



August 22, 2019

*The Administrator*

Mark Keenum, Ph.D.  
Chairman  
Board for International Food and Agricultural Development  
President  
Mississippi State University  
75 B.S. Hood Road  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dear President Keenum:

Many thanks to you and the full Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) for the thoughtful and rigorous synthesis of key findings, conclusions, and recommendations that arose from the public meetings of BIFAD during 2018. As always, I value your contributions and deep engagement with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Together, we have the opportunity to make transformational changes that will lead to a more food-secure and prosperous future.

USAID agrees with your synthesis and recommendations; our Bureau for Food Security is taking action on many of them already. I look forward to discussing and exploring these ideas further. In the meantime, the attached summary details how we have addressed some of your suggestions in each of the thematic areas covered at the public meetings.

Once again, thank you very much for your dedication and service to USAID and our Nation. I know we both are committed to a resilient, food-secure future for all people. I look forward to our upcoming discussions and continuing to work with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Mark Green

**Summary of Responses by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to the Recommendations of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD): Building an Evidence Base on Resilience Measurement and Analysis, 175<sup>h</sup> BIFAD Public Meeting, May 9, 2018; Washington, D.C.**

Recommendations 1-2: **Multidisciplinary resilience research and partnerships to drive the resilience measurement and analysis agenda forward.** USAID launched a new Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risk, and Resilience (MRR) focused on addressing the root causes of poverty and finding ways to help people escape poverty and build resilience to the recurring shocks and stresses that often prevent households from sustaining development gains. The University of California, Davis, will lead the new global research program, which will focus on three key areas: resilient escapes from poverty, financial and agronomic innovations for inclusive growth and resilience, and resilient systems for broadly-based agricultural growth. USAID also is investing in applied research on key emerging issues on resilience and conflict-affected and fragile environments; developing guidance (technical and operational) on fragility and conflict through accessible, evidence-based materials; and identifying creative interventions and approaches that can produce measurable impact in conflict-affected and fragile contexts.

In addition to our research agenda around resilience, USAID continues to build knowledge and capacity in measuring resilience through the Resilience Measurement Practical Guidance Note Series. The series provides the latest insights from a wide variety of sources on efforts to assess, analyze, monitor, and evaluate resilience, including the ability to collect real-time (or near real-time) data on resilience dynamics as they are unfolding to improve programmatic results. Given the importance of tools that capture how individuals, households, and communities respond to shocks and stresses and how this affects their well-being, recurrent monitoring provides a window into the development of resilience capacities.

In September 2019, USAID will launch ResilienceLinks, a new knowledge-management platform for practitioners to promote best practices and share evidence on building resilience from multidisciplinary research and programs. With resources from USAID, as well as a variety of other donors, partners, and implementers, ResilienceLinks will serve as a premier source of information, by coordinating with and complementing other existing platforms.