



## Ms. Kelsey Barale: Winner in the Student Category for the 2014 BIFAD Award for Scientific Excellence in a Feed the Future Innovation Lab

Ms. Kelsey Barale was recognized for her research on understanding how agricultural information can best be transferred to farmers, particularly disadvantaged women. Her studies focused on women in the highlands of Guatemala, with the premise that if we can effectively communicate about farmer needs and improved practices, we can have a more sustainable impact on farming systems and livelihoods. She has particularly focused on the political and cultural constraints faced by highland women in the information transfer process. The results of Ms. Barale's research will directly impact how horticulturalists and extension workers transfer information to smallholder farmers. Ms. Barale's research results will be presented at the upcoming International Horticultural Congress in Brisbane, and her work will help development practitioners find novel ways to disseminate information to smallholder growers, not only in Guatemala, but also in other developing countries. Kelsey obtained independent grants from the Blum Center for Developing Economies, The Hemispheric Institute of the Americas, and UC Davis to help support her research. Ms. Barale received her B.A. degree in history with a focus on Latin America from Carleton College. She will complete M.S. degrees in both Agricultural and Resource Economics and International Agricultural Development in 2014 from the University of California at Davis.



The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) is a Presidentially-appointed advisory council to USAID concerning issues related to food and agriculture. Questions concerning BIFAD can be directed to the BIFAD Executive Director, Susan Owens ([sowens@usaid.gov](mailto:sowens@usaid.gov) 202-712-0218).

