



RUMINATIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLOBAL LIVESTOCK COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

Global Livestock CRSP at Forefront of Avian Influenza Response in Africa

By David Bunn, AFS project, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine Wildlife Health Center

As the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian influenza began making headlines as a global health issue, UC Davis poultry extension veterinarian Dr. Carol Cardona, a noted avian influenza researcher, received increasingly frequent calls for help from abroad. “It soon became apparent that there were too few experts to help address the problem in developing countries,” she said. To remedy this urgent situation, the Global Livestock CRSP supported the development of the

Avian Flu School International (AFS).

Principal Investigator Dr. Cardona and her colleagues at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and School of Medicine developed a multidisciplinary train-the-trainer course that is practical and teaches all the “need to know” facts through highly flexible, interactive materials. The curriculum is a 4-day course consisting of 5 modules

covering various aspects of avian influenza, including its impacts on poultry, wild birds, and public health, as well as the design and implementation of surveillance programs, national communication strategies, and disease outbreak response plans. AFS materials are designed to be customized based on the expertise

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PARIMA Receives Prestigious Gold Medal Honor

At the Ethiopian Society of Animal Production’s (ESAP) 15th Annual Conference of the Society held October 4-6, 2007 in Addis Ababa, the GL-CRSP Pastoral Risk Management (PARIMA) project and two of its members accepted gold medal awards for their notable contributions to ESAP and livestock research and development. Dr. Solomon Desta (Utah State University), member of the PARIMA team, accepted a gold medal for the PARIMA project as a whole. Dr. Getachew Gebru (Utah State University) was also awarded one of the medals for his own personal involvement with ESAP. 🐄



Getachew Gebru (left) and Solomon Desta with the gold medals awarded for excellence in livestock research and development in Ethiopia.

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Twenty-Eight African Fellows in First Year of Awards

Though the program is young, the Borlaug Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Program (LEAP) has already offered fellowships to 28 graduate students from 16 different countries in Africa. 50% of those students are women and the majority are in PhD degree programs. All of this in just over a year.

The fellowships have provided students who show strong scientific and leadership potential the opportunity to strengthen their educational experience through mentorship by both a CG scientist and a US university professor. Each student designs their own internship plan, a plan that is best suited to their particular field of study and circumstances. The internship can take place at either the CG Center or US university.

The fellowship facilitates research connections between CGIAR centers, African universities and US universities to better address problems of international development. To date, 12 different CG Centers and 14 US universities have established new linkages or strengthened existing linkages through the Borlaug LEAP Fellowships. The current Fellows are conducting research on a wide range of topics related

to agriculture. The program uses the broad definition of agriculture in Title XII legislation.

To date, all of the Fellows have come from sub-Saharan Africa. For the ongoing Request for Applications (RFAs) students must be citizens of a USAID-assisted country in sub-Saharan Africa. However, in December, a new limited release Request for Applications was announced. This special RFA is focused on Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs). For this special RFA, applicants are welcome from any USAID-assisted country in

all regions of the world though they must be affiliated with a CRSP to apply. Students applying for the limited release RFA must also meet the other eligibility criteria including fluency in English and being enrolled in a Masters or PhD program. The next deadline for both the ongoing and limited release RFA is **March 14, 2008**.

More information on the Borlaug LEAP Fellowship program can be found at the Borlaug LEAP website, <http://leap.ucdavis.edu> or by contacting the program at (530) 752-1351 or borlaugleap@ucdavis.edu. ☺

Norman E. Borlaug Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Program

	Ongoing RFA	Limited Release RFA
Deadline	Applications accepted at any time, next administrative deadline: March 14, 2008	March 14, 2008
Award Amount	up to \$20,000	up to \$20,000
Eligibility	Citizen of USAID-assisted country in sub-Saharan Africa	Citizen of any USAID-assisted country worldwide
	Do not need to be affiliated with CRSP	Must be affiliated with CRSP project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluent in English • Completed at least one year of course work at the graduate level with a GPA of 3.0 or higher • Have thesis topic related to agriculture and related fields 	

Second Deadline and Increased Funds for Jim Ellis Mentorship Program

This year there will be two deadlines for the Jim Ellis Mentorship Program Awards.

The first deadline is December 8th

2007. Students that already have their thesis research approved will be able to apply. Awards will be distributed in January 2008 and will be for nine months, through Sept. 30 2008. A second

deadline has been added to accommodate students who are just starting their studies.

The second deadline will be March 1st 2008.

Awards will be distributed in April 2008 and will be for six months, through September 30 2008.

What is the Jim Ellis Mentorship Program? The Jim Ellis Mentorship Program awards grants to graduate students to provide partial support of dissertation and thesis research, in order to improve the overall quality of the student's project, to allow candidates to conduct research in specialized facilities or field settings away from the home campus, and to provide opportunities for greater diversity in collecting and creativity in analyzing data than would otherwise be possible.

Who is eligible? Graduate students currently participating



Jim Ellis with wife, Kathy Galvin in Turkana. Jim's preeminent work in the 1980's on the South Turkana Ecosystem Project was a landmark effort in ecosystem science, particularly because of the inclusion of humans in an integrative ecological framework. His seminal paper on non-equilibrial dynamics in arid ecosystems has had a strong impact on contemporary scientific thinking.

in GL-CRSP projects are eligible for awards. Students must be enrolled at a collaborating institution or sponsored by a participating organization. They do not need to be US citizens.

How many awards are available? There are an estimated 10 awards available.

How much funding is available

for each award? Up to \$7,000 is available per award. Funds must be expended by 30 Sept. 2008 and no-cost extensions will not be possible.

Are there any other considerations for the awards? Proposals with a focus falling within the scope of work of the Global Livestock CRSP program and who are directly supportive of the project's objectives are eligible. Special

consideration will be given to proposals that bring linkages and synergy to cross-regional and/or inter-project activities. The grant amounts are flexible. These awards are intended to provide supplemental funds for items not normally available from the student's university or other sources. They are not intended to provide the total costs of a student's dissertation or thesis research. 🧡

Jim Ellis Mentorship Program for Graduate Students

Deadlines:

December 8, 2007
March 1, 2008

Award Amount:

Up to \$7,000

Award Dates:

Jan. - Sept. 30, 2008 (Dec. deadline)
April - Sept. 30, 2008 (March deadline)

Please visit <http://glcrsp.ucdavis.edu> or contact the GLCRSP office at glcrsp@ucdavis.edu or (530) 752-1721 for further information.

US Farm Cooperatives Model for Herder Alliances in Mongolia

The GL-CRSP Gobi Forage Project, a project initiated in 2004 to develop forage monitoring technology improve risk management by herders and other stakeholders in the Gobi region of Mongolia, has initiated the development of herder alliances based on the North American farm cooperatives model. The goals of the herder alliance are to improve the flow of early warning system information to herders, improve access to quality production inputs and services, and improve marketing of crop and livestock off-take products.

According to project research, “the development of a supporting infrastructure (i.e. cooperative) that gives livestock and crop producers access to quality production inputs (veterinary medicines, fertilizer, machinery and equipment, animal feeds, etc.), provides and organizes services that will improve product quality or improve producer capacity to engage in commercial agricultural production are practical implications for developing herder alliances in Mongolia. Services such as wool and cashmere grading, mechanical shearing, petroleum, spare parts, veterinary medicines, credit, improved marketing and market access, and regional resource

The GL-CRSP Gobi Project developed a generic structure for the herder alliances so they could be easily replicated by other groups throughout Mongolia. Photo by M. Urgamal.



planning can be cultivated and implemented by a herder alliance and therefore improve the livelihoods of its members.”

The Gobi Forage herder alliance model is based on North American rural agricultural cooperatives that are locally owned and operated by shareholders from the agricultural community. These cooperatives are a private sector institution that herders and farmers can rely on as a source of agricultural inputs, services, product marketing, and information. According to the Gobi Forage research team, a legal basis exists for developing large cooperatives in Mongolia, however, only small (< 15 member) cooperatives currently exist that mainly focus on income diversification. Beginning in 2006, the Gobi Forage team initiated a pilot project in Bayanhongor aimag (province) to test applicability of the Herder Alliance concept

under Mongolian conditions and to determine what modifications to the North American rural cooperative model were needed. In alliance with the USAID-Mongolia, USDA Rural Agribusiness Support Program, and Mercy Corps, the group sought to develop a generic structure for cooperative implementation that could be easily replicated by other groups wishing to establish cooperatives throughout Mongolia.

Following the selection of pilot sites in three soums (districts) within Bayanhongor, the Gobi Forage team focused on organizational meetings to facilitate the development and drafting of a constitution for herder alliances, the first step in official recognition and registration as a legal entity in Mongolia. An organizational structure was then implemented which included the election
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AID & Universities: Building the Global Development Commons

By David Wolking, graduate student in International Agricultural Development, UC Davis

On November 12, at the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) Annual Meeting's Council of President's Luncheon in New York City, Henrietta Fore, the acting administrator for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), rolled out an encouraging agenda for future public-private collaborations with a strong emphasis on higher education.

Referring to the long history of partnerships between USAID and US universities, Ms. Fore remarked: "One thing I did learn when I was at USAID is what long and strong partners all of you have been with the US Agency of International Development around the world for decades, and I just salute you for that work, and I am a great admirer of yours."

Documenting the successes of this collaboration, Ms. Fore acclaimed the Title XII Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) calling it "an outstanding initiative that has led to many important gains in international agricultural research, and I just want to thank all of you who have been involved in the CRSPs." The GL-CRSP's Avian Flu School Project, which provides training to veterinarians, village extension officers, and public

health professionals in Uganda, Tanzania, and Ghana was highlighted as "instrumental in our efforts to combat Avian Flu." (See page 1 for more on the AFS Project).

Ms. Fore praised the benefits of public private partnerships commenting, "Public-private partnerships unite unique

"...an outstanding initiative that has led to many important gains in international agricultural research..."

USAID Acting Administrator, Henrietta Fore speaking about the CRSPs at NASULGCs Annual Meeting

skills and resources, where each partner can apply their own skills to developing challenges, and come up with sustainable solutions."

Referencing Agency statistics, she remarked "total US resource flows to the developing world in 2005 amounted to 164 billion dollars. Of that American universities and colleges themselves represent about 2.8%. That means that American higher education institutions voluntarily from their own resources provided about 4.6 billion dollars of support including student scholarships and expenditures for institutional partnerships, and transfer of knowledge in

science, math, engineering, and technology."

She then went on to describe the future of collaboration between the Agency and US universities: "We believe that we are becoming part of a Global Development Commons, a community of continuous real-time

exchange, collaboration, partnership, and action, involving public and private donors, agencies, NGOs, businesses, higher education communities, host-country governments, and civil society - at the intersection where all of our interests overlap....

it [the Global Development Commons] is a real and virtual network where development actors can exchange information, data streams, research findings, and effective knowledge management to promote freedom and prosperity in the developing world."

To advance the development of the Global Development Commons, Ms. Fore proposed convening a "world wide Higher Education for Development Summit in February 2008, as a public-private partnership." The summit would "showcase substantial collaborative initiatives, among private-public, NGO, and higher

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GL-CRSP Avian Flu School at Forefront of Avian Influenza Response

of the intended audiences. Avian Flu School trains instructors at the national level. These AFS Instructors are given the tools to train field veterinarians, agricultural extension staff, and rural health workers at the district level. The district-level trainers are then prepared to conduct public education programs at the community level, such as among smallholder poultry keepers.

Pilot workshops were conducted in 2006 in California, Tanzania, and Texas with support from the Global Livestock CRSP and the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense. Feedback from participants was used to improve the curriculum. Within its first year, 15 workshops were conducted in six countries in three languages - English, French, and Kiswahili. Participant satisfaction, as measured by post-workshop surveys, has been extremely high.

Though originally planning to

focus on east Africa, the GL-CRSP AFS project has been responsive to requests from other countries. When the outbreak occurred in Ghana this past Spring, the GL-CRSP was there within weeks to

arrange the AFS course. To date, workshops have been conducted in the United States, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Djibouti and Ghana. This year, the program is training at the national and district level in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana and Tanzania and at the village level in Tanzania. In 2008, there are plans to continue the program in Africa and to expand the program into Asia and Latin America.



Dr. Cardona points out the vein location for drawing a blood sample from a chicken while Uganda workshop participants in personal protective equipment (PPE) observe. Photo by D. Bunn.

Outbreaks of the virus have been reported in 60 countries in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa. This is the largest avian influenza panzootic event ever recorded, leading to the death of 140 million birds and at least 315 confirmed human cases.

The AFS Program is a component of the Global Livestock CRSP's expanding zoonotic disease portfolio, featuring research and development projects focused on understanding the origin and spread of zoonotic disease and the interface between wildlife, livestock, and human communities. 🐣

For more information on the Avian Flu School Program and other CRSP projects, please visit <http://glcrsp.ucdavis.edu>.

GL-CRSP Podcast Available on Website

Global Livestock CRSP Podcast Vol 1: Researcher David Wolking of the GL-CRSP interviews David Bunn, Project Manager of the Avian Flu School Project (AFS). Avian Influenza has been described as the “most serious health threat facing the world” by the World Health Organization, a threat which according to the World Bank’s Global Development Finance 2006 Report, could result in economic losses of up to 3.1% of global GDP, or approximately US \$965.4 billion. In the interview, Mr. Bunn discusses the issues and challenges facing AFS as the project moves to the village implementation level in Tanzania.

External Evaluation Panel Finds ENAM Project “Making Excellent Progress”

The External Evaluation Panel (EEP) review from February 16-28, 2007, found the Enhancing Child Nutrition through Animal Source Food Management (ENAM) project to be making excellent progress and working effectively. The EEP noted that the project has an exceptionally well-organized, well-trained team that has worked together from the initial discussion of the planning grant, US and Ghanaian partners together, to forge a truly integrated multi-disciplinary project.

The ENAM project is intended to improve the current poor feeding practices and inadequate diet quality that contribute to childhood malnutrition in targeted communities in Ghana. The project monitors the multiple pathways that might increase availability, accessibility

and utilization of animal source foods (ASF) in the targeted communities, especially for children between two and five years

of age by supporting a small microcredit program

for mothers this target group in conjunction with training on nutrition and on business development. If the final results of the community intervention activities that combine income generative activities (IGA) with nutrition and microfinance education do show a significant increase of the intake of ASF by participants' involved in the study, then this will have important policy implications for Ghana and other parts of Africa. A successful set of results will demonstrate the value of this innovative

The EEP noted that the project has an exceptionally well-organized, well-trained team...

integrated approach to improve children's nutrition by addressing the multiple constraints on availability, access, and utilization

of animal source foods (ASF).

Based on their review, the panel recommended extension of

the ENAM project through September 30, 2008.

The positive accomplishments of the project thus far include:

- Successful achievement of all the major elements of its workplan on schedule;
- Development of excellent relationships at the University of Ghana;
- Formation of linkages with several key government ministries, including the Ministry for Food and

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Microcredit groups of up to 28 women have been formed in each of the ENAM project intervention sites. Members must live in the village and have a child between the ages of two and five. This group in Fiaso near Techiman is one of the larger ENAM microcredit groups. Photo by Susan Johnson.

Biosand -- A Water Revolution?

In the upper and middle sections of the River Njoro watershed in western Kenya, thirty households are enjoying the clean smell and taste of filtered water, water sourced from the River Njoro. Without filtration, this turbid water is highly contaminated with animal and human pollution ranging from 200 to over 20,000 fecal coliforms per 100 milliliters. In comparison, federal EPA drinking water standards require fecal coliform bacteria in the US to be zero. The River Njoro, the main water source for drinking and domestic supplies for these largely agricultural communities, is literally making people sick.

These thirty households are part of a field trial supported by the GL-CRSP's Women in Development (WID) project entitled *Development and Marketing of Household Filters for Drinking Water Improvement in the Njoro Watershed Area (POU)*, a project designed to develop appropriate and sustainable technological solutions to water purification for rural households in the watershed lacking access to safe water supplies. The POU WID project emerged with the last of three phases of a GL-CRSP SUMAWA research program, a six-month household pilot

trial investigating adoption rates and sustained behavior change associated with the introduction of intermittently operated slow sand water filters. Known also as the BioSand filter (see box this page), this locally manufactured unit is a technology for household water treatment, selected for its highly durable nature, relatively simple design, high flow rate, ability to handle turbid waters, and low up-front and zero recurrent cost. The filters have sparked excitement among households in the area. According to mothers involved in the trial, clean water does more than just protect against health risks such as childhood diarrhea, typhoid and skin infections. It also diminishes the time needed for laundry, dish washing, and household cleaning, and provides a glass of clean water to visitors "without shame". In fact, the filters have been so well received among trial households that all study participants have

BioSand is a registered trademark of Samaritan's Purse and refers to the Biosand Water Filter developed by Dr. David Manz. For more information on the Biosand Water Filter and Samaritan's Purse, please visit: <http://www.samaritanspurse.ca/ourwork/water/>.

said they would recommend the filters to family and friends without hesitation. Husbands have even volunteered to assist in water treatment, traditionally a female gender-specific role in the home.

The POU project was conceived by Dr. Mimi Jenkins of the UC Davis Civil and Environmental Engineering Department in collaboration with the Nakuru District Ministry of Health's Public Health team to actively address water quality and sanitation issues in the River Njoro watershed, where she had been researching sustainable watershed management as US Co-PI on the GL-CRSP SUMAWA team. With the POU project, Dr. Jenkins, UC Davis PhD student Sangam Tiwari, and SUMAWA Project Coordinator Dr. Patterson Semenyé are working to bring together community groups, local artisans, and the government's Public Health team to set up profit-making filter production and sales outlets, creating demand-driven social enterprises with direct public health benefits for the Njoro communities. If successful, Dr. Jenkins hopes local public-private-community partnerships for commercial filter production will spread to surrounding areas and the marketing model will be applied

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The majority of households within the watershed depend on River Njoro for some or all of their water needs. At the 38 public access river watering points identified along the River Njoro, activities include: livestock watering, domestic water collection, washing laundry, children bathing, washing bicycles and cars, washing produce for sale in the market and commercial collection of water for distribution and sale or for productive activities such as construction and drilling. Photo by Susan Johnson.

to other health-related household goods like pit latrine slabs and bed nets.

The POU WID project emerged from efforts under the GL-CRSP SUMAWA project, where researchers working with stakeholders in a participatory rural appraisal in the River Njoro watershed identified poor water quality and human and domestic livestock diseases as priority problems in nearly all communities. According to research conducted by SUMAWA, access to improved and safe water supplies is poor or unavailable, with half of the households in the area dependent upon the River Njoro for domestic and livestock water needs, and 100% of the households dependent upon the Njoro in the upper catchment. Analysis of case register data from clinics showed diarrhea diseases and typhoid fever as significant public health problems in the watershed, with childhood diarrhea particularly

prevalent among the agricultural communities utilizing river water as their primary drinking and domestic source, at a rate of 22% compared with 9% in households drinking piped water, 8% for households drinking roof-collected rainwater, and 13% for households drinking borehole water. Boiling is impractical and unsatisfactory for treating river water because of cooking fuel scarcity and inability to resolve turbidity and taste/odor problems. The demand for cleaner water in these communities, combined with poor water storage practices and little awareness of effective low-cost methods of in-home water treatment, has enabled the POU WID team to actively address rural sanitation and water quality issues in the watershed through Jenkins' enterprise-driven model.

The initial phases of research for the project tackled the

biological, engineering, and economic challenges of developing and adapting a low-cost and effective method of household water treatment for the River Njoro area. While several methods of treatment were initially investigated, including ceramic filtration, chemical treatment, and disinfection, the biological slow sand filtration method was selected due to its affordability, sustainability, ease of use and maintenance, and potential for local commercial production. Research by SUMAWA has shown BioSand filters to be effective at reducing pathogens and other kinds of contaminants at low costs (the full cost of the filters produced for the project is 1400 Kenyan Shillings, or about US \$20) and a feasible technology for local commercial production and distribution in and around the watershed. Back at UC Davis, the BioSand filters were rigorously tested

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Women in Development: Biosand Filters Reducing Water Risks

by PhD student Tiwari, utilizing “challenge” water designed to simulate tropical River Njoro water, consisting of untreated Sacramento River water spiked with raw sewerage from the UC Davis wastewater treatment plant.

Phase 2 of the project brought the UCD tested filters to Kenya to experiment with locally procured sands and artisanal construction and to confirm performance using River Njoro water. The testing, performed in collaboration with the late Dr. Wycliffe Saenyi and students at Egerton University’s Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and local artisans, revealed some unexpected changes in filter behavior arising from the natural qualities of tropical River Njoro water, as well as differences in local sands and materials used to construct the filters. Though the technical performance of the filters in Kenya was slightly less than that achieved at UC Davis with Sacramento River water, they still showed a significant improvement in river water quality.

The current phase of the project, Phase 3, wraps up the R&D efforts of the team to learn how well these filters work day-in and day-out in the homes of at-risk poor households, what mothers like about them, their impact on health, and what kind of filter education is best suited to the needs of watershed households. Engaging

60 volunteer households at high risk of water-borne disease from drinking river water (half randomly assigned as trial and half as control households), the team is monitoring improvements in household



Biosand filters are easy to use and cost effective for households in the watershed. Community-private partnerships have linked entrepreneurs to credit and market access in the production of the filters. Photo by Sangam Tiwari.

water quality, user perceptions, and health changes achieved through the educated and sustained use of the filters in trial homes. Preliminary results show significant improvements in drinking water quality at levels achieved in the lab, childhood diarrhea disease reductions between trial and

control households, and thus, high levels of satisfaction and sustained use of the filters.

The community-private partnerships will link local artisan producers with the River Njoro Water Resource User’s Association (WRUA) chapters in a profit-driven enterprise dependent on a surge in filter demand. The POU model seeks to encourage the local manufacturing of the filters by linking entrepreneurs to credit and market access through the WRUAs, while the Nakuru District Ministry of Health Public Health Team (PHT) oversees the performance and quality of the privately produced filters, as well as consumer education and outreach on filter adoption and use.

Distribution of promotional material and subsidy vouchers will take place at area clinics to ensure that filters reach the intended beneficiaries of the project: poor agricultural households in the upper catchment at high risk for waterborne-diseases and who lack the financial means to purchase the filters at full cost. As the project extends into the evaluation and privatization phase, word of palatable and potable water is destined to spread throughout Njoro. **CTT**

For more information, please contact Dr. Mimi Jenkins, mwjenkins@ucdavis.edu.

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EPP Finds ENAM Making Excellent Progress

- Agriculture and the Ghana Health Services;
- Achievement of a strong student training program in field assessment techniques and data collection as well as of degree-related course work;
- Cultivation of very strong community support, not only from the women participants in its credit groups, but also from local officials;
- Establishment of a functioning microcredit program that has helped its credit group members in establishing and expanding a range of income generating activities (IGA);
- Identifying and addressing key gender issues in the project's design and implementation;
- Developing an integrated program of community level training for the caregivers on nutrition education and business development;
- Developing an upper-level

ENAM has developed “excellent relationships” at the University of Ghana and has cultivated “very strong community support”.

- cross-departmental university course on nutrition extension that has been approved by the university and is to be offered later this year;
- Forming linkages with NGOs (particularly Freedom from Hunger/Ghana and Heifer International/Ghana) for continuing key aspects of the project's development program.

The External Evaluation Panel review team for the ENAM project included one member of the EPAC and two external specialists with extensive experience in related disciplines. The members of the panel were Dr. Deborah Rubin, Director, Cultural Practice LLC, Bethesda, Maryland; Dr. Alfred Neumann, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Community Health Sciences, UCLA School of

A prototype fish smoking oven was constructed with community members during the training in fish smoking. The trainings were open to all community members and were attended by 88 participants (83 female, 5 male).

*Thomas Kambonga (right), Field Officer-Navrongo, explains the fish smoking process to EEP members Nanna Roos (left) and Alfred Neumann (center).
Photo by Susan Johnson.*



*With additional funding from the USAID's Women in Development office, the ENAM project will be able to continue the loan and education component for longer than one year. Sustaining these activities will benefit the communities, the caregivers, and their children.
Photo by Susan Johnson.*

Public Health, Los Angeles, Calif., and Dr. Nanna Roos, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Human Nutrition, Univ. of Copenhagen, Denmark. Dr. Rubin is a member of the GL-CRSP External Program Administrative Council and served as the team leader for the review. Ms. Susan Johnson, Assistant Director of the GL-CRSP traveled with the review team, providing assistance and representing the Management Entity. 

For a copy of the External Evaluation Panel Report on the ENAM project, please visit the GL-CRSP website, <http://glcrsp.ucdavis.edu> or contact the Management Entity at (530) 752-1721 or glcrsp@ucdavis.edu.

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Gobi Project Initiates Development of Herder Alliances in Mongolia

of a Board of Directors, hiring of general manager for the alliance, and selection of soum field officers. In launching the alliance, several important lessons were learned: 1) to establish an alliance, a critical mass of producers must exist that understand and relate to the concepts of the alliance; 2) an existing network of technical extension experts and agents are crucial for initial training and awareness outreach; 3) sponsorship by organizations such as the GL-CRSP or Mercy Corps play a crucial role in providing the necessary resources and capital for start up; 4) an investment in training

on how an alliance should operate so that the alliance can be seen as more than a replacement to a marketing middleman, but as a network for services, information, and assistance in investment, production, and marketing; and 5) herder alliance formation is not a silver bullet, the alliances still require assistance from government, NGOs, or other

sponsoring organizations in order to overcome hurdles associated with poor infrastructure and disconnects from terminal markets. ☞

For more information on the development of herder alliances in Mongolia, please see GL-CRSP Research Brief GOBI-07-01, available for download at <http://glcrsp.ucdavis.edu>.

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Building the Global Development Commons

education sectors” in order to “facilitate general discussion and focused working sessions aimed at developing action plans for new initiatives in five major sectors: 1) infrastructure and engineering; 2) science, math, technology, and ICT; 3) economics, business, and management training; 4) agriculture, water resource management, and climate change adaptation; and 5) basic education and teacher training.”

Three outcomes for this major summit were proposed by Ms. Fore, “joint research between US and developing country higher education institutions, and private sector firms; exchange programs for professors, administrators and students; and specific curriculum and learning tools.”

During her remarks, Ms. Fore also proposed that USAID will

support a series of regional working sessions to ensure that initiatives that come out of the worldwide summit are designed and implemented in a timely manner. She also envisions supporting “program centers” which would foster “improved collaboration and greater returns on investments in development.”

Ms. Fore concluded her oration stating: “now in the 21st century let us work together to win some victories for educating the world.”

More information on USAID’s plans for a Global Development Commons can be found at the Agency’s website, http://www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/gdc. A copy of Ms. Fore’s prepared speech can also be found at the USAID website, <http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2007/sp071112.html>. ☞

Ruminations

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