



**CRSP**  
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH  
SUPPORT PROGRAMS

## “Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger”

*A look at Title XII legislation and the Collaborative Research Support Programs*

### **What is Title XII?**

When talking about international agriculture, “Title XII” refers to an amendment to the original Foreign Assistance Act that authorized the establishment of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The amendment, officially known as “Title XII: Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger,” was first signed into law in 1975 and later amended in 2000. The law set up the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), a Presidentially-appointed committee to give advice to the head of USAID about appropriate topics and operations of its agricultural programs.

Title XII lays out a leading role for U.S. universities to work with a wide range of public and private partners to improve food security, human health, agricultural growth, trade expansion, and to manage natural resources in a sustainable way – it covers agriculture in all its multiple dimensions. What has been called “the Title XII partnership” envisioned a synergistic relationship between the universities and USAID, where universities provide to the Agency needed technical expertise and the Agency supports adaptive research in developing countries, building capacity for the future, both overseas and in the U.S. The early members of BIFAD in the 1970s and 1980s had a broad and

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bold vision of their role and were supported in that view by the USAID administrations of the time. They understood the huge potential in the application of university-led, cutting-edge research and technical assistance for solving food and nutrition problems around the world.

The Title XII legislation makes it possible to systematically involve U.S. universities in the fight against hunger and poverty in developing countries while at the same time bringing back the benefits of their experiences to the U.S. It recognizes the important role that U.S. scientific training and research expertise has played in contributing to a dynamic, productive, and efficient agricultural system in the U.S. By integrating the functions of teaching, research, and extension



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*Title XII was envisioned as a synergistic relationship between U.S. universities and USAID to solve problems of famine and hunger worldwide. The legislation lays out a leading role for U.S. universities to work with public and private partners.*

within a single system, U.S. land-grant universities have successfully developed new varieties and resource management systems, adapted to specific environments, and effectively disseminated the products and techniques to the agricultural sector, while training the next generation of agricultural scientists to continue the process.

### **What activities does Title XII cover today?**

This seemingly simple question has many answers. Title XII describes a wide range of pathways for strengthening the agricultural sectors of developing countries as the foundation for their long-term economic growth. At different times since its inception in Title XII, different types of programs have been implemented under the legislation, but all have at their core the U.S. university engagement in agricultural development.

The **Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs)** have been a central pillar of Title XII programs. With a management center based at a U.S. university, each CRSP is comprised of a far-reaching network of U.S. and host country universities who work



The Congress declares that, in order to achieve the mutual goals among nations of ensuring food security, human health, agricultural growth, trade expansion, and the wise and sustainable use of natural resources, the United States should mobilize the capacities of the United States land-grant universities, other eligible universities, and public and private partners of universities in the United States and other countries... for: (1) global research on problems affecting food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; (2) improved human capacity and institutional resource development for global application of agricultural and related environmental sciences; (3) agricultural development and trade research and extension services in the United States and other countries to support the entry of rural industries into world markets; and (4) providing for the application of agricultural sciences to solving food, health, nutrition, rural income, and environmental problems, especially such problems in low-income, food deficit countries.

–Title XII, Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended in 2000.

with developing-country national and international agricultural research centers – including the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, U.S. agribusiness and other private sector firms, non-governmental organizations, USAID/Washington and USAID Missions, and other U.S. federal agencies such as USDA. There are currently ten CRSP consortia, working – in 2010 – with more than 550 partners in over seventy countries, on topics including: aquaculture and fisheries; beans, cowpeas, and other pulses; horticulture; integrated pest management; livestock and climate change; nutrition; markets and trade; peanuts, sorghum, millet, and other grains; and sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. The CRSPs are implementing activities in each of the Feed the Future priority countries.

*Agriculture, as defined by Title XII, includes the science and practice of activity related to food, feed, and fiber production, processing, marketing, distribution, utilization, and trade, and also includes family and consumer sciences, nutrition, food science and engineering, agricultural economics and other social sciences, forestry, wildlife, fisheries, aquaculture, floraculture, veterinary medicine, and other environmental and natural resources sciences.*

### **How much funding goes to Title XII?**

The Title XII legislation provides no specific funding; instead, Title XII funding comes from the more general agricultural development accounts. The dollar figures allocated to Title XII activities have varied greatly over the course of the program and often from one year to the next. From today's perspective, the amount of funding allocated to research under Title XII in the 1980s was quite significant. In actual dollars as well as in percentage of the agricultural portfolio, it was much higher than it has been in recent years. According to the 2009-2010 Title XII report, funding increased over those two years from \$47.3 million in FY 2009 to \$72.2 million in FY 2010; yet, BIFAD notes in the same report, that these figures actually reflect a decline in Title XII funding when measured as a percentage of total agricultural program finding.



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Initiated by Title XII legislation, **Collaborative Research Support Programs** mobilize the capacities of land-grant universities to address issues of food security, human health, agricultural growth, trade expansion and sustainable use of natural resources in the developing world. Ten CRSPs are currently active: AquaFish, BASIS-AMA, Dry Grain Pulses, Global Nutrition, Horticulture, INTSORMIL, IPM, Livestock-Climate Change, Peanut and SANREM. The CRSPs receive core funding from the United States Agency for International Development, Bureau for Food Security.

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**For more information, visit the CRSP website at [www.CRSPs.net](http://www.CRSPs.net).**