In opening remarks at the public meeting of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) on May 23, 2022, Feed the Future Global Coordinator and Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development Samantha Power recognized BIFAD members whose committee terms recently ended. Administrator Power and Bureau for Resilience and Food Security Assistant to the Administrator Jim Barnhart thanked each member for his dedicated service and extraordinary commitment, which have enabled BIFAD to play a lead role across the U.S. Government and to assure the highest scientific standards in global agriculture and food security.

Outgoing BIFAD members are appreciated for generously giving their time and expertise in service to USAID. BIFAD recommendations have informed USAID decision making in the areas of resilience, nutrition, youth employment, and food security in conflict-affected environments. When COVID-19 struck in 2020, BIFAD convened the best experts and practitioners across the world to inform USAID programming in real time on the food security and nutrition impacts of the pandemic and to advise on promising responses.

BIFAD’s in-depth studies continue to influence USAID thinking and strategies. These include a study carried out under former BIFAD Chair Dr. Brady Deaton’s leadership that helped establish the transition of U.S. university-led Collaborative Research Support Programs to Feed the Future Innovation Labs and a
study to inform the sustainability and impact of strategic human and institutional capacity development investments to advance the goals of the Feed the Future programs. Under former BIFAD Chair Dr. Mark Keenum’s leadership, two studies have been influential: *How the United States Benefits from Agricultural and Food Security Investments in Developing Countries* and *Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID*, which helped to inform the 2022 revisions to the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy.

Dr. Laurence Alexander, current BIFAD Chair and Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, echoed USAID’s appreciation for these BIFAD members, saying, “Your vision and work have contributed greatly to USAID’s strategic direction and program implementation, and we look forward to building on this legacy.”