

Quarterly Report for AID-OAA-A-14-00031

Quarter 1, FY'16

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) held face-to-face executive planning sessions, one public meeting at Purdue University, and they convened a public informational session in association with the World Food Prize during this quarter. Additionally, BIFAD members participated in a high-profile panel discussion with the President of Purdue University at the time of the public meeting. The theme of the public meeting was entitled "Crossroads: Science, Innovation, Markets, and Policy for Feeding the World." BIFAD members Brady Deaton, James Ash, Gebisa Ejeta, Cary Fowler and Waded Cruzado attended the meeting in person. Chancellor Harold Martin participated in the executive planning sessions by conference call. Twenty four people participated by giving presentations or serving on panels. Climate-smart agriculture; the plant sciences research and education pipeline; and state, industry and university partnerships were the key topics for the public meeting. USAID Acting Administrator, Alfonso Lenhardt, and former USAID Administrator and Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) President, M. Peter McPherson also gave presentations during the meeting. A highlight of the public meeting were the presentations of the BIFAD Award for Scientific Excellence in a Feed-the-Future Innovation Lab to Dr. Larry Murdock of Purdue University and Drs. Carl Coppock and Getachew Gebru of Utah State University. All three made brief presentations after receiving their awards. The BIFAD public meeting was streamed live on the Internet, as arranged by Purdue University and APLU.

Six outreach sessions were held by BIFAD members, USAID staff and APLU staff at Purdue University. The topics include the characteristics of leadership by BIFAD Chairman Brady Deaton; small-holder farmer capital issues by BIFAD member James Ash; women in leadership positions by BIFAD member Waded Cruzado; crop diversity and food security by BIFAD member Cary Fowler; careers in international development by BIFAD Designated Federal Officer Susan Owens and APLU Senior Counselor Mark Varner; and global development issues by USAID Acting Division Chief Nora Lapitan. USAID Acting Administrator Alfonso Lenhardt also held a variety of informational meetings on the Purdue campus, including a research poster session with Purdue graduate students. APLU spent significant time arranging and conducting all of these sessions.

BIFAD convened a special session in conjunction with the World Food Prize meetings in Des Moines, IL. The session was entitled "Building Human Capital: Nutrition is Fundamental." BIFAD members Deaton, Ejeta, and Ash attended in person. Five experts were invited to make presentations to inform BIFAD concerning this possible new topic of emphasis for BIFAD.

A letter from six universities was sent to BIFAD Chairman Brady Deaton that described various concerns regarding research engagement and compliance with USAID's exchange visitor and participant training policies (ADS Chapters 252 & 253). BIFAD discussed this letter and USAID's Bureau for Food Security (BFS) response to the letter. A working group was established

by BIFAD, which is being chaired by BIFAD member James Ash. Representatives from three universities, USAID staff and APLU staff complete the working group. The working group is supported by the APLU Senior Counselor for BIFAD and the Staff Associate for International Programs. Numerous conference calls were conducted. USAID BFS staff consulted with others in USAID. Activities by the working group will continue into Q'2 of FY'16.

BIFAD discussed the economic returns to research investments globally and requested that APLU and USAID staff collect various research reports. The APLU Senior Counselor for BIFAD also prepared an annotated bibliography of those research reports to facilitate discussion by BIFAD members. The APLU Staff Associate is arranging a conference call with BIFAD members and a noted expert on the topic for Q2 of FY'16.

The Senior Counselor sent numerous communications to the US higher education community. The Senior Counselor directly supported three working groups (Awards, Participant Training and Exchange Visitor Policy, and Research Investments). The Staff Associate made extensive plans for the BIFAD public meetings that will be held during the second and third quarters of FY'16. At the beginning of this quarter, APLU successfully hired a permanent Staff Associate for International Programs in support of BIFAD. This individual made significant contributions to the planning and implementation of the various successful efforts by BIFAD this quarter.