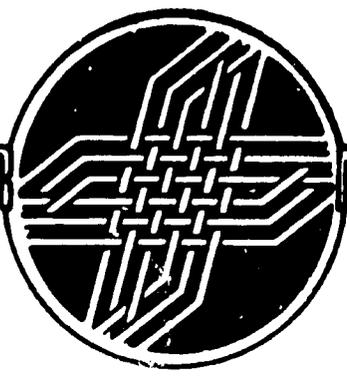


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OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



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**INTERNATIONAL HEALTH
CAPABILITY STATEMENT**

PD-AAR-365

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CAPABILITY STATEMENT

12N-40489

I APPROACH

The impact of environmental conditions, malnutrition, poverty and the cultural factors relating to underdevelopment are fundamental to the health status of rural populations. Tuskegee's unique strengths match key components of holistic efforts to address problems that plague rural communities--high mortality and morbidity related to preventable diseases, low technological levels, economic and cultural isolation, exodus of the young and the problems of rural-urban migration.

Improving the health status of rural communities cannot be achieved by conventional health professions approaches. Economic development (especially agriculture), the production and distribution of essential goods and services, housing, water and sanitation, environmental protection and education all influence the health status of populations. Therefore, Tuskegee's international activities are strategically guided by a generalized model of integrated rural community development that delineates the dynamic relationships among small farm systems, animal and human health, health education, nutrition, environmental sanitation, potable water resources and community organization.

Tuskegee Institute recognizes that the most pressing health sector problems of less developed countries are derivatives of socio-cultural, political, economic and environmental determinants not amenable to the singular focus and limited capabilities of the health professions alone. For these reasons, the Institute emphasizes the participation of all sectors of the community - farmers, mothers, children and other health workers - in an effort to establish the conditions essential to good human health generally and to developing practical solutions to specific health problems.

II TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE'S UNIQUE STRENGTHS

- * Experience in designing and implementing programs to bring rural community resources to bear on health needs**
- * Experience in developing low cost, replicable technologies through applied research offering practical solutions to locale-specific health problems**
- * Agricultural research, instruction and outreach programs geared to improving the nutritional status of the family and the community**
- * Research program in human/animal disease ecology of rural communities and environmental health**
- * Research in tropical and domestic animal disease and small ruminant livestock production**
- * A Biomedical Management Information System, using computers as memory extenders and consulting knowledge-based systems as decision-making aids. The system integrates administrative, clinical and business management information.**

III OVERVIEW OF TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

Founded in 1881 under the creative and dynamic leadership of Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee Institute regards its history with considerable pride. Located in central Alabama, Tuskegee Institute is a complex university with an enrollment of 3700 students. It offers 45 degree-granting undergraduate programs and 29 graduate programs. Its current programs are concentrated in seven major schools: Agriculture and Home Economics, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering and Architecture, Nursing and Allied Health, and Veterinary Medicine.

Tuskegee Institute has been a pioneer in the development of university-based outreach services to rural farm families. The nation's first cooperative extension program was established at the Institute in 1906. Today, the extension program coupled with research programs centered in the Carver Research Foundation and the George Washington Carver Experiment Station are the bases for the dual emphasis on outreach and research that is characteristic of Tuskegee's international activities.

Historically, the rural countryside within which Tuskegee is located is one of a number of small farming communities characterized by low socio-economic status and inadequate community services, particularly health care services. The experience of development in such a locale, in which the Institute has played a major role, points to the significance of developing a firm economic base with concurrent development of a sound educational and human services infrastructure so important to improving the quality of rural life.

IV ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITIES

Tuskegee Institute's Office of International Programs is organized to provide administrative support for international activities and projects. It assists participating schools and departments through coordination and oversight of projects whose mix of technical assistance, research and training requirements call for multidisciplinary services on this campus and/or a participating institution/organization. This facilitating function is intended to ensure effective administration and coordination, thereby, freeing the various schools and departments to implement the required project services.

The Office of International Programs and the Office of Grants Management, both have full-time administrative staffs that offer comprehensive project development, contracting, oversight and evaluation support. Equipped with microcomputers, the Office of International programs makes available such supports as critical path analyses for project design and tracking, travel services and international telex communications.

V THE HEALTH SCIENCES AT TUSKEGEE

1. Health Professional Education

The School of Veterinary Medicine, in operation since 1945 and fully accredited since 1949, is a regional institution serving the several cooperating states associated with the Southern Regional Education Board. Over 90 percent of all Black veterinarians currently practicing in the United States were trained at the Institute. The School has also provided much of the existing veterinary manpower for Black Africa and the Caribbean. The School of Veterinary Medicine is a pioneer in open heart surgery on large animals. Featured in its clinical program is a mobile outreach service extending into seven counties in South Central Alabama. This outreach service focuses on educating rural farmers on the relationship between human health and the importance of farm animal protein to the diet.

- **The School of Nursing and Allied Health.** The Nursing Division was the first baccalaureate degree-granting program in the State of Alabama. The faculty claim special strengths in community health and all clinical disciplines. The curriculum provides the student with an in-depth orientation to the special

health needs and problems of the rural patient and community. The Division of Allied Health was organized as a separate unit in 1978. Allied Health features curricula in Radiological Technology, Medical Technology and Occupational Therapy

2. Health Services

- The **John A. Andrew Hospital** is a 150-bed capacity (60 beds currently operative) nonprofit, short-term, general hospital which is owned, controlled and operated by Tuskegee Institute. The original building within the hospital complex was erected in 1912 with Tuskegee Institute student labor with funding from the granddaughter of the Honorable John A. Andrews, Civil War Governor of Massachusetts (1861-1866). This Hospital, accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and holding membership in the American Hospital Association, has participated as the initiating or cooperating agency in most of the public health innovations in the Southeast over the past 70 years.

In 1974, the **John A. Andrew Health Center** was formed around the Tuskegee Institute organizational need to separate a traditional in-patient service from the new thrust in ambulatory services. The John A. Andrew Health Center incorporates the multicounty (mobile) Primary Care Network, the Tuskegee National Health Service Corps Project, the Tuskegee Institute Student Health Services, additionally, there exists a variety of technical-supportive relationships between Health Center administration and private practitioners utilizing the Health Center premises as lessees.

3. Health Research

The Carver Research Foundation at Tuskegee Institute was incorporated by Dr. George W. Carver and his associates in 1940 as a private foundation. Since that time the work of the foundation has been supported by grants and contracts from businesses, foundations, and government agencies. Since its founding, the foundation has been concerned with carrying out the objectives of Dr. Carver: to advance knowledge through research in the biomedical, the natural sciences, and related areas as well as other pure and related sciences.

The Biomedical Information Management System (BIMS)

An innovative project designed to equip faculty, staff, and students with current knowledge and skills needed to insure the proper use of computers as memory and consultation extenders and using knowledge-based systems as decision-making aids, has been established in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The knowledge-based system is comprehensive and integrates clinical, administrative, and management information using programming languages (Digital Standard MUMPS, BASIC), and the POISE Data Base Management System on a VAX 11/750 Computer System. These resources provide access to biomedical information management technology for use in third world countries.

The Division of Behavioral Science Research- Over the years Tuskegee Institute has had a distinguished history of involvement in organized social research and data collection. Some of the early research organizations were the Rural Life Council, the Department of Records and Research, and the Office of the Director of Research. In 1967 the social research activities at Tuskegee Institute were reorganized under the Division of Behavioral Science Research. The focus of research in the Division includes race relations, poverty and rural development.

- **The International Food and Nutrition Center (IFNC)**- The International Food and Nutrition Center (IFNC) initiated in 1970 through a USAID-Title XII Strengthening Grant, addresses itself directly to those international concerns that relate to family nutrition improvement, nutrition assessment and education. Focusing its collaborative efforts on the needs of women and children in West Africa and the Caribbean, IFNC has several current projects - (1) providing technical assistance on a breast-feeding project in Jamaica; (2) developing a nutrition curriculum jointly with Cuttington University College in Liberia; (3) administering a French language training program for faculty and staff and (4) providing field experiences for nutrition faculty in LDC's.

VI INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Tuskegee Institute has been involved in international programs since the early 1900's when nine Tuskegee graduates were sent to Togo to assist in developing its cotton industry. Since then, Tuskegee has been involved in a number of successful projects in various parts of the globe. A pragmatic community-oriented emphasis on vocational and technical education undergirds virtually all of the Institute's international development initiatives. It has been this rich background of community education and service that enables the Institute to pursue, within the confines of its well specified capability, ways of effecting positive change in upgrading the quality of rural life for people of the world.

Tuskegee's involvement with contemporary development efforts in less developed countries began in the mid-1950's and has continued to the present. Several Tuskegee projects funded by the Agency for International Development are:

1. Indonesia (1954-59) - In 1954 Tuskegee Institute joined with the Ministry of Education of Indonesia in a cooperative venture in vocational education funded by USAID.
2. Liberia (1960-69) - Under this USAID contract Tuskegee Institute assisted the Government of Liberia in the establishment of teacher training institutes whose graduates were to fill the teaching positions created by the country's expanding rural school development program. Tuskegee was instrumental in the establishment of two rural teacher training institutes (Zorzor, 1961 and Kakata, 1964).

3. Guyana (1968-72) - This program was designed to provide subprofessional training for potential livestock producers and a related orientation for Ministry of Agriculture employees in Guyana. The training was provided at Tuskegee and included a broad practical training in animal science, feeding, animal breeding, and pasture management.
4. West African Poultry (1972-74) - This project involved the training of poultry producers in Mali, Senegal and Mauritania. A number of potential poultry producers were trained and the demand in the area for broilers and eggs was firmly established.
5. Tropical Ruminant Livestock Production (1972-78) - This was a USAID 211(d) sponsored consortium program involving Tuskegee Institute and four other Land Grant Colleges. Tuskegee's participation in this consortium was intended to enhance the capability of the Institute to study and analyze tropical livestock production systems.
6. Tuskegee Institute has been awarded two types of Comprehensive Strengthening Grants by USAID over the past 10 years -
(1) Title XII and 211(d) Grants -- The purpose of these programs was to enhance the capacity of Tuskegee Institute faculty to carry out research and provide technical assistance in rural development, nutrition, rural sociology, developmental anthropology and extension service with support roles from agriculture and other technical areas; and (2) 122(d) Grant (1979-84) - The purpose of the grant is to further develop Tuskegee's capability to render technical and related services to LDCs in two distinct areas:
(a) Integrated Rural Community Development as Related to Health and (b) Environmental Health and Endemic Disease Control.

7. Testing the Effectiveness of Adolescent School Children as Health Promoters in Rural Liberia (1984-1986) (USAID/PRICOR). The project will test the efficacy of preparing adolescents to function within their own households and communities as health promoters - tasks they will carry out as members of the community rather than as formal participants of the health care delivery system (Linkage Agreement with Cuttington University College, Liberia).

8. Mechanisms of Trypanotolerance in Bovine Trypanosomiasis (1984-1986) (OICD/USDA). The primary objective of this research will be to examine biochemical and immunological profiles of trypanotolerant and susceptible breeds of cattle in Nigeria. (Linkage agreement with the Veterinary Faculty, University of Ibadan).

We believe that we have substantial relevant experience to work effectively with USAID and/or LDC governments in the design and implementation of future multidisciplinary rural health care delivery projects. Moreover, as a result of an innovative program for assisting faculty and staff from the various units to develop their foreign language skills, a core group of faculty is now proficient in French at FSI Level 2 and above. A second cycle of the program is underway with a new intake which is expected to double the number of persons with proficiency in French.