etc.
- 1975-2000: Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger, 1975
- 2000- present: Title XII Improved

Main Conclusions:

- Accomplishments of the 1950-1975 period suggested that universities could have an enormous, positive role in economic development.
- Title XII and BIFAD initially set out a very hopeful and ambitious agenda.
- Achievements to date have fallen short of the vision, but we should not give up.

Main Recommendations:

- Propose appropriations for a Federal/State program of student exchanges in Agriculture
- Universities annually report all funding complementary to Title XII
- USAID annually report according to Program Components
- The Operations Sub-committee of BIFAD be formed to evaluate progress
- Implement new programs in view of world regional priorities

Dr. Price also presented the principal activities and accomplishments engendered by Title XII, a summary of the content of Title XII Reports to Congress, a tracking and analysis of USAID-funded programs and projects over the course of the three distinct periods, and an overview of how Title XII was amended in 2000 to achieve a broader mandate that went beyond production agriculture.

A general discussion ensued about the role of universities in international economic development, and that the strength of universities lie in their quest for advancing knowledge and the long term relationships they cultivate with foreign education and research institutions.

Allen Christensen of BIFAD moved that Dr. Price's report should be forwarded to the USAID Administrator because of its implications on impending Famine Prevention legislation.

RESOLUTION: TITLE XII REPORT BY R. BISSELL, WILLIAM DELAUDER

The following resolution was proposed and approved. As a result of a suggestion by Allen Christensen, the word "ask" in the final paragraph was changed to "request":

Whereas BIFAD, at its meeting on February 2, 2006, authorized a study to analyze and clarify the responsibilities of USAID, BIFAD, and the U.S. university community in the implementation of Title XII, of the foreign assistance act of 1961 as amended;

Whereas the study was undertaken by Richard Bissell of the National Academy of Sciences who presented his initial findings to BIFAD at its meeting on May 11, 2006;

Whereas the Bissell study constituted a thorough review of the enacted law of 1961 and subsequent amendments prior to 2000, and of the 2000 amendment, known as the Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger Act, which constitutes a major expansion of Title XII;

Whereas the Bissell study described the intended purpose, breadth and responsibilities of all parties as mandated in the Act;

Whereas the Bissell study included reviews and appraisals of key drafters of the 2000 Title XII legislation, of directors of International Agriculture Programs at land-grant universities that USAID has funded, of non-land grant universities and other public and private partners of universities, of current and former USAID staff knowledgeable of the Act, and of the BIFAD and non-Agency SPARE members;

Whereas BIFAD conducted public meetings and received input from a broad range of interested parties, including universities and USAID, on the findings of the Bissell report;

Whereas these comments were factored in the final version of the Bissell report, which was generally accepted by BIFAD at its July 6 meeting;

Whereas the Bissell report makes a number of important recommendations that the BIFAD members generally support, particularly with respect to the laws' advice and assist mandate;

Now, therefore be it resolved BIFAD asks the Administrator of USAID to use the Bissell Report as the basis for the Agency's implementation of Title XII, especially on BIFAD's primary mission, per ADS 216.3.9, "to advise and assist the Administrator of USAID with regard to programs and activities relating to agriculture and food security as set forth in Title XII of Chapter 1 of Part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. In discharging its duties, the Board will

- *Consult with, provide information to, and furnish advice to the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development on all aspects of programs included under Title XII and on such other matters as directed by the Administrator;*
- *Provide universities/colleges with information on USAID programs and activities that may be of interest to the university community; and*
- *Participate (on a selective basis) in the development and implementation of USAID policies that affect programs and projects in which U.S. universities/colleges are or could be involved.*

In addition, BIFAD requests that the Administrator accept the Bissell report's conclusion that "...the Agency and land-grants now agree that such 'advise and assist' language applies to BIFAD oversight of the CRSPs." BIFAD believes that the Bissell report also makes clear that the scope of Title XII is much broader than the CRSPs. In that spirit BIFAD and the Agency need to further define the appropriate mandate of Title XII, which may include the updating of ADS 216.3.9.

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRACTORS, JOHN THOMAS, USAID

Mr. Thomas updated conference participants on the status of the Subcontractor Clause. The Subcontractor Clause has been piloted and now will enter into the public comment period. The impetus for creating such a clause stems from university complaints that prime contracting agents would solicit the participation of universities in order to create strong proposals. However, there were allegations that prime contractors would often end up doing the work that was originally slated for universities. The Key Subcontractor Clause requires that if the prime contractor is going to substitute themselves or another organization for work originally slated for the subcontractor as stated in the proposal, the prime must obtain prior approval from the contracting office by submitting a written request.

The next step is to make the clause USAID policy, which is usually a very time-consuming process. However, the Office of Procurement has expedited the process, and the clause will be placed on the federal register for comment for 30-60 days, after which it goes to the rulemaking process.

Chairman McPherson asked that an additional component of the clause should be that the subcontractor who is to be substituted should be notified of the change.

RESOLUTION: HUMAN CAPACITY, TRAINING RESEARCH AND INSTITUTION BUILDING, ALLEN CHRISTENSEN

Allen Christensen presented the following resolution and noted that it is critical that long-term capacity building be a part of the development aid portfolio. There was some discussion about to

whom the resolution should be sent. Chairman McPherson considered input from the audience and from other BIFAD board members.

BIFAD Resolution on Higher Education's Role in Human Capacity Building and Nation Building

Whereas BIFAD commissioned a study in 2003 which was transmitted to the USAID Administrator and which concluded that USAID should lead U.S. efforts to help developing countries increase the pool of higher education degree recipients in agriculture and agribusiness, it was further understood that there was a need for an increase in advanced degree recipients in a broad range of areas;

Whereas the present cadre of competent developing country leaders, managers, professionals and scientists—many educated in the U.S—is ravaged by HIV/AIDS and many others are nearing retirement and must be replaced in order to achieve developing country objectives of vibrant economies and healthy, productive populations;

Whereas BIFAD notes that the number of USAID supported long-term trainees has dropped precipitously from 9,128 in 1990 to under 1,000 today;

Whereas, USAID has not allocated resources and altered programs so as to cause a real increase in the number of higher education students supported by USAID, and that BIFAD believes that the Agency should devote a substantial larger portion of its resources to this effort;

Whereas in the same study BIFAD called for pilot testing a number of new models for long-term training that are cost effective, draw on leveraged funds and are coordinated with and supportive of USAID's development objectives particularly in Africa;

Whereas innovative pilot-projects in Mali, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, and Zambia have been initiated by USAID to try to test innovative approaches to re-engage USAID in long-term training in areas related to agriculture, but which lack continued funding to scale up;

Whereas, the importance of the role of higher education has been emphasized under the President's Transformational Diplomacy policy;

Whereas increasing political instability in Latin America vividly demonstrates America's needs to build friends among a new and emerging generation of leaders in the developing nations of the Western Hemisphere as well as elsewhere in the world;

Whereas BIFAD continues to believe that there is ample evidence that higher education remains an essential component to sustained economic growth and development in USAID countries, and will contribute to the transformational development goal of helping to build and sustain democratic, well-governed states that will respond to the needs of their people and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system;

Whereas BIFAD believes higher education is critical for the following reasons:

1. **Higher education builds human capital** at a level that is necessary to compete in a global economy. Global economic engagement requires sophisticated business knowledge, ability to meet international standards of quality, negotiate appropriate agreements, craft complex financial mechanisms, and understand and interpret the rules of engagement.
2. Individuals with advanced degrees can **generate knowledge** through research that has economic impact for their countries. Some of this research can best be done and sometimes only be done in the developing countries.
3. Higher education **builds and maintains the institutions** that generate new knowledge and technology, establish and maintain standards, create laws, and conduct business in ways that is internationally competitive.
4. Higher education **develops sustainable relations** between the United States and developing country future leaders. Degree training and other extended training and research programs at U.S. universities contribute to better understanding by developing country students of U.S. values and culture.

Whereas BIFAD recognizes the long and deep commitment of the US higher education community to development of less developed countries, and that the present level of emphasis on higher education will not allow USAID to accomplish its goals under its Transformational Diplomacy policy;

Now, therefore be it resolved that BIFAD strongly recommends to the USAID Administrator that USAID and the USG significantly increase its investment in higher education in developing countries using new long-term training models as appropriate. We further urge that USAID work with the US higher education community, consistent with Congressional intent in Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, to address what is a critical and growing void in its development policy. BIFAD further recommends that USAID set the goal of 3,000 long-term trainees within three years with real progress in FY 2008 and that the Administrator, in his expanded role as Director of US Foreign Assistance, work to advance and integrate the role of higher education in other US donor agencies and programs such as the Millennium Challenge Account, and PEPFAR.

MAINTENANCE OF AGRICULTURE BUDGET ALLOCATION, TAG DEMMENT, UC DAVIS

This was an added item into the BIFAD agenda and it was in response to proposed cuts to the agriculture budget, the following items were discussed:

The House strongly recommends funding of \$31 M and the Senate recommends at least \$29.773M for the CRSPs for FY07.

Regarding the CRSP budget for FY 07, USAID has mentioned that there will be funding cuts perhaps as high as \$6 million from the FY 06 level of \$23 million.

It is the opinion of BIF AD that these funding cuts are highly detrimental to effective programs that have supported the Agency's past and present objectives particularly as regards the new transformational development goal "to build and sustain democratic, well-governed states that will respond to the needs of their people and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system". BIFAD strongly supports the language of Congress regarding the CRSPs and strongly recommends that the Agency follow the full directive of Congress with regards to these programs.

The BIFAD Chair requested that the Board allow him to draft a resolution based on the comments above. The Board agreed.

The Chair also expressed his desire that a future resolution be discussed, which would be forward looking and would support increased funding for all agriculture development activities.

OPEN FORUM, "FORGING CRITICAL PARTNERSHIPS (P/PPS) IN TECHNOLOGY, TRADE AND CAPACITY BUILDING"

Introduction by Moderator, Dr. Ousmane Badiane, IFPRI

AU/NEPAD'S Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP): Growth Agenda and Partnership Framework

The most effective way to reduce poverty is to raise the productivity of the resources that poor people depend on for their livelihood: Those resources include:

- Land
- Labor
- Off-farm rural labor

CAADP as a strategic framework has the following main features and principles

- African Union (AU) Program that is owned by African Countries
- Objectives and Targets set by heads of state (HSGs).
- Agriculture-led growth to reach MDG1
- Target goal of 6% sector growth rate
- Increased public investment (10% budget share)
- Four main pillars to guide investment
 - Land management and water control
 - Rural infrastructure and market access
 - Increasing food supply and reducing hunger
 - Research/technology dissemination and adoption
- Policy efficiency, peer review, accountability
- Exploitation of regional complementarities
- Inclusiveness: farmers, agribusiness, civil society

Panel One: Private/Public Partnerships (P/PPs) in Technology, Trade and Capacity Building

Introduction to panelists by Chair, Ms. Catherine Bertini, BIFAD and WFP Laureate

Panelists:

- Dr. Calestous Juma, Harvard
- Dr. Hodeba Mignouna, AATF

Dr. Calestous Juma, Co-Chair, High-Level African Panel on Modern Biotechnology of the African Union, Rejuvenating African Economies

Main points:

Conventional means have failed to:

- meet basic human needs
- participate in the global economy
- manage the environment

There is a need for a strategy for making the transition from dependence on raw materials to a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation and a need to redefine higher education institutions as critical elements in the new economy

There are several strategic entry points for making this transition and for redefining higher education:

- Regional integration (and cooperation)
- Physical infrastructure
- Technical training (strengthen local capacity)
- Business development (build partnerships)
- Policy reform

The mandate of the Africa panel on biotechnology:

- To provide the AU and NEPAD with independent and strategic advice on developments biotechnology and its implications for agriculture, health and the environment.
- It will focus on intra-regional and international issues of regulating the development and application of genetic modification and its products.

Dr. Hodeba Mignouna, AATF: P/PPs to Access New Research Technologies

Main points:

- Improving productivity is the key to developing the continent, and innovation is key.
- Research must be adapted to the African environment
- Different partners must be in place so that we can provide research to the farmers, and different partners must be in place along the value chain.
- AATF works along the entire value chain.

Audience Q&A

- There must be attention paid to the concept of mutual interest, and mutual interest must be demonstrated to potential partners.

- There was some disagreement about the weight given to “good governance.” Dr. Juma asserted that this was being focused on too much at the expense of other, more critical issues.
- There must be a focus on strengthening African universities to do indigenous research.
- The gender aspects of building capacity and raising productivity must not be neglected.
- There must be a focus on the Farm Bill, and the critical necessity of addressing it so that it is more fair for African farmers.

Panel 2: What is Needed for Private/Public Partnerships (P/PPs) in Technology, Trade and Capacity Building to Work?

Introduction to panelists by Chair, Dr. Robert Easter, BIFAD

Panelists

- Dr. Amit Roy, IFDC
- Dyborn Chibonga, NASFAM
- Dr. Shirley Malcom, AAAS

Dr. Amit Roy, IFDC: Commercial Input Systems for Agriculture

Main points:

- In Africa, cereal production is 30% of other regions, but there have been increases in total production.
- Production has gone up because of the area of expansion...farmers are moving into fragile systems.
- Fertilizers are used mostly on cash crops
- Africa is well-endowed with fertilizer resources
- Guiding principal
 - Inorganic fertilizers are needed to achieve an African Green Revolution are necessary, but they are not enough.
 - Also needed are Access (increase volume, range and quality of inputs), Affordability, and Incentives (improve functioning of output markets)
 - An enabling policy environment is also needed
- Development of a Commercial input system: There are five pillars for an agricultural input market
 - Policy
 - Human capital
 - Finance
 - Market information
 - Regulation
- Actions needed to improve the system
 - Simple registration procedures
 - MIS adapted to markets served
 - Privatizing inefficient parastatals
 - Comprehensive and enforceable fertilizer, seed, and CPC legislation/regulation

Dr. Roy also reviewed the Malawi SPLIFA project

Dyborn Chibonga: NASFAM and P/PPs to Assist Agricultural Enterprises

NASFAM recognizes the following challenges to smallholders:

- Limited access to credit
- High interest rates
- High prices on agricultural inputs
- Limited access to inputs
- Low produce prices
- Lack of markets
- Insufficient access to technology and knowledge
- Weak institutional linkages and structures
- Who defends their political and economic interest?

The NASFAM vision is 'To be the leading smallholder owned business and development organisation in Malawi that promotes farming as a business, producing economic and social benefits for its members, their communities and the country'

Achievements include

- NASFAM Systems Realignment / Integration /Stakeholder partnerships
- Expansion and improvement of the Board
- Geographic expansion into 30% coverage
- Construction of warehousing and office facilities for the majority of Associations and at Head Office.
- Major improvements in the volumes, quality and varieties of crops marketed locally and internationally
- Bringing NASFAM rice and groundnuts to retail outlets in Malawi
- Expansion of NASFAM training programmes
- Provision of adult literacy training to over 30,000 members
- Diversification of Crop production and marketing – pulses, cassava, bringing improved household food security.
- Entry into Fairtrade System

NASFAM attributes its success to:

- Enabling Policy Environment
- Farmer-directed, Market-oriented Technical Assistance
- Profitable Smallholder Farmer Associations
- Business Skills/Functional Literacy Training
- Stronger Linkages to Input Suppliers/Output Markets
- Innovative Rural Financial Systems
- Sustainable Community-Based NRM Systems
- Improved Post Harvest Handling/Storage
- Value-Adding Technology Transfer
- Rural Road/Telecommunications Infrastructure

Dr. Shirley Malcom, AAAS: P/PPs to Build Human Capacity in Agriculture: Science, Technology, Women, and Development

Gender concerns are under-recognized and under-discussed. To build capacity in agriculture, we must address:

- The role of STEM in development
- Education, training and capacity building
- A focus on gender
- Research gaps (research and training are interlocked)

Solutions will rely on:

- African solutions to African problems
- Connecting the dots
- Mobilizing the diaspora
- Rethinking the paradigms around women and education: moving beyond rights-based arguments...and move towards skills development

Paragraph 90

“Taking into account the outcome of the six regional forums on women and science sponsored by UNESCO, the Conference stresses that special efforts should be made by governments, educational institutions, scientific communities, non-governmental organizations and civil society, with support from bilateral and international agencies, to ensure the full participation of women and girls in all aspects of science and technology...”

- To sustain these initiatives governments should create appropriate mechanisms, where these do not yet exist, to propose and monitor introduction of the necessary policy changes in support of the attainment of these goals.

Critical issues in capacity building:

- Girls’ education in science and technology
- Women’s access to higher education and careers
- Women’s leadership / advancement
- Participation in priority- and agenda-setting
- Gender, science and technology
- Gender, science, technology and development
- Gender mainstreaming

USAID’S RESPONSE, THOMAS HOBGOOD, USAID “BUILDING SUCCESSFUL AGRICULTURE, TRADE, AND CAPACITY BUILDING ALLIANCES IN AFRICA”

The US Commitment to CAADP

- To accelerate the CAADP strategy, (USAID) will align specific programs in support of this African vision of sub-Saharan Africa’s transformation and economic growth
- Support Regional - Economic (COMESA, ECOWAS) and Technical Organizations (ASARECA, CORAF)
- Build Capacity to Facilitate Public / Private Partnerships

- Draw on guidance from Expert Reference Group
- Support Individual Country Process / Programs
- Aim to facilitate even more private sector involvement and development of PPPs

The Office of Global Development Alliances has leveraged \$1.4 **billion** dollars from across USAID programs attracting private investment of \$4.6 **billion** through 2005. Alliance Partners:

- Food Resources Bank
- Conservation Coffee Alliance
- Food Industry Development Program

How BIFAD can help:

- Support CAADP Pillars
- Continue to support capacity-building within Africa's regional economic and commercial organizations to support public-private partnership efforts
 - An example is the launch of the West & Central African Development Facility
- Increase support for universities' initiatives to develop and promote public-private partnerships
 - Communicate benefits of the APS process and Collaborative Agreements

AFRICAN AMBASSADOR'S RESPONSE, DR. AMADOU BA, SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

Main points:

- Improving Africa's agriculture is key to stimulating African growth
- Africa missed the green revolution because it lacked institutional capacity. But, Africa does have the potential for increasing productivity.
- Smallholder farms can compete if they have capital, access to markets, and access to technology.
- Africa is a good place to do business, and we must encourage the private sector to invest.
- The US government has a big role to play in developing the capacity of Africans. Indeed, many of Africa's leaders are beneficiaries of past capacity building efforts, and there have been valuable returns on that investment.
- The US has a strategic interest and responsibility for building this capacity.

CONCLUDING REMARKS, DR. OUSMANE BADIANE, IFPRI

Dr. Badiane summarized the points made over the course of the day:

- Innovation will be key
- We will need to make better use of technology
- We will need to take advantage of different entry points and build relationships along the value chain.
- The partnership between Private and Public can be win-win
- It is important to emphasize professional and technical training.

Chairman McPherson thanked the group and adjourned the meeting.