

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)

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BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (BIFAD)

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PUBLIC MEETING ON "BIFAD AND
NEW UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS"

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FRIDAY
APRIL 13, 2012

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The Board met in the Holeman
Lounge, National Press Club, 529 14th Street
NW, Washington, DC, at 8:30 a.m, Brady Deaton,
Chair, presiding.

PRESENT

BRADY DEATON, PhD, Chair

CATHERINE ANN BERTINI, Maxwell School of
Citizenship and Public Affairs

WILLIAM B. DeLAUDER, PhD, Delaware State

University

GEBISA EJETA, PhD, Purdue University

MARTY McVEY, President, McVey & Co.

Investments LLC

ELSA MURANO, PhD, Texas A&M University

ALSO PRESENT

GARY ALEX, USAID

ADRIAN ARES, PhD, Virginia Tech

LARRY BEACH, USAID

ROBERT BERTRAM, BFS Office Director,
Agricultural Research and Policy

JOHN BOWMAN, PhD, USAID

MALCOLM BUTLER, Association of Public Land-
Grant Universities (APLU)

SAHARAH MOON CHAPOTIN, USAID

CLARA COHEN, USAID

JULIE HOWARD, PhD, Chief Scientist, Bureau for
Food Security

TICORA JONES, PhD, Senior Advisor, USAID
Policy, Planning and Learning

SUSAN OWENS, USAID

MUNI RANGASWAMY, PhD, Virginia Tech University

PAUL WEISENFELD, Assistant to the

Administrator, Bureau for Food Security

TIM WILLIAMS, PhD, University of Georgia

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2 (8:38 a.m.)

3 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: If I could
4 have your attention, we will get started with
5 the spring meeting of the Board on
6 International Food and Agricultural
7 Development.

8 And let me thank everyone from
9 the public that are here with us today and
10 take a moment to ask each of the BIFAD board
11 members to introduce themselves, if they
12 would.

13 Bill, can we begin with you?

14 DR. DELAUDER: Yes. Good morning.
15 My name is Bill DeLauder and I'm -- my name is
16 Bill Delauder and I am President Emeritus of
17 Delaware State University.

18 MS. BERTINI: I'm Catherine
19 Bertini from Syracuse University.

20 MR. McVEY: Marty McVey from McVey
21 and Company Investments, Houston, Texas.

22 DR. MURANO: Elsa Murano, Texas

1 A&M University and food safety, is my area of
2 expertise.

3 DR. EJETA: Gebisa Ejeta, Purdue
4 University.

5 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: I'm Brady
6 Deaton from the University of Missouri and
7 chair of BIFAD. We also have with us today as
8 someone we want to add a congratulatory note
9 to, and that is Bob Easter, former chair of
10 BIFAD and new president of the University of
11 Illinois system.

12 Bob, congratulations.

13 We have a fast-moving agenda for
14 parts of the day. It will give us ample time,
15 however, to have interaction with you as well.
16 And we will keep a running summary of where we
17 are up on the board here, I think.

18 Does someone shift this
19 separately? I have it -- I mashed my button
20 here, but -- oh, there we are.

21 Well, you know, the paper copies
22 of the agenda are available, and I think

1 everyone who needs those has them at this
2 point. And let me take a moment.

3 Susan, thank you, and Malcolm,
4 Susan Owens and Malcolm Butler, who worked
5 with us from USAID and APLU, respectively.
6 And the staff have been so wonderful in
7 getting everything logistically done.

8 Paula, thank you, especially, for
9 your great work here.

10 We have this morning highlights.
11 Let me just review quickly. We will be
12 covering old business, new business. We will
13 have Feed the Future updates, BIFAD board
14 member outreach reports, and then sessions on
15 Higher Education Solutions Network. That is
16 the development RFA that is out there.

17 And then we will have two periods
18 of opportunity for public comment this
19 morning, and then in the afternoon. So,
20 again, we want to encourage that interaction
21 with you.

22 A couple of items of old business,

1 just to bring everyone up to date on the work
2 that BIFAD has been doing. Really, this goes
3 back over more than even the past year.

4 But we had a human and
5 institutional capacity building working group
6 established in 2011. Gebisa Ejeta has chaired
7 that group. And we are now reviewing a BIFAD
8 future capacity, the future capacity
9 development framework.

10 And we will be considering other
11 BIFAD working group follow-ups as we look to
12 the future. Gebisa, anything else you want to
13 add on that?

14 DR. EJETA: No, I think that is
15 fine.

16 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Any other
17 members of the board on any of these points?
18 Interrupt me if I am moving too fast on them.
19 I simply want to provide the public at large
20 and our own sense together here of where we
21 were on covering some of the issues we have
22 been dealing with.

1 We also had, as you will recall --
2 and this goes back a couple of years to
3 BIFAD's work on Haiti, and a report was
4 submitted. Elsa Murano led that effort with
5 a trip to Haiti and focused on the tertiary
6 agricultural education in their report to
7 USAID.

8 And we now considering, I know,
9 additional follow-up activity in the food for
10 future, Feed the Future context. And Elsa,
11 let me turn to you for any comments you would
12 like to make.

13 DR. MURANO: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman. The activity that we undertook on
15 Haiti, just a very, very brief background, was
16 on the heels of the earthquake in January of
17 2010.

18 And we put together a report that
19 we provided the administrator on how we think
20 the agency should physically marshal its
21 considerable human and other resources to
22 address some tremendous needs there in that

1 country.

2 We then received a briefing from
3 the agency with regards to the kinds of
4 activities that they were going to be
5 undertaking.

6 There was some delay in getting
7 those started for a variety of reasons not in
8 the control of the agency, mainly political in
9 the country of Haiti itself in getting their
10 elections out of the way and new leadership in
11 place and so forth.

12 So we are very eager, the Haiti
13 task force within BIFAD is very eager to then
14 do a follow-up trip, frankly, to Haiti to --
15 with agency representation to take us around
16 and show us the kinds of activities that they
17 are undertaking where they are in terms of
18 progress.

19 Because we see Haiti as an
20 example, a good model, if you will, a country
21 that is in tremendous need. And if we can get
22 things done there well in and efficient and

1 effective manner with good planning that is
2 very well executed, then you can replicate
3 that in many other parts of the world.

4 So we are excited about that and
5 planning to see if we can, at least one or two
6 of us from BIFAD and the task force might be
7 able to go out there to Haiti and have the
8 agency host us and show us the progress that
9 they have been making first-hand.

10 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Elsa, thank
11 you very much. Any comments from anyone else
12 on the board?

13 Thank you for your continued
14 leadership on this effort as well. We are
15 tracking now, thank you. So you have been
16 following this.

17 Another item of old business has
18 been our Minority Serving Institution working
19 group that Bill DeLauder has led this group
20 and has submitted to the administrator a
21 report on the MSI engagement with USAID with
22 recommendations for specific follow-up and

1 with steps to implement in a variety of areas.

2 And consideration of workshops
3 with stake holders for communication
4 engagements of a breadth of community
5 institutions in the United States and various
6 aspects of USAID work.

7 Bill, anything beyond that you
8 would like to add?

9 DR. DELAUDER: Only, as you
10 indicated, that we did -- the administrator
11 did receive the report. He did respond to the
12 report.

13 It was good to see that he
14 recognized the value that minority serving
15 institutions can bring to the work within
16 USAID. So that was important and I understand
17 that there is a group working within USAID to
18 move forward on some of the recommendations.

19 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Thank you.

20 Another item of old business that
21 we are currently working on is the BIFAD award
22 for scientific excellence and the USAID

1 Collaborative Research Support Program.

2 This arose from discussion with
3 the CRSP directors a year ago at the World
4 Food Prize meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. And
5 consideration has been given to an annual
6 award for a CRSP researcher and a graduate
7 student.

8 And we have been discussing that
9 criteria and we have, I believe, a resolution
10 that Bill DeLauder has been chairing that
11 committee effort.

12 And, Bill, thank you and let me
13 turn to you.

14 DR. DeLAUDER: Okay, thank you,
15 Brady. You have in your document, I think
16 behind Tab 5, the document that has been
17 presented for the program for the CRSP award.

18 And there is a resolution and time
19 line. But let me just say at the outset that
20 BIFAD is delighted that we have reinstated
21 this CRSP award. We understand the value of
22 the CRSP and we want to be able to recognize

1 the outstanding work that individuals working
2 within the CRSP have -- the work that they
3 have done.

4 So if the award I think was last
5 offered back in '99 or somewhere in that
6 vicinity, so we are going to reinstitute it,
7 hopefully with the approval of the board today
8 and to move forward with this award.

9 We also have added a student award
10 to this. It is not just an individual
11 researcher. But we also want to honor a
12 student either at the graduate level or at the
13 undergraduate level.

14 The document -- and let me just
15 say that my committee included -- Jo Luck and
16 Bob Easter worked with me on this, plus we got
17 some help from Mark Varner in his support. So
18 I want to thank them for that assistance.

19 I did circulate the document to
20 the board members to give them an opportunity
21 to offer any suggestions before we formally
22 bring it to the board for action, and so the

1 document that you have now reflects all the
2 inputs that I have received.

3 And so, to determine if it is
4 appropriate, what I would like to do is to put
5 the resolution on the table. And then if
6 anyone has any unreadiness they can do it
7 after the resolution is on the table.

8 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Bill, do you
9 want to -- should we read the resolution for
10 everyone at this point?

11 DR. DeLAUDER: Yes, I'm going to
12 read it.

13 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay.

14 DR. DeLAUDER: So, Mr. Chairman, I
15 am going to move that we approve the following
16 resolution. It is a resolution to create the
17 Board for International Food and Agricultural
18 Development Awards for Scientific Excellence
19 in the United States Agency for International
20 Development Collaborative Research Support
21 Program.

22 And the parameter says: Whereas

1 the United States Agency for International
2 Development (USAID) Board for International
3 Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) has
4 the responsibility in its charter to assess
5 the impact of programs carried out under Title
6 12 in solving agricultural problems and
7 natural resources issues in developing
8 nations.

9 And whereas one mechanism to
10 assess this impact is provide an opportunity
11 to review in greater detail the contributions
12 made by researchers and students who work in
13 a USAID collaborative research support
14 program, resolution.

15 Therefore be it resolved that the
16 BIFAD should create an award for scientific
17 excellence in a USAID CRSP, that the award be
18 given to former or active members of a CRSP in
19 a researcher or graduate student category, and
20 that the award be given annually.

21 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay, so that
22 is a formal motion in front of the board.

1 DR. DELAUDER: Right.

2 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Do I hear a
3 second to the motion?

4 DR. EJETA: Second.

5 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Second. And
6 let's open up for discussion. Since this was
7 suggested and evaluated there have been award
8 programs in the past many years ago, we
9 discovered.

10 And it is consistent with -- it is
11 interpreted as being consistent with the role
12 of BIFAD in recognizing the scientific
13 excellence and the interface between USAID and
14 the higher education community as well.

15 MR. MCVEY: Question. How many
16 awards? You said two, annually?

17 DR. DELAUDER: Yes, there would be
18 one award for a researcher and one award for
19 a student.

20 MR. MCVEY: And can you discuss
21 some of the mechanisms on how the award is --
22 the designee is selected?

1 DR. DELAUDER: Well, it is
2 included in the document that you have. But
3 there will be an awards committee outside of
4 the BIFAD that will be chosen by the chair of
5 BIFAD with input from the members of BIFAD.

6 That committee then will evaluate
7 the applications that are received, both for
8 the researcher award as well as the student
9 award. And then they will submit their
10 recommendations based on the evaluation to the
11 BIFAD Chair, to be reviewed by the BIFAD.

12 BIFAD itself will then made the
13 recommendation for the awardee and officially
14 it will be the Chair who actually will make
15 the -- based on the input coming from BIFAD.

16 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Bill, thank
17 you. Other comments?

18 (No response).

19 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay, are we
20 ready for all those in favor of approving this
21 resolution say aye.

22 (Chorus of ayes).

1 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Any opposed?

2 (No response).

3 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: The ayes have
4 it.

5 Bill, thank you. Any -- yes?

6 DR. DELAUDER: Yeah, the other
7 thing I would like for the board to do is to
8 approve the time line. And you have the last
9 page behind Tab 5 gives a suggested time line,
10 beginning with the day's action for approval
11 of the resolution.

12 Our target is to be able to make a
13 presentation of the award at our October -- at
14 our October meeting that we usually have out
15 at the World Food Prize.

16 So the time line indicates that we
17 will begin next week to actually announce the
18 award and to solicit nominations. And the
19 time line does indicate when the committee
20 will be put in place.

21 There is about a two-month period
22 in order for individuals to get your

1 nominations in and then the recommendations
2 come into -- to the BIFAD, final selection
3 being made by the first of September.

4 And then the presentation has to
5 be made in mid October. So one of the things
6 that we will need to decide -- and we can do
7 this a little later -- is what will be the
8 nature of the -- of the award.

9 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Right.

10 DR. DELAUDER: So, Mr. Chairman, I
11 move that we approve the time line.

12 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay, the
13 time line, there would be nominations through
14 the 15th of June. And then, as you indicated,
15 the recipients announced by the first of
16 September.

17 DR. DELAUDER: Right.

18 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: So that puts
19 us on a pretty fast track and --

20 DR. DELAUDER: Well, we wanted to
21 do it --

22 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: But that's

1 what --

2 DR. DELAUDER: We wanted to do it
3 this year, so --

4 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Right.

5 DR. DELAUDER: -- that's what. I
6 think we can do it.

7 MR. McVEY: I have a question.
8 Since this is such an aggressive time line,
9 how do you propose getting that out to folks
10 to know about it --

11 DR. DELAUDER: Yeah, well--

12 MR. McVEY: -- to make
13 application?

14 DR. DELAUDER: Well, next week,
15 since the board has already approved it and if
16 you approve the time line, we use aplu, who
17 has linkages with all of the folks out there,
18 particularly the anything deans, the
19 international people, and so forth.

20 And they will assist us in making
21 that communication. I assume also that it
22 will be posted on the website of USAID. So we

1 have a communication link with the folks out
2 there in order to get this out.

3 We also will get it out to all the
4 CRSP directors, as well.

5 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: I was going
6 to say, the CRSP directors --

7 DR. DELAUDER: Right.

8 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: -- who of
9 course are in town this week.

10 DR. DELAUDER: Right.

11 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: And we'll
12 touch on that in just a moment.

13 DR. DELAUDER: Right.

14 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: But that
15 provides a really great network --

16 DR. DELAUDER: Right.

17 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: -- for
18 getting the word out immediately.

19 DR. DELAUDER: Absolutely. So we
20 have a multidimensional way that we can get
21 the --that we will get the word out.

22 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay, the

1 motion is -- we have a separate motion, I
2 believe, on the time line.

3 DR. DELAUDER: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Any other?
5 Do we have a motion to approve the time line?

6 DR. MURANO: Second.

7 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Motion has
8 been seconded. Any further discussion of the
9 time line itself?

10 (No response).

11 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: All in favor,
12 say aye.

13 (Chorus of ayes).

14 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Any opposed?
15 No?

16 (No response).

17 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay, again,
18 Bill, thank you for your leadership on this.
19 And I know to many in the research community
20 it will be a welcome, welcome move to make.

21 And we are aware that it is going
22 to require some logistical work on all of our

1 parts to expedite this on staffing, staff
2 support.

3 But it is something that within a
4 university context we are very -- we do these
5 a lot, in a lot of different ways. So it will
6 probably move a little faster, maybe, than --
7 than some have anticipated.

8 Okay, thank you very much. And
9 that is an important item on the agenda for
10 action and one that we are pleased to see move
11 on.

12 The next item of new business --
13 yes, it is attracting there, I believe.
14 Earlier, I was looking at the portable down
15 here. It was working fine, but we didn't have
16 it on this screen. So now I think we have got
17 it all in sync. So thanks very much for the
18 work there.

19 We wanted to move to another item
20 of new business. It is a very important item
21 and I will be introducing some people here
22 associated with it. And that is the study of

1 the CRSP system, the Collaborative Research
2 Support Program, that is very familiar to
3 BIFAD USAID.

4 And communications with Raj Shah
5 last year at the APLU meeting, he suggested
6 that BIFAD take the ownership of a formative
7 review of the CRSP program.

8 This has been suggested a number
9 of times, has been even proposed in
10 legislation, I believe, at one point that we
11 simply need to take a comprehensive look in
12 addition to the individual evaluations that
13 occur with each of the CRSP.

14 Here we wanted to find whether
15 there's new ways of gaining efficiency, of
16 ensuring alignment with the Feed the Future
17 initiatives, and in a sense capturing the best
18 of science and ensuring it is being applied in
19 the field.

20 And as we talk later this morning
21 about some of us who have been involved in the
22 inception workshops and CRSP reviews, I think

1 we can give you some really interesting
2 examples of how that linkage is occurring.

3 CRSPs have been doing this for
4 some time in a variety of ways and as the
5 emphasis has been made to us, there is no
6 single CRSP model. There a lot of different
7 approaches being taken by the Collaborative
8 Research Support Programs.

9 So let's find a way of looking at
10 those and seeing we can gain administrative
11 power and synergy and leverage to use vague
12 terms that actually do mean a lot in the end,
13 even though they sound like rhetoric at times.

14 So we took that quite seriously.
15 BIFAD embraced it immediately as a board and
16 we set about identifying a team of evaluators
17 who could effectively undertake this task in
18 a very short order because Administrator Shah
19 had hoped that we could complete this review
20 by the next fiscal year, July 1 of 2012.

21 And this began really back in
22 January and February, so it has been on a fast

1 track. And that was a challenge itself. But
2 we put together a study team that is here with
3 us today.

4 And I want to introduce these
5 individuals and give them great thanks from
6 BIFAD for sure. And Robert Jones, executive
7 vice president at the University of Minnesota
8 is leading the team.

9 Robert, thank you very much for
10 your work on this effort.

11 With him is David Sammons from the
12 University of Florida, Barbara Stoecker from
13 Oklahoma State University, Derek Byerlee, who
14 is a consultant and has been with the CGIAR
15 system as well for many years.

16 Derek, thank you.

17 Carol Kramer-LeBlanc is an
18 independent consultant and Karen Brown, also
19 at the University of Minnesota in
20 international program work.

21 And each of these individuals
22 brings a tremendous expertise. They are very

1 well respected in the roles they play and it
2 is a team that has moved very rapidly to pull
3 together, get themselves organized to look
4 into the different dimensions of the CRSP
5 initiative and develop a time line that will
6 enable them in early May to meet at the
7 University of Minnesota.

8 They have been here this week
9 interviewing all. They met with the CRSP
10 directors and had a number of individual
11 interviews with a variety of stake holders
12 involved with CRSP program development and
13 implementations, and including private sector,
14 international agencies, various governmental
15 agencies and university personnel.

16 Robert, anything you would like to
17 add to that, please feel free to do so. I
18 just wanted to sort of give an overview.

19 But if you feel I have covered
20 that adequately, then let me again thank you
21 because we will then -- the report will be
22 completed by the review team and submitted to

1 BIFAD by early June.

2 Did I get that right? Yes, early
3 June in time for BIFAD to be able to make a
4 review and submit it to the administrator.

5 Dr. Shah has asked for a personal
6 sit-down on this topic, so we will be
7 organizing that later in June as well to
8 ensure that he is well-informed on all aspects
9 of this study.

10 And of course the CRSP directors
11 were in town earlier this week, as I
12 indicated, and we spent time with them. Many
13 of us did yesterday and had a great deal of
14 interaction.

15 And we want maximum input from all parties.

16 And we are excited about the study
17 because it is the kind of initiative that we
18 feel BIFAD can move ahead with, in concert
19 with USAID's interest in making appropriate
20 modifications as needed to ensure the maximum
21 impact of today's science on field world,
22 alignment with USAID missions in countries

1 around the world, and particularly with the
2 Feed the Future.

3 It clearly has some implications
4 also for the initiative and development that
5 we will be talking about with the educational
6 work of USAID later on this morning.

7 So, Robert, again, and the team,
8 thanks very much.

9 The new business is board
10 recommendations on focus areas for BIFAD
11 engagement. And we have had in a retreat in
12 Little Rock earlier this year, as well as at
13 earlier meetings we have had this past year,
14 extensive discussion among the board about new
15 initiatives that we perhaps should be working
16 with, and with USAID on.

17 And what -- and looking -- trying
18 to look to the future at focus areas that are
19 critically important, and I know one. We have
20 talked about several.

21 One that we discussed at some
22 length yesterday in our executive board

1 meeting yesterday afternoon was the issue of
2 agriculture, nutrition and health concerns.

3 And let me just open this up to
4 the board for discussion because it is at this
5 point at a very general level but one we want
6 to take a few minutes to address, and perhaps
7 other ideas that you might want to bring
8 forward.

9 So with that, Elsa?

10 DR. MURANO: I'll start. Dr.
11 Ejeta I know has a lot of great thoughts about
12 this topic. But it really comes from just a
13 sense that obviously agriculture is at the
14 root -- pardon the pun -- of what we are
15 wanting to do in development in these
16 countries, these areas of the world that need
17 it so much and all that agriculture means.

18 But the connection between
19 agriculture and health has always been
20 important and is even more important now. And
21 there has been a recognition of this by the
22 agency and by other entities in terms of

1 injecting human nutrition into the mix.

2 And we absolutely agree with that
3 and welcome that and are supportive of it.
4 But health goes even beyond that in terms of
5 what the effects of agriculture and good
6 qualify food and nutrition can have on so many
7 other aspects of health.

8 So we are wanting to explore how
9 we can better connect the influence of
10 agriculture, food production, food processing,
11 frankly, post-harvest, which is something that
12 we sometimes ignore a little bit, and on how
13 that impacts health in a myriad of ways.

14 And so we haven't quite identified
15 all the nuts and bolts of what we want to do.
16 We are thinking about it still, whether BIFAD
17 wants to engage in posting any of kind of a
18 meeting or just engaging with various groups
19 that are thinking about these things as well
20 and kind of gathering what is the consensus of
21 where we are in the state of the science in
22 this area.

1 So we are not sure exactly what
2 manifestation our activities will take. But
3 this is still in the thought process, but very
4 important to us as we recognize that.

5 You know, to a lot of people, when
6 they think of agriculture they don't
7 necessarily think health; and they need to.

8 Dr. Ejeta?

9 DR. EJETA: Yes, just a little
10 bit. I think several organizations have been
11 thinking about this and some have put up major
12 conferences.

13 Within the CG system,
14 International Food and Policy Research
15 conducted a policy-oriented dimension of this
16 issue in India about a year ago and held a
17 major conference there.

18 And very recently, among others, a
19 totally different dimension in a way that the
20 health units were not involved in much of this
21 discussion in a more significant way.

22 Just recently about a month ago I

1 participated in a conference at the Wellcome
2 Trust in England in connection with NIH and
3 CDC, put together a small group of people.

4 About 30 people called together to
5 look specifically about how one would address
6 those research, integrated research in what
7 brings about environmental change,
8 agriculture, food and nutrition and health to
9 addressing specific and watershed problems and
10 livelihood issues in developing countries.

11 And so we thought maybe this may
12 be an area where the agency could provide
13 leadership in development and the whole of
14 USAID concept, particularly with under the
15 current administrator this may be something
16 that we may get a greater advocacy done right
17 because of his background and his experience
18 in both agriculture and health.

19 And so we thought maybe we would
20 think about it. As Dr. Murano said, we
21 haven't had time to be very specific about the
22 kind of dimension that we would take up on

1 this.

2 As you can see, it is a very broad
3 area. But perhaps if we could find a niche in
4 which USAID could provide that leadership, it
5 may be an important agenda.

6 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Other
7 comments? Catherine?

8 MS. BERTINI: Thank you. Yes, and
9 I understand USAID is looking into some of
10 these issues. So perhaps we can have some
11 dialogue with them about it.

12 And to add to the list, the U.N.
13 had a conference in September, I think, on
14 these broad topics. And Skaggo Council
15 (phonetic) did a review on non-communicable
16 diseases and the connections of agriculture to
17 health.

18 And I think we see it in our own
19 Farm Bill Crops Act with that now about to be
20 reviewed and the issues of whether or not our
21 agriculture policy domestically has any
22 relation whatsoever to our health policy, and

1 whether it should.

2 And then finally, I think in the
3 field there are a lot of connections that
4 USAID and others in the field are already
5 making in order to connect agriculture and
6 health, especially with the generous funding
7 that goes to PEPFAR and other health-related
8 programs from a U.S. perspective and from
9 others through NGOs.

10 And already I think there's a lot
11 of people making connections in this area. So
12 we might want to learn from some of the things
13 that are already being done, I mean, actually
14 in the field.

15 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Anyone else?
16 Bill?

17 DR. DELAUDER: I would just
18 indicate one of the things I, you know,
19 continue to think is extremely important, is
20 HICD. And I know that we have a group that
21 has been working on that.

22 But I am hoping as we go forward

1 that we can make a lot more progress in trying
2 to address some of the issues that are
3 important in terms of institutional and human
4 capacity developments.

5 Because in most of these
6 developing countries, to me that is one of the
7 key to their own further development and
8 particularly in becoming more self sufficient
9 that they build their own capacity to be able
10 to do the things that they need to do to
11 better the people of that country.

12 So HICD is something that I think
13 -- I hope that we keep on, on the table and
14 that we can make some progress in trying to
15 address that.

16 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Those of us
17 in universities that have medical schools as
18 well as colleges of agriculture or food and
19 natural resources and in life science work
20 generally, the interdisciplinary nature of
21 what we are doing and the need to move out of
22 the -- any academic silos that have been

1 created is there.

2 And certainly I think it is fair
3 to say that has occurred in the medical
4 profession as well as anywhere, and higher
5 education. And we have been really placing a
6 great deal of emphasis on working together on
7 the research side.

8 And we need to do a lot more on
9 the educational and outreach components of
10 what we do. So I can see how higher education
11 could make a tremendous important -- could
12 make a tremendous contribution to USAID
13 thinking and implementation.

14 And it fits, as Catherine said a
15 moment ago, so much of what we are doing with
16 our own domestic programs, the farm bill and
17 the need to encompass a breadth of thinking
18 about what impact all these programs are
19 really having on the quality of life that we
20 are trying to work with in our society and
21 internationally.

22 And we find that -- I hear from

1 people from time to time. They are surprised
2 that other countries who may have -- be
3 challenged with lower incomes than the United
4 States nevertheless are very committed to a
5 healthy lifestyle and are making very
6 important choices to integrate what we are
7 doing on the production and nutrition side
8 with a whole health approach.

9 So there's many dimensions of
10 this. And in fact, USAID 20 or 30 years ago,
11 40 years ago, were addressing -- has been
12 addressing some of these issues.

13 And there's segments of the
14 academic community that have been working with
15 them on both the production and the nutrition
16 side that brings in the medical components and
17 health effects in new ways.

18 And of course clearly epidemiology
19 has made tremendous contributions in these
20 areas, and a number of other health-related
21 research areas.

22 And we simply need to point to

1 ways in which we can integrate, pull together,
2 and make relevant the programming, as I see
3 it. So to me, there is almost a "sky is the
4 limit" on the potential contribution that
5 could be made in this area.

6 But at this time, just to double-
7 check with my colleagues here, we have nothing
8 specific in place at this point but it is an
9 item that we want to look at, take action on,
10 and perhaps should be considering a more
11 refined, strategic approach that we might take
12 as a group to address this issue.

13 Other comments or observations?

14 DR. MURANO: Just to support Dr.
15 DeLauder, capacity building cannot be, you
16 know, set aside, if you will. We have got so
17 much work to do there.

18 And so many people who work in
19 this area will tell you that that is what
20 makes the biggest difference in these
21 developing countries on the long term.

22 We tend to do a lot of shorter

1 term kinds of projects and interventions, but
2 it is on that long term that we are going to
3 really make a big difference. And it is the
4 capacity building that is going to get us
5 there, as difficult and kind of challenging as
6 it can be at times.

7 But if we don't focus on that, we
8 are never going to make the big, fundamental
9 impacts that we need to make in some of these
10 countries. So I completely agree with him
11 that we have got to not -- we have to keep our
12 eye on this.

13 And we have to try to come --
14 develop better ways to leverage our resources,
15 not just in terms of AID's resources but USDA,
16 who is doing a lot of capacity building in
17 some other places.

18 Some other areas that I think we
19 can all work together better to use all these
20 resources to improve the capacity of a lot of
21 these countries, not only people capacities,
22 but obviously institutional.

1 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Is there any
2 thinking about specific action that we should
3 take as a board at this time? Or are we
4 comfortable with -- well, we all -- we have
5 been thinking about this, especially we will
6 be exploring it and discussing it further for
7 sure.

8 And perhaps that is the next step
9 unless you have some real specific ideas
10 about?

11 DR. EJETA: Which one? The new
12 initiative on agriculture, food and nutrition
13 and health, or HICD?

14 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Well, I was
15 thinking specifically of the new initiative on
16 health, but would be open to any integration
17 to other areas if you felt that was related to
18 -- specifically to human institutional
19 capacity building.

20 DR. EJETA: Well, as the chair of
21 the subcommittee looking at HICD, I opted not
22 to report anything because we didn't have

1 anything definitive to share and publish.

2 But I think I appreciate the
3 support of the board members in accentuating
4 the importance of HICD both for the principles
5 of development and USAID's mission in that
6 area.

7 I think the narrative about the
8 importance of HICD has got broad acceptance
9 and appreciation within the agency and outside
10 the agency and I think we are in the middle of
11 having a dialogue with folks in the agency in
12 terms of finding how to go about it.

13 And I think there would be a
14 presentation from the Bureau of Food Security
15 today and we will have discussions. And I
16 have no doubt we will come into terms on how
17 best to get on in getting it done.

18 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay, thank
19 you. Any other comments on this issue or
20 other issues? We focused on the health and
21 agricultural interface here. Are there other
22 ideas that you want to bring up in terms of

1 major focus areas that we should be
2 emphasizing?

3 I know the issue of water has been
4 a big issue that we have talked about from
5 time to time and it is those kinds of all-
6 encompassing topics that have captured a lot
7 of our attention from time to time, and water
8 being one of those because of the critical
9 nature of water in the world today.

10 And are we doing all the right
11 things to ensure that it is being addressed
12 scientifically, the critical nature of it with
13 regard to programming in terms of various
14 countries of the world and different
15 ecosystems.

16 So, other issues? If not, let me
17 -- we will move on then to -- I think the
18 other item you see on the board up there is
19 simply calling your attention as members of
20 the public that we, as BIFAD, are open to your
21 ideas.

22 Any recommendations of topics that

1 you feel ought to be, that BIFAD should be
2 thinking about considering as appropriate with
3 its charge of giving advice to the
4 administrative USAID under Title XII.

5 We are open to ideas and you can
6 submit them to the secretary. Susan Owens
7 will take those at any time. And I think most
8 people in the room are aware of Susan and that
9 office and Malcolm Butler and APLU.

10 A lot of university people
11 particularly work that way. So if there are
12 ideas simmering out there that you think, my
13 God, BIFAD is just missing this whole thing,
14 well, let us know.

15 We are open to those. This is a
16 group that has really pulled together and
17 worked very hard over the last year to not
18 only communicate clearly with Administrator
19 Shah, but to work with staff and to work with
20 each other to ensure that we are trying to
21 gain the most effective interface possible
22 between higher education, scientific learning

1 and what is happening in the field as USAID
2 undertakes its mission.

3 And so, we are open to ideas. We
4 don't want them to simmer. And I know I had
5 at least one suggestion came up earlier before
6 the meeting today. And we want to absorb
7 those and sort through them and then take the
8 action that we feel is necessary.

9 We are going to move in just a
10 moment to the Feed the Future update. And if
11 Paul Weisenfeld and Julie Howard are here at
12 this time so -- ah, we are. So no need to --
13 I was going to have another great story I was
14 going to fill in with if we had time.

15 But if you are here we will go
16 ahead. No, no, I'll do it later. We've got
17 plenty of time. I do want to allow time,
18 ample time for the program that we have and
19 the agenda, discussion with BIFAD board and
20 then open comments from you as well.

21 So with that, we will turn to the
22 next item on the agenda, which is the Feed the

1 Future update. We have two individuals who
2 will be -- okay. And I can always tell my
3 story, too.

4 So I will -- no, I was going to in
5 the spirit of what we are about at BIFAD I was
6 simply going to relate to this group the
7 wonderful visit I had with Paul Findley, who
8 is one of the authors of Title XII, sponsored
9 it in the House along with Senator Hubert
10 Humphrey in the Senate.

11 And he lives in Jacksonville,
12 Illinois, so with my good friend from Lincoln
13 University in Missouri, Iqbal Choudhary, we
14 jumped in the car and decided it was worth a
15 day to this icon who has contributed so much
16 to international policy in the United States.

17 So many of you are familiar with
18 him and his career, books that he has written.
19 He is still very active, 90 years old, going
20 strong, writing his memoirs, and still a very
21 acute observer of everything USAID is doing as
22 well as our foreign policy generally.

1 So we had a very exciting session.
2 And he sends his regards. And we invited him
3 in fact to be here to say a few words to BIFAD
4 and the public.

5 He could not make it this time,
6 but we have more or less an open invitation.
7 So whenever his time schedule permits we will
8 have time for him on -- with the board. So I
9 think it is well worth our time.

10 So, Paul, that was my story. But
11 it was such a wonderful personal experience I
12 just had to share that because it was really
13 worthwhile.

14 Catherine?

15 MS. BERTINI: If we are waiting
16 for Julie, I want to match your story with a
17 visit to George McGovern recently, who will be
18 90 in July and whose big mission is: What
19 more can I do to ensure that every child in
20 the world has a meal in school? And he is
21 still working it.

22 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Wonderful.

1 Anyone else? Well, these kinds of
2 reflections are great. I had just recently
3 seen George McGovern on a film, in fact, on
4 his farm and so it brought back -- did bring
5 back a lot of memories.

6 Okay, we will go ahead then with
7 the next part of the program. And let me just
8 take a moment to introduce Paul Weisenfeld,
9 and he and Julie Howard will address the issue
10 of the update -- an update on Feed the Future.

11 Paul is assistant to the
12 administrator of USAID and director of the
13 Bureau for Food Security, which is the agency
14 that leads President Obama's Feed the Future
15 initiative.

16 And in this capacity he is
17 responsible for overseeing the agency's
18 technical and regional expertise, focusing --
19 focused on improving food security and
20 reducing persistent rural poverty.

21 Paul has served for 20 years at
22 USAID and four overseas posts and in

1 Washington, D.C. and was recently promoted to
2 career minister, the agency's highest rank.

3 And let me say what I said to our
4 CRSP directors and others yesterday. I had
5 just read an article of Paul's in the Foreign
6 Service Journal that I thought was just very
7 profound and addressed this topic and I have
8 been using it as resource material in all the
9 talks I have been giving around the country.

10 So I commend it to you for your
11 review as well. Paul, thank you for being
12 with us and we are looking forward to your
13 update.

14 MR. WEISENFELD: Thanks very much,
15 Brady, and thanks to the BIFAD board. Really
16 would like to welcome them and thank them for
17 inviting us here today.

18 And the mic works fine, and
19 welcome all of our friends and partners who
20 are here, including the CRSP review team and
21 including the directors and staff of CRSP
22 programs as well.

1 I should also say I want to thank
2 the BIFAD board for their advocacy efforts for
3 their recent travel to countries, and the
4 advice that they are giving us.

5 We are really excited about the
6 revitalization of BIFAD and the renewed energy
7 and the interest and detailed advice that they
8 are giving us to help us really think, as
9 Brady said, how to use the best of science and
10 the best of human institutional capacity
11 building to improve what we are doing and
12 achieve our goals.

13 I want to give just a general
14 update of Feed the Future and the Julie is
15 going to talk more specifically about human
16 and institutional capacity development.

17 I think people know in general two
18 words on Feed the Future and if there is
19 anyone in the room who doesn't know that much
20 about it, it is the President's global hunger
21 and food security initiative.

22 It was really launched in 2009 at

1 the G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy. And the
2 issue that it was dealing with was: We know
3 that the United States has a longstanding
4 commitment to provide food aid when we see
5 crises like in the last year the crisis in the
6 Horn of Africa.

7 And there is a commitment that is
8 a deeply American commitment. The American
9 people want us to do it and the U.S.
10 Government has this longstanding commitment to
11 feed the hungry so that they don't starve.

12 But there was a real recognition
13 in that summit in 2009 following the food
14 price hikes of 2007, 2008. There was an
15 enormous missing piece that we were not
16 helping countries grow their agricultural
17 economies so that we could prevent those kinds
18 of crises.

19 And that, as well at the time
20 there was research out of the World Bank, out
21 of the FAO, that really showed that you can --
22 the best way to lift people out of hunger and

1 have an impact on poverty reduction was
2 through agricultural development and
3 stimulating agriculture.

4 Not only because significant
5 portions -- I think it is 43 percent, but
6 don't quote me on that -- of the rural poor,
7 of the poor in the developing world are
8 engaged in the agricultural economy.

9 So there was this increased focus
10 on agricultural development and in a way that
11 improves nutritional outcomes as Elsa and
12 others and Catherine were talking about.

13 A real focus on not just lifting
14 people out of poverty, but making sure that we
15 are reducing hunger. So that is the
16 background of Feed the Future.

17 The pledge was \$3.5 billion. So
18 to talk for a couple of minutes about money.
19 The President pledged \$3.5 billion over three
20 years.

21 Through our last -- because we do
22 our funding on a quarterly basis, we don't

1 have the latest figures, through December 2011
2 the U.S. had committed \$2.68 billion, fully on
3 track to reach the President's pledge.

4 We expect to meet that pledge
5 completely with our 2012 allocation. We
6 haven't gotten our 2012 budget yet. So in a
7 sense, one could say that the President's
8 pledge is over.

9 But if you look at the 2013 budget
10 request that was submitted, the President's
11 budget request is \$1.2 billion. Our 2012
12 budget is \$968 million.

13 So what we are seeing is an
14 increase. And this, for us, shows that the
15 Administration's commitment to deal with these
16 issues and improve security and nutrition
17 lasts well beyond the L'Aquila Pledge.

18 And we expect to continue to
19 request significant levels. And in a
20 constrained budget environment to see an
21 increase of about 3 percent from 12 to 13 we
22 think is a remarkable achievement and shows

1 the Administration's commitment to this area.

2 To talk about what has happened,
3 what we have done with our resources, over the
4 last year there was a lot of effort focused on
5 strategic planning. One of the principal
6 approaches that we have followed is enshrined
7 in the Rome Principles.

8 The Rome Principles were the
9 principles that were issued in the 2009 G8
10 summit, and the first principle was about
11 country-owned plans.

12 So we took that very seriously and
13 spent resources, financial resources and
14 significant time of our staff in helping to
15 develop country-owned plans.

16 In Africa, the people know CAADP,
17 the Comprehensive African Agricultural
18 Development Program, which really led the way
19 in developing these country investment plans,
20 country-owned plans, and how countries were
21 going to use their resources to stimulate
22 agricultural production and lay out a strategy

1 that donors could buy into.

2 So we spent significant time doing
3 that. And then we built our own strategies
4 based on those country-owned plans. So that
5 was an effort that took the better part of a
6 year.

7 And we finished strategy in 24
8 countries and regional programs, three
9 regional programs: East Africa, West Africa -
10 - actually, East Africa, West Africa, Central
11 America, and Asia; so, four regional programs.

12 The second big accomplishment that
13 happened over the first year was the U.S. is
14 one of the founding partners -- or inaugural
15 donors, I should say -- of the Global
16 Agricultural and Food Security Program, which
17 is an enormous effort to stand up at a global
18 level.

19 A fund that can continue to
20 provide resources to developing countries, it
21 is managed by the World Bank. Our commitment
22 or the funds we have allocated so far is \$481

1 million -- no, sorry, I'm reading the wrong
2 figure.

3 We have allocated, I think it is
4 475 out of the total. The GAFSP, as it is
5 called the Global Agricultural and Fruit
6 Security Program has allocated \$481 million to
7 12 countries so far, eight of which are
8 countries that we have helped.

9 And the real benefit of that is,
10 there are donors who don't have the bilateral
11 presence that we have and they don't have the
12 ability to go into countries and implement
13 programs.

14 And they are looking for tools and
15 resources that they can use. They are
16 committed to these areas but they want to have
17 an avenue where they can easily provide
18 funding.

19 So this global fund has allowed
20 us, the U.S. Government, to show leadership on
21 the global stage and attract resources from a
22 wide range of donors. So we are really

1 thrilled about that.

2 Another kind of over-arching theme
3 that we are proud of over the last year is our
4 efforts to stimulate partnerships with new
5 partners.

6 We recognize that the challenges
7 are significant, and as much as the U.S.
8 Government's resources are significant, we
9 can't solve all of this ourselves. So we are
10 looking for partnerships with NGOs, with
11 universities, U.S. universities, local
12 universities and the private sector.

13 I think what we have seen over the
14 past years is, it is not just donor resources
15 that do the job, but we have to find a way to
16 crowd in private sector resources in a
17 significant way to bring sustainability and to
18 bring markets for small holder farmers.

19 So we have spent -- we have spent
20 -- we have put up an office dedicated to
21 creating public-private partnerships in the
22 agricultural sector, and have put together

1 what we think of as some signature
2 partnerships.

3 The most recent one is with the
4 World Cocoa Foundation and the Sustainable
5 Trade Initiative to improve cocoa production,
6 quality, quantity in West African countries.

7 And it is a partnership that
8 includes Cargill, Hershey Company, Kraft
9 Foods, Nestle, Lindt and Mars, among others.
10 So that kind of partnership for us is
11 exciting.

12 To get the backing and marketing
13 expertise that private sector companies focus
14 on improving small holder farmer quality we
15 think is a great -- a great achievement and
16 something we want to continue to replicate.

17 Another kind of over-arching
18 result that we are proud of is our focus on
19 monitoring and evaluation. Donors have played
20 around with monitoring and evaluation for a
21 number of years and some of it has resulted in
22 a lot of bean counting.

1 And bean counting for accounting
2 purposes is always necessary. We can't get
3 away from counting how many people we train,
4 but we have tried to be very rigorous about
5 setting up the monitoring and evaluation
6 system that cascades indicators up, starting
7 with how many people were trained and
8 concluding with what was the impact of the
9 intervention.

10 So all of our activities cascade
11 up to two high-level indicators: reducing
12 poverty and reducing malnutrition. And that
13 is -- it sounds simple, but it actually is
14 something that is very new and innovative for
15 USAID, to focus all of the efforts in one
16 sector just on two indicators solely.

17 So when we make decisions on
18 program funding, when we make decisions on
19 assessing the quality of programs, we are just
20 looking at the impact on those two indicators.
21 And we think that is a nice innovation.

22 As part of this, as we were

1 establishing our monitoring results framework
2 and consulted with NGOs, what we heard over
3 and over was the importance of women. And if
4 you do, anyone who looks at the literature
5 also hears about the importance of women
6 worldwide.

7 In developing countries, women
8 make up about 43 percent of the agricultural
9 labor force. In some African countries it
10 exceeds 50 percent. And donors have had
11 rhetoric about the importance of empowering
12 women for a long time.

13 So our team tried to think about
14 what does that really mean in agriculture and
15 how do we know that we are doing it? Instead
16 of just talking about it, instead of just
17 trying programs that we think are going to
18 empower women, how do we measure it?

19 So as part of our monitoring
20 framework we created a tool that we found out
21 after we started to get into it has never
22 existed before in the development community,

1 created a women's empowerment and agricultural
2 index that I had the pleasure of launching
3 with Administrator Shah at the Committee on
4 the Status of Women at the U.N. last month.

5 It really has taken the donor
6 community by storm because no one has done
7 this kind of thing before. It separates out
8 into five areas what do we think women's
9 empowerment means?

10 Looking at how they spend their
11 time, who has control over resources, who has
12 decisions over planting crops? What the
13 parity is -- and this is the really unique
14 part because no one has done this before --
15 looking at parity of empowerment between women
16 and men in the same household.

17 And it comes up to a quantifiable
18 index where we can say are women empowered or
19 not and are they moving towards greater
20 empowerment as a result of our intervention?

21 Again, I think I am saying this
22 for the fourth time, no one has done this

1 before so we are excited about the data that
2 this is going to generate. And it is a public
3 good.

4 So we are trying to talk about it
5 as much as we can to see if other donors or
6 institutions will take this index and apply it
7 more broadly than our researchers will allow
8 us to, so that over the coming years we will
9 start to generate a real wealth of information
10 on what does women's empowerment really mean
11 in the agriculture sector.

12 And then hopefully people can
13 apply it to other sectors as well. Just as a
14 quick reference, we have continued to invest
15 in the Borlaug 21st Century Leadership
16 Program, which we think is an important effort
17 on human and institutional capacity
18 development.

19 But Julie is going to go into that
20 area in detail, so I won't talk about that.
21 And I think that is going to be an important
22 focus of ours -- Julie Howard, I should say --

1 in the coming year.

2 A couple of quick examples at the
3 country level, because all of this doesn't
4 mean anything unless you are having results
5 and impact at the country level to change
6 people's lives.

7 And we are starting to see that,
8 and even though kind of a conversation we have
9 with Congress all the time is, the President
10 made a pledge in 2009 and Congress first
11 started to appropriate money for this in 2010,
12 which we got at the end of 2010.

13 And people think: Okay, where are
14 the results? I think everyone knows that you
15 have to spend time figuring out how to invest
16 the resources to make sure that it makes
17 sense.

18 That requires analyses,
19 conversations with our partners governments to
20 make sure that we are in sync with them. But
21 now we are at the point where we are starting
22 to generate real results. We are excited.

1 Ghana is one of our critical focus
2 countries in Africa and Ghana provides
3 examples of a couple of successes that are
4 things that we are highlighting in our
5 approach.

6 We know that if you want to have
7 sustainable increases in agricultural
8 production and reducing poverty, you have to
9 connect people to markets. So our mission in
10 Ghana has done a great job looking at market
11 connections between farmers' groups and buyers
12 of produce.

13 Premium Foods in Ghana is a
14 private Ghanaian company that is the largest
15 purchaser of grains in the country. And they
16 have signed up to a partnership with us where
17 they are buying grains from farmers' groups
18 right now after the year in the numbers of
19 thousands of farmers.

20 And we are trying to expand that
21 to tens of thousands of farmers with them and
22 replicate that with other buyers of grain. So

1 we are already seeing increases in income
2 there because of these stable contracts that
3 farmers' groups are having to get their grain
4 out.

5 I visited Ghana and the head of
6 Premium Foods told me that their processing
7 plants have unused capacity and he wasn't
8 sure, he thought they could triple, quadruple
9 easily, and not even approach their capacity.

10 And they are searching to buy
11 grain from outside of Ghana, and of course our
12 focus is: How do we ensure that Ghanaian
13 farmers can supply this market that is already
14 there, and in that way improve their incomes
15 and reduce their hunger?

16 Ghana also provides a really good
17 example of what we are doing on impact
18 evaluation. I talked about the indicators
19 that we are doing in the women's empowerment
20 index, but as part of our monitoring framework
21 we are setting up a whole series of longer
22 term impact evaluations to generate more in-

1 depth knowledge and learning about what is
2 going on here.

3 So we talk about the importance of
4 integrating nutrition and agriculture a lot.
5 And one of the innovations of Feed the Future
6 is -- I forget if it was Catherine or Elsa --
7 talked about integrating health and
8 agricultural programming.

9 So Feed the Future, by design, is
10 intended to integrate ag and nutrition
11 programming. And if you look the strategies
12 we have put up on the Web, you can see how we
13 have thought about that and we have tried to
14 make an effort to do that.

15 It is also innovative. But we
16 want to study what does that really mean and
17 what is the real impact. So one of the impact
18 evaluations we are going to do will be in
19 Ghana, where we will set up basically a
20 laboratory experiment looking at what are the
21 nutritional impacts in communities where our
22 only intervention is agriculture programs.

1 And then look at the nutritional
2 impacts of communities where our only
3 intervention is nutrition, not agriculture.
4 And the third case would be where we are
5 integrating ag and nutrition, and figure out
6 what the differences are and what are better
7 ways to do this integration.

8 We are doing that study in a
9 couple of countries around the world and hope
10 within about a two-year period to have some
11 real better understanding of what this means.

12 Ethiopia is another priority
13 country of ours. And you will notice again if
14 you look through the range of strategies that
15 are on the Web, there is a lot of discussion
16 about the importance of land tenure.

17 And everyone knows that it is
18 taken as a given that if people have tenure
19 security their incentive to invest more in
20 their property goes up. That is a significant
21 challenge in a lot of the developing world,
22 and particularly in Africa. Lots of

1 challenges about land tenure security.

2 Ethiopia was a country that was
3 for many years very resistant to giving out
4 land titles. But our mission there has been
5 working on a program for a number of years to
6 change the attitude of the Egyptian (sic)
7 authorities about giving greater land tenure
8 security.

9 They developed these land
10 certifications. They are not ownership but it
11 is a piece of paper given by the government
12 that demarcates the land very specifically to
13 small holder farmers and farmer immediately
14 feel greater security in the land.

15 They feel that this is mine. And
16 we have seen investments go up and we have
17 seen productivity in these areas triple in
18 just the last year. So we are really excited
19 about that.

20 It has already been rolled out to
21 thousands of farmers and we are trying to
22 encourage the Government of Ethiopia to expand

1 this on a broad scale.

2 I was just in Ethiopia last month
3 and I have read about this program and talked
4 about it and have been really impressed, but
5 nothing prepared me for seeing it on the
6 ground.

7 And if you talk particularly women
8 farmers, I talked to several women farmers who
9 said they had parcels of land that they
10 couldn't farm and they knew that if they
11 leased them out that they could make more
12 money.

13 But they were unproductive and
14 they wouldn't lease them out because they were
15 worried that if they leased them out someone
16 would claim that they were theirs; and they
17 had nothing to prove that this was their land.

18 There was all this unproductive
19 land out there, and as a result of these
20 certification programs, significantly more
21 land has been brought into production in this
22 area. And the women, in particular, are the

1 ones who feel greater security and have seen
2 increases in their income.

3 We just think that is a fabulous
4 program. Two more examples. Tanzania is
5 another real focus country of ours. Tanzania
6 is a great example of the public-private
7 partnerships we are trying to push.

8 The Tanzanian Government, and in
9 particular President Kikwete, and it
10 demonstrates how leadership at the highest
11 level can really move things forward.

12 President Kikwete has been a
13 tremendous partner in establishing the
14 southern agricultural growth corridor of
15 Tanzania, the southern part of the country,
16 identifying that as an area with -- and I know
17 several of our members from the BIFAD board
18 travelled to Tanzania and saw this.

19 I was talking to Dr. Ejeta about
20 this last night, establishing that area as an
21 area where they really do want to crowd in
22 private sector investment to overcome

1 generations of lack of investment and
2 longstanding poverty and hunger.

3 They are targeting \$2.1 billion in
4 investment over the coming years, private
5 investment. And we have already worked out a
6 relationship with a private rice producer
7 called Kilombero Farms in Tanzania that has a
8 25,000-hectare farm and they are producing
9 rice for the domestic market.

10 It is a company that is an
11 international company. It has American and,
12 I believe, British ownership. But they are
13 interested in taking product and working with
14 the surrounding farmers.

15 They have got 5,000 farmers in
16 that immediate area and we have made
17 connections between this large commercial
18 farm, the small holder farmers, again with the
19 results that we are seeing increases in the
20 incomes of those farmers.

21 So that is the kind of thing again
22 like in Ghana that we are really interested in

1 expanding. And Tanzania has also been a
2 leader in the Grow Africa platform, which is
3 something that we are going to talk about
4 hopefully a lot more in the coming year.

5 Grow Africa is a partnership of
6 the African Union and the World Economic
7 Forum. It was started last year at the World
8 Economic Forum in Davos.

9 And it is a partnership
10 specifically intended to stimulate private
11 investment in agriculture. Seven African
12 countries were self selecting countries, where
13 Africa calls them first wave countries.

14 Tanzania has really been in the
15 leadership in that effort. And what we are
16 seeing with several Grow Africa meetings that
17 have happened in the last year is it is
18 starting to create a real buzz around Africa
19 and a little bit of competition among
20 countries.

21 But how do you position yourself
22 in a way to attract investment from your own

1 domestic private sector and from international
2 companies? And again, it is focused on small
3 holder farmers and how to impact to benefit
4 small holder farmers.

5 So we are excited about that. I
6 will mention it again in a second when I talk
7 about the G8. The last country example, this
8 is Bangladesh.

9 Bangladesh, everyone knows, is a
10 country that has significant food security
11 problems, has ongoing imports of U.S. food aid
12 and it is a real priority to help Bangladesh
13 overcome those kinds of challenges.

14 And the example there I think is
15 one about -- is one about technology. The
16 deep urea replacement technology is something
17 that the Government of Bangladesh and our
18 partners working there have taken to heart.

19 And there is often a challenge in
20 the uptake of any new technology, whether it
21 is new cell phones or whether it is technology
22 for farmers.

1 So the thing we are proud of in
2 Bangladesh is, we have seen in just the last
3 year in our program the hectares using this
4 technology of deep urea replacement go from
5 94,000 to about 300,000.

6 And we are hoping this expansion
7 and working hard to get this expansion at
8 those levels to continue over the coming
9 years. But again, the increases in
10 productivity and incomes are what we are
11 really excited about.

12 And we are happy that we have got
13 this monitoring system that can measure those
14 results, cascade the results from the number
15 of people who are trained in this technology
16 to the number of farmers who have actually
17 applied it and carry that through to what that
18 has meant in increases in income.

19 The Horn of Africa, I'll say two
20 words about the crisis in the last year. A
21 big focus of ours, of our a lot of our staff
22 obviously was on the crisis in the Horn of

1 Africa.

2 We in Feed the Future do not work
3 on the food aid part of it, so our folks in
4 OFDA, the Office of Foreign Disaster
5 Assistance and the Office of Food for Peace
6 were heavily engaged in providing food and
7 other humanitarian assistance to save lives
8 there.

9 But what we have done with them is
10 create what we have called the joint planning
11 cell over the last year to think about how can
12 we do a better job planning and integrating
13 our short-term and long-term resources.

14 Again, something that has been
15 talked about for a number of years by USAID,
16 but we never really have gotten a good handle
17 on it. And there are a lot of reasons.

18 Part of the reason is the folks
19 who were delivering food assistance and saving
20 lives are fully engaged in that effort and it
21 is difficult to pull them away to engage in
22 long-term planning.

1 But we have through this setting
2 up a joint planning cell in Washington and one
3 in the field, we have hammered out a strategy
4 that connects better the immediate relief
5 effort.

6 And the work that the immediate --
7 that humanitarian assistance does to start to
8 build resilience to our longer-term planning
9 efforts and making sure that the ties between
10 the programs continued.

11 This culminated in a conference
12 last week in Nairobi that Administrator Shah
13 shared. It was co-sponsored by us and the
14 World Bank and Inter-American Governmental
15 Authority on Development, one of the sub-
16 regional organizations in East Africa with
17 high level participation from the Governments
18 of Kenya and Ethiopia and Uganda.

19 And I won't remember all the
20 governments, but the benefit of that
21 conference for us was our push to get other
22 donors and the World Bank as well on board

1 with this concept of integrating the short-
2 and the long-term development.

3 Because we realized that if we
4 don't do that, we are just going to continue -
5 - we are not going to make progress in these
6 repeated crises. And a lot of the specific
7 focus of this conference was on the
8 pastureless populations in the Horn of Africa
9 because those are the most vulnerable
10 populations that we have seen.

11 For the activities to just
12 highlight that work, we are planning to
13 execute in collaboration with other donors and
14 those governments there, focus a lot on
15 enhancing the efficiency of the livestock
16 value chain.

17 You see breakdowns when the
18 droughts come and the cattle start to wither
19 and die. And then the pastureless populations
20 have no means of support and their resiliency
21 fades away.

22 So we know that if you work on

1 improved water management, you work on
2 enhancing market linkages so they can get
3 better value for their cattle, so they can do
4 offtakes at an earlier stage when droughts
5 come and work on issues of diversifying
6 livelihoods.

7 I won't mention all of them, but
8 you can make real progress on this. And there
9 are definitely isolated cases of progress.

10 Even in Ethiopia, which is known
11 as, or which is often seen as synonymous with
12 famine, the drought last year -- in the
13 drought last year eight million fewer people
14 were in need of food assistance than in the
15 drought in 2003.

16 And that is true, despite the fact
17 that Ethiopia's population is significantly
18 larger. It is 80 million people now. I can't
19 remember the 2003 figure. And it is true,
20 despite the fact that the drought last year
21 was the worst drought in 60 years.

22 What explains that difference is,

1 under the Ethiopian Government's leadership it
2 has created a safety net program. They
3 understand much better how to do this work on
4 market linkages and the livestock value chain.

5 So we are trying to build on the
6 lessons learned that they have acquired that
7 we have seen progress on and really expand it
8 and bring it to scale.

9 The last thing I will mention
10 before wrapping up is the G8. I think people
11 know that the U.S. Government holds the
12 presidency of the G8 this year and there is
13 historically an Africa session in the G8.

14 And we anticipate an Africa
15 session this year in the G8. And we are
16 really hopeful, given President Obama's
17 personal engagement on issues of food security
18 at prior G8 summits, we are really hopeful
19 that food security and nutrition will have a
20 principal place in the Africa session of the
21 G8 this year.

22 And we are doing a lot of work to

1 try and make sure that that happens. The
2 White House will sometime over the coming
3 weeks announce the agenda and announce
4 invitations.

5 But for us, it is a phenomenal
6 opportunity to again on the global stage
7 highlight and continue the effort that was
8 begun in 2009 and really make sure that the
9 world -- that complacency doesn't set it and
10 the world continues to hammer away at
11 improving food security and nutrition.

12 Because I do think what I have
13 seen as I travel around is, we have the tools
14 and technology and at the highest level we
15 have the political will to address these
16 issues. And we just have to keep at it and
17 make sure that we don't fall back into
18 complacency.

19 So to wrap up some of the
20 principles, I think the examples I have
21 highlighted or what I have tried to do is
22 highlight examples that show a new business

1 direction for us on food security.

2 The first part of that business
3 direction is being very deliberate about
4 supporting host country-led strategies. And
5 that is our over-arching theme.

6 The second principle we are trying
7 to follow is with integrated programming,
8 principally between agriculture and nutrition,
9 but also cross-cutting issues: natural
10 resource management, water, climate change,
11 gender as critical themes and make sure that
12 we are taking a holistic approach in looking
13 at all of those elements that are key to
14 achieving results on food security.

15 The next principle that we are
16 really trying to follow is forming
17 partnerships to reach significant scale. Our
18 efforts if we help 50,000 farmers in country
19 X is nothing in comparison to the combined of
20 host governments and donors helping 500,000
21 farmers.

22 So that is where we want to be.

1 We want to apply these principles in a way
2 that reaches scale through partnerships. The
3 next principle we are applying is just
4 rigorous monitoring and evaluation.

5 Having a set of indicators that
6 cascade up to really precisely measure impact,
7 focusing on empowerment of women, and then
8 thinking about how you attach impact
9 evaluations to those that generate real
10 learning about what we are doing.

11 Technology, the deep urea
12 replacement is one example. But what we are
13 doing is trying to find technology and Rob has
14 talked in past meetings about our research
15 strategy and the component of that,
16 sustainable intensification.

17 What are the packages of
18 technology that really can be applied and
19 brought to scale to have impact? Capacity
20 development is just two more of these
21 principles.

22 Capacity development is the second

1 to the last, and again, Julie is going to
2 cover that in detail. But the last one I
3 would say is the overall research strategy
4 that -- applying research and the best of
5 science.

6 And so, it is not just applying
7 technologies like deep urea replacement that
8 exist, but focusing on research to develop new
9 technologies.

10 And really thinking about the best
11 of science and the best that the U.S.
12 scientific community has to offer, bringing
13 that to bear, focusing the attention of the
14 U.S. scientific community on these challenges
15 so that we can have a significant impact.

16 And in two years from now we can
17 talk about results at a much more significant
18 scale. I hope that is useful. I don't know
19 if we are taking questions or if --

20 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Paul, yes,
21 and I wanted to thank you very much. That was
22 a really excellent, comprehensive overview and

1 I appreciate the details.

2 And I did want to take a moment
3 here with -- yes, for the BIFAD board members
4 to give us a chance to interact with you
5 because we have a time schedule and --
6 Catherine.

7 MS. BERTINI: Thanks very much,
8 Paul, for the good presentation. I have a
9 question about leadership and what it is about
10 the chief AID representatives in the country,
11 whatever the right language is, in the country
12 offices when you decide that you are going to
13 scale up in Ethiopia?

14 MR. WEISENFELD: You mean like
15 aid, the aid?

16 MS. BERTINI: Yeah, the USAID
17 country director.

18 MR. WEISENFELD: Okay.

19 MS. BERTINI: When you decide you
20 are going to scale up in any -- any number of
21 countries, what kind of process do you
22 undertake within, in Washington in order to

1 decide whether or not you have the staff
2 capacity to actually carry that out in the
3 field?

4 And I ask that in part from my
5 experience at WFP, because sometimes when all
6 of a sudden the situation changed in one way
7 or another we had to quickly assess whether or
8 not whoever was in charge had the capacity to
9 keep doing that, to stay there and to do now
10 what was required of him or her.

11 Do you have some sort of a process
12 to do that, or does the aid director just come
13 stay there until his/her term is up and they
14 move on? Thank you.

15 MR. WEISENFELD: Yeah, so that is
16 a really good question. Part of it goes back
17 to, if I can give a slightly -- before I
18 address the specific part.

19 Our process to select the
20 countries I think gives a little bit of
21 context to this. And that was an innovation,
22 although it was several years ago so I didn't

1 talk about that.

2 Historically, the agency has gone
3 through an allocation process by country based
4 solely on need. It is not quite as simple as
5 whoever is the poorest gets the most money,
6 but need was the most significant factor.

7 For Feed the Future, levels of
8 poverty and hunger were absolutely taken into
9 account. But we also looked at potential to
10 grow because what we really wanted to do and
11 what the President specifically charged us
12 with doing was to set up a system where we
13 could demonstrate success.

14 And the concern was that people,
15 not just the American public but people in
16 general, have this view that famines are
17 inevitable, droughts are man-made, there is
18 nothing we can do. People will continue to
19 die from them.

20 And part of the whole purpose of
21 the program was to show that is just not true.
22 So it's critical for us -- it was critical for

1 us to pick countries where we can demonstrate
2 real signature success at the country level.

3 So we looked at potential as well.
4 We looked at countries' commitment, whether
5 they engaged in CAADP plan. That resulted in
6 a selection of 20 focus countries that didn't
7 overlap with where we had significant staff
8 resources and expertise.

9 And we dramatically increased the
10 budgets in agriculture in some -- some of the
11 countries we were working in this area. But
12 they were countries where we weren't, and they
13 were countries where their budgets were
14 dramatically increased and they had not
15 agricultural expertise.

16 So we travelled. We had teams
17 from Washington travel to these countries, do
18 assessments of staffing needs, and we
19 significantly increased staff in a lot of
20 countries.

21 We have made some staffing
22 changes; in other countries we haven't. I

1 can't promise that it has been as thorough in
2 all 20 countries as in others, but there are
3 some countries that we're particularly focused
4 on.

5 If you look at the budget you can
6 see Ghana, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya that come
7 to the top of the list in overall budget. So
8 we have had much more attention on those
9 countries. And we have dramatically increased
10 staff and changed the mix of staff in them.

11 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Yes, Marty?

12 MR. McVEY: Paul, thank you. I
13 agree with Catherine. Great presentation. We
14 appreciate that.

15 Can you tell us a little bit what
16 the plans are for disaster response in these
17 developing countries, particularly with the
18 agricultural projects that are going on?

19 How does the agency have the
20 outlook to prevent or curtail the loss for
21 natural disaster so you don't have to restart
22 the program over?

1 MR. WEISENFELD: So, disaster
2 response, I should -- I'll talk about it but
3 I should say it is not under my
4 responsibility. We have a bureau for DCHA,
5 Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian
6 Assistance, which contains both the office of
7 Food for Peace and the Office of Foreign
8 Disaster Assistance.

9 So they are principally
10 responsible. But we have tried to build in
11 disaster response to our programs. And again,
12 Ethiopia is a country that has really shown
13 the way.

14 Our colleagues in Ethiopia -- I
15 can't remember whether it is 5, 7 years ago --
16 developed a technique in their program, a risk
17 modifier. So countries that are continually
18 at risk for disasters, they have a modified
19 where they can change the programs rapidly to
20 respond to catastrophe.

21 And as you know, government
22 programming, granting, contracting doesn't

1 necessarily, because of bureaucratic rules,
2 facilitate easy shifting on a dime to do
3 something differently.

4 So we are building into programs
5 this risk modifier, drawing on the experience
6 in Ethiopia. I was in Ethiopia a few weeks
7 ago and the other kinds of things that were
8 done I talked a little bit about connecting
9 the short term to the long term.

10 Some of our short-term programs
11 have looked at, as part of the disaster
12 response -- I can give you an example maybe,
13 instead of just talking about the overall
14 principle, kind of worrying about issues of
15 soil erosion that when you have a climate, a
16 problem you see all over Ethiopia and Kenya,
17 you have a drought and then it is followed by
18 very heavy rain.

19 And you see lots of soil runoff
20 that results in floods and killing people, and
21 that tends to happen over and over again. And
22 it really can damage the work through Feed the

1 Future and building crops.

2 So there is a lot of experience in
3 stabilization of soil. So we are building
4 those kinds of things in, kind of thinking
5 about implementing our programs by looking at
6 the entire watershed.

7 So when I referred to integrating
8 natural resource management activities, it is
9 really about looking at watersheds at the
10 natural resource management level and
11 stabilizing systems so that you don't have
12 those kinds of disasters.

13 Some disasters, obviously
14 earthquakes, you can't do anything about. But
15 the kinds of disasters that we are seeing tend
16 to be around droughts and floods and there is
17 a lot of natural resource management work that
18 can mitigate those risks.

19 MR. McVEY: Thank you. I am very
20 happy to hear that the agency is taking that
21 up. It is a good investment on this project.

22 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Anyone else

1 want to ask a question? I had one observation
2 or question I wanted to ask you and it is
3 based on your comments regarding the gender
4 roles and the security women feel regarding
5 land tenure and title, which I have noticed in
6 the literature has been a common concern.

7 And Marty McVey and I attended the
8 meeting of the ITM CRSP in Memphis. And there
9 was significant discussion given to the gender
10 issues there.

11 And the one that caught me a bit
12 by surprise was the discussion about how much
13 variation and gender role there is from
14 community to community, even within a common
15 ethnic geographic area, which will tend to
16 then challenge some of the easy
17 generalizations we often make about the gender
18 roles.

19 And I thought that was very
20 profound in terms of the kind of work that you
21 all are doing throughout the world. I just
22 wondered what -- any sense you have on that or

1 perspective you can suggest --

2 MR. WEISENFELD: Yeah.

3 MR. McVEY: -- to us for fully
4 understanding that issue better.

5 MR. WEISENFELD: Yeah, I mean, I
6 have been -- again, get back to that in a
7 second but start in a slightly other place.

8 One of the things that has really
9 influenced me in the last year in terms of
10 development literature is reading the books
11 that are coming out of the J-PAL group from
12 MIT, the Poverty Action Lab at MIT.

13 And they have done -- one of the
14 books is called, "More Than Good Intentions."
15 And a lot of what comes across here is the
16 need to do these randomized control trials to
17 really figure out what works.

18 But what they reveal is also that
19 what works in one village is not necessarily
20 what works in another village. And I think
21 you are right, the donors often figure out a
22 solution that they think applies regionally --

1 that globally or continental or regional or
2 even -- and what their research shows is, it
3 doesn't even necessarily apply at a national
4 level.

5 You have to really disaggregate.
6 So what we are hoping is our impact
7 evaluations are going to give us more learning
8 on that. But it is complex. The women's
9 empowerment index we piloted in -- I forget if
10 three or four countries: Bangladesh, Uganda -
11 - I forget if it's Guatemala or Honduras.

12 And we have preliminary results
13 from the pilot. They are not specifically
14 relevant so, you know, I would hesitate to
15 extrapolate from that.

16 But one of the things that at the
17 preliminary results that was surprising is,
18 people have tended to think that women's
19 empowerment is associated with increases in
20 income and increases in education. And from
21 the pilot, that wasn't true.

22 There was no -- there were women

1 who were empowered who had lower incomes. And
2 women who had higher education and incomes
3 were not empowered. And again, because it is
4 not statistically relevant, are those
5 aberrations.

6 Are they differences at the sub-
7 national level or is it some broader learning?
8 We don't know. But it is interesting that no
9 one has done that kind of research to figure
10 that out.

11 Income and education have just
12 been used as proxies, so I don't have a full
13 answer other than I think this requires a lot
14 more research.

15 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Yes, great.
16 Any other questions or comments on Paul's
17 presentation?

18 DR. EJETA: Is there time for
19 that?

20 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Pardon?

21 DR. EJETA: Is there time to ask
22 the questions?

1 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Yes, we'll
2 take a moment and then we'll -- yes.

3 DR. EJETA: Paul, how can the
4 agency enhance complementarity between
5 programs in would and the mission? Is there
6 anything BIFAD can do to help?

7 When these kinds of things happen
8 and take place, the synergy that arises is
9 extraordinary. I just happened to be in
10 Ethiopia about the same time that an APLU-led
11 program, a conference was going on.

12 A small grant initiative that
13 started in Washington had some enhancement out
14 of a USAID mission in support and education
15 and program in a specific area established
16 that resources in the national program there,
17 established a water institute and put in
18 together now a Ph.D. human and master -- human
19 and institutional capacity development program
20 for about over 40 young men and women just in
21 a very short period of time with relatively
22 small contribution from the participants.

1 But very often what you put out is
2 not always taken up by the mission because it
3 got a sense of priority set there beside it to
4 work on, and so on.

5 MR. WEISENFELD: Yes.

6 DR. EJETA: Is there any way once
7 a major initiative like Feed the Future and so
8 on takes up to gradually move the mission to
9 begin to take up these major initiatives
10 coming out of Washington?

11 MR. WEISENFELD: I think you are
12 highlighting, Dr. Ejeta, a real challenge for
13 donors, not just for us.

14 USAID is more decentralized than
15 other donors, so if you think about our
16 presence is more significantly overseas. The
17 agency staff overall, most of us are serving
18 overseas more than any other donor.

19 And our budget also follows that.
20 So the \$968 million we have for fiscal year
21 '12, the vast majority of that is allocated
22 directly to our overseas missions to program.

1 And we retain -- I won't remember
2 the precise figure; my guess is somewhere
3 around \$200 million overall for programming in
4 Washington. And it is always a challenge for
5 donors that have a worldwide presence to make
6 those linkages between what Washington does
7 and the field does.

8 There are a couple of concepts
9 that we try to follow. We want impact on the
10 ground in Uganda, for instance, so that is why
11 we allocate money to the Uganda mission, to
12 figure out how to program it.

13 And we provide oversight and
14 advice and guidance and direction. But the
15 kind of Rob's program is our largest Wachnata
16 (phonetic) only but our largest Washington
17 budget.

18 And the reason we do those in
19 Washington rather than the field, there are a
20 couple because there are programs that cut
21 across different countries, because there are
22 kind of global public good issues.

1 So the mission in Uganda is not
2 going to spend their budget on something that
3 benefits the global public good. But you are
4 right. The challenge then is when Rob's
5 program comes up with a great innovation, how
6 do you get Uganda to apply it and to
7 understand it?

8 So it's those kinds of
9 conversations that have to happen. The change
10 that we have made from the past is
11 structurally to try to deal with this, is that
12 we have a country support office that we
13 haven't had in Washington for the agricultural
14 sector before.

15 And we have had the research
16 office, we have had the ag office, but we have
17 an office that is solely dedicated from
18 Washington to supporting countries and making
19 sure that we have regular dialogue with them.

20 And we are hoping that that is
21 going to make these connections better. But -
22 - so that is the innovation that we are trying

1 to do the Washington field connection a little
2 better.

3 DR. EJETA: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Paul, thank
5 you again, very, very much.

6 MR. WEISENFELD: Thank you.

7 (Applause).

8 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay, we will
9 move to our second part of the agenda here for
10 looking at the Bureau of Food Security CAADP
11 building framework.

12 And Dr. Julie Howard will make a
13 presentation to us. She is the chief
14 scientist in the USAID Bureau of Food
15 Security, which leads the implementation of
16 Feed the Future, the U.S. Global Hunger and
17 Food Security Initiative.

18 She also serves as senior advisor
19 to the USAID administrator on agricultural
20 research, extension and education.

21 And in this role she oversees the
22 implementation of the Feed the Future research

1 strategy and leads related new programs to
2 advance innovation in global food security
3 efforts, working with both global and national
4 partners.

5 Julie, good to have you.

6 DR. HOWARD: Thanks very much. I
7 don't know if the BIFAD members want to change
8 or whether you can see the PowerPoint from
9 where you are. Can you see it?

10 Okay, great. Okay, thanks. Well,
11 good morning everybody. It is great to be
12 here and I want to say a special thanks to
13 Paul for setting up so nicely the topic of my
14 discussion.

15 Because I think it is evident from
16 Paul's talk that we are feeling a growing
17 sense of excitement that the investments, the
18 planning that we have all made in Feed the
19 Future with our country partners is now
20 beginning to bear fruit, that we are beginning
21 to see things now starting to roll out.

22 So what I want to talk with you

1 about this morning is exactly how do we ensure
2 the sustainability of these emerging
3 successes, of these emerging impacts that we
4 are beginning to see?

5 And how better to ensure the
6 sustainability of Feed the Future's success
7 than to think about capacity development,
8 capacity development of individuals and
9 capacity development of institutions?

10 So what could be more important
11 than that? So I just wanted to spend a few
12 minutes thinking about that together with you
13 today. I feel like this theme has been a bit
14 of a late-comer to global food security
15 discussions and to our Feed the Future
16 discussions.

17 I think part of it is that it is
18 just impossible to give the same attention to
19 everything and do it well. I look at how our
20 country partners, particularly our country
21 partners in Africa, how they have addressed
22 capacity building.

1 And I also think that they have
2 been very much late-comers to this game. So
3 many of the country investment plans in
4 through the CAADP progress were developed
5 2008, 2009, and really hardly any
6 consideration at that point of capacity
7 development.

8 It wasn't until a conference of
9 ministers of agriculture and ministers of
10 education took place in 2010 that you began to
11 see people say, well, we have these very
12 ambitious and very important goals for
13 agricultural development nutrition.

14 But we don't have really a sense
15 of what capacity is going to be required to
16 carry out these programs. And what is our
17 current capacity in terms of individuals and
18 institutions into the future?

19 So to introduce this topic, I want
20 to say this is a topic of importance to the
21 administrator and one that he has asked BIFAD
22 to take on. And so we are happy to partner

1 with BIFAD as thought leaders.

2 And the intention of the
3 discussion today is really to share with you
4 some of our initial thinking about how we
5 might begin to better organize our investments
6 in human and institutional capacity
7 development and how to make sure that they are
8 aligned with Feed the Future investments and
9 with other partners, other global food
10 security investments.

11 So this is very much in the spirit
12 of sharing ideas with you, intended to
13 continue our discussion with BIFAD, but also
14 to begin to engage other stake holders in this
15 discussion.

16 Okay, so just to tell you, we will
17 talk a little bit about the history of USAID
18 investments, what we know about impact in this
19 area, the changing environment, the sort of
20 changing also challenges that we are sensing
21 in this area, and then these initial ideas
22 that we have come up with for an investment

1 framework particularly for USAID investments.

2 And then I wanted to throw out to
3 you some key questions for discussion, not
4 just for today but really over the next couple
5 of months and we will use that couple of month
6 period to arrive at a final framework,
7 investment framework.

8 Okay, well, I think to start off
9 this discussion we really should start out by
10 just clarifying what are the reasons why we
11 want to invest in agricultural sector human
12 and institutional capacity development.

13 And, I mean, these are not -- this
14 is not rocket science. These will be familiar
15 to all of you. Capacity development certainly
16 is needed for improved performance across the
17 agricultural sector, across this wide range of
18 functions that we see in agriculture research
19 through the agribusiness and at all levels of
20 institutions, from small companies through to
21 ministries and universities.

22 We are seeing, you know, as we are

1 seeing development, agricultural development
2 begin to pick up, we are seeing that new
3 capacities are needed.

4 Developing countries are needing
5 new kinds of professionals and new kinds of
6 vehicles to work with their farmers and
7 entrepreneurs.

8 And I just wanted to say one of
9 the great things that I think is happening
10 over the past, really over the past three or
11 four years, in my conversations with the
12 private sector I can remember well before I
13 came into government I would talk to private
14 sector companies and say, you know, why aren't
15 you investing in African agriculture?

16 And they would nod politely.
17 Interesting idea. Very risky, Latin America,
18 Asia. But now they don't say that anymore.
19 We are seeing really a remarkable pickup in
20 private sector investment.

21 So what people say now, you know,
22 when we are talking to investors is: Yes.

1 Great opportunities, and we are planning to
2 invest. But, you know, we have no one to hire
3 there.

4 You know, we need everybody from
5 researchers and scientists to warehouse
6 professionals to accountants and we simply
7 can't find them in the countries. And that is
8 a big problem for us.

9 So I think, I mean, it is a good
10 problem but it is a problem to think about as
11 we tackle capacity development. So lastly,
12 you know, what is the major reason that we
13 invest in this area?

14 Well, capacity building creates
15 the conditions where we work ourselves out of
16 a job, where aid is no longer necessary in the
17 countries.

18 Okay, I'm not going to go through
19 all of these. I sense that the history of
20 U.S. investment in HICD is probably familiar
21 to many of you. In the 1950s, particularly in
22 Latin America, North Africa, USAID established

1 early programs to build ministries, to build
2 extension services, banking services, land
3 tenure agencies, really massive amount of
4 investment.

5 And this continued through the
6 1960s and '70s and then really, you know,
7 focusing as well on long-term training, on
8 building agricultural universities, on
9 building the national agricultural research
10 systems.

11 And, you know, these investments
12 will be familiar to you. I mean, we think of
13 the investments that were made in Brazil and
14 in India, you know. And the impact of those
15 investments is very much visible to all of us
16 today.

17 And I think it is quite rewarding,
18 you know, for all of us to think about, well,
19 these are the countries that 30 and 40 years
20 ago were the main beneficiaries of our
21 assistance in this area.

22 And now we are seeing these

1 countries begin to step up to the plate and
2 become very active in providing assistance on
3 their own, and in many ways, you know, very,
4 very unique effectiveness.

5 So, I mean, we ourselves are
6 promoting strategic partnerships with Brazil,
7 with Africa, and we are seeing increasing
8 exchanges with Embrapa, the research
9 institution and African research institutions.

10 And we are hoping the same thing
11 now we'll begin to take off with, with India.
12 So then we saw a decline in these investments
13 overall in HICD, investments for agriculture
14 in the 1990s and through the 2000s as the
15 emphasis really shifted to primary education.

16 And we saw this deterioration of
17 agricultural capacity in our partner
18 countries, but also here in USAID. And now in
19 the last few years we are beginning to see a
20 renewal of interest, a renewal of the
21 acknowledgement of the importance of this
22 capacity buildings for sustaining the key

1 investments we are making today.

2 Just a word on what we know about
3 impact. We talked a little bit about Brazil
4 and India but, I mean, really the numbers are
5 quite staggering. We developed capacity in 63
6 agricultural universities in 40 countries in
7 this span of time from the '50s to the late
8 '90s.

9 And, you know, literally, you
10 know, have trained thousands and thousands of
11 people, and you know, we know of these impacts
12 through anecdotes.

13 You know, I would say now at the
14 beginning of another effort I think of
15 building back our investments in this area we
16 need to be much more diligent about tracking
17 the recipients of our assistance because we
18 know that the recipients of our investments
19 back in the '50s and '60s became vice
20 ministers of agriculture, became university
21 chancellors.

22 And it is just hard for us to call

1 up that information to continually make the
2 case anew that these investments matter but we
3 may not see the impacts over the next three to
4 four years. It may take 10 to 20 years for
5 the full potential to unravel -- unravel, to
6 reveal itself, say.

7 You know, I had this problem
8 before. Okay, let me describe to you what is
9 on this. What should be on this slide is a --
10 yeah, is a graphic that shows sort of really
11 steep increase in USAID investments in human
12 and institution capacity building through the
13 '60s, '70s and '80s, and then a very, very
14 sharp decline.

15 So I will try and get a copy of
16 this out to you. I don't know why this goes
17 blank on us every time. But anyway, it is a
18 very stark reminder that we really went to
19 very low levels of investment in this area
20 starting in the late '90s and 2000.

21 Okay, so I think happily we are
22 now in the beginning of changing environment

1 for investments. Some of the contributing
2 factors to this: we have launched an agency-
3 wide policy on HICD in 2008.

4 Also, very significantly, the
5 administrator's commitment and high priority
6 to USAID Forward, you know, which is
7 essentially our stake in the ground basically
8 saying we as an agency wish to move towards
9 more local procurement of services.

10 And what that implies is, you
11 know, very much strengthening of local
12 investments, and, you know, by deduction
13 strengthening of the individuals who will
14 support those institutions.

15 So that is a very, very important,
16 I think, foundation for us to build the
17 argument for increased investment in this
18 area. Last year the administrator charged
19 BIFAD with recommending to him what we could
20 do, how we could be more effective and
21 efficient in this area.

22 And then we have also had very

1 recent but not new, and certainly very welcome
2 to all of us, a mandate to focus much more on
3 women's equality and empowerment in all of our
4 programs.

5 So I mentioned before, you know,
6 as we have had this reawakening to HICD, also
7 our partners are also beginning to reflect on
8 the need to put more attention to capacity
9 building.

10 So we have this 2010 ministerial
11 where CAADP leaders mandated individual
12 countries to go back and look at your programs
13 and begin sort of very purposefully drawing
14 out what are the individual training needs,
15 what are the institution strengthening needs.

16 And we have had a very interesting
17 emergence of a project that's hosted at the
18 World Bank, but it's actually a donor platform
19 to support tertiary education in Africa.

20 And this is very innovative. It
21 is putting -- the leadership of this is really
22 -- World Bank is a holding entity but really

1 led by two very, very good African
2 organizations, RUFORUM and ANAFE, who had been
3 leading support for curriculum development,
4 support for strengthening agriculture
5 universities, especially in East and Southern
6 Africa.

7 So this is meant to be a mechanism
8 where donors can come together and sort of
9 sort out a coordinating umbrella for their
10 investments to strengthen key institutions,
11 higher education institutions including
12 technical colleges as well as universities,
13 and coordinate their investments rather than
14 doing it in a scattered manner.

15 Okay, quickly then I just want to
16 sort of introduce as we are sort of on this
17 edge of what would new, what would more
18 coordinated, what would more effective
19 investment look like, sort of reflect on some
20 of the things that we have been considering.

21 And one is just sort of thinking
22 that capacity development is not -- is really

1 at multiple levels. It is individual, it is
2 organization, it is also capacity building for
3 the enabling environment.

4 And like we have these multiple
5 layers, we also have multiple challenges to
6 address. And these again will be very
7 familiar to you.

8 So professional capacities, as the
9 private sector is pointing out to us,
10 demographic challenges, and this, I mean, you
11 see. You are so aware of this when you visit
12 Africa, I mean, this huge demographic bulge
13 that we have.

14 And partly I think, you know,
15 happily because of the attention to primary
16 and secondary education over the last decade
17 or so now you have, you know, a cadre of young
18 people who really want more education, you
19 know, but are confronted with, well, you know,
20 what next?

21 There really aren't the quality
22 technical schools to accept them. There

1 really aren't the quality university programs.
2 And it is such a huge, huge cadre. It really
3 forces us to think innovatively.

4 It may not be possible or
5 desirable to think of this in terms of, well,
6 how are we going to build all of the college
7 classrooms or technical college classrooms
8 that are going to fit this great number of
9 folks.

10 But really, we will need to be
11 creative in terms of distance education, in
12 terms of making materials available
13 electronically, and other kinds of education.

14 So critical infrastructure and
15 technology, we were just talking about ICT.
16 You know, we're seeing a great expansion of
17 the use of ICT here in the U.S. and developed
18 countries. It is still sort of in its infancy
19 in most of the countries where we are working.

20 And so, you know, just the
21 availability of broadband, the availability of
22 functioning computers is a severe constraint

1 for us. Okay, and then other challenges now,
2 coordination with partners. And these are big
3 problems.

4 We are not going to be able to
5 address them ourselves in the U.S. Government,
6 and alignment of these interventions with
7 plans, with Feed the Future, with country
8 investment plans.

9 Okay, so as we think about how in
10 USAID and Feed the Future, you know, we can
11 make our investments. And it is not that we
12 are not investing in this. We are actually
13 doing quite a lot, and I will run through some
14 of that.

15 It's just, you know, we are asking
16 ourselves at this point in time, you know, how
17 can we coordinate more effectively to get some
18 of these central admission linkages that
19 Gebisa was talking about?

20 How can we coordinate better to
21 reinforce country priorities and how can we
22 coordinate so that donors are not sort of

1 duplicating effort, that we are taking
2 advantage of our comparative advantage?

3 So these are the things that we
4 are talking about. You know, we want to be
5 by saying, you know, what are the principles
6 that we want to operate on as we develop our
7 framework?

8 We want to respond to country-led
9 and demand-driven plans and we want to align
10 with other donors. We want to look at best
11 practices, analysis. We want to operate from
12 what we know is working.

13 We want to integrate these
14 different levels: human, organizational and
15 dimensions. And then I bolded coordination
16 and accountability because I think that these
17 are particularly challenges and that we ask
18 for your help in thinking through.

19 Okay, so this I think, you know,
20 the field of agriculture innovation, I am
21 looking at Derek Byerlee, who has been one of
22 the innovators of this along with Gary Alex

1 sitting in the back.

2 You know, we have really come a
3 long way over the last couple of decades, you
4 know, in thinking about, you know, what sparks
5 and what sustains agricultural innovation.
6 And I think of this as kind of a, you know, a
7 framing graphic for us to think about.

8 So actually I would say we have
9 producers in the middle here. I guess at this
10 point I would put producers and entrepreneurs
11 rather than just producers but, you know, as
12 having -- being affected by and also
13 influencing the research system, the education
14 system, the ag extension and advisory
15 services.

16 And then over to the left, you
17 know, you see the links, you know, with other
18 actors in the value chain from land tenure
19 agencies, credit agencies, all the way through
20 the exporters and agriprocessors.

21 So as we think, so now when I
22 begin to shift into, you know, how are we

1 thinking about framing our USAID investments
2 in support of Feed the Future, and sort of,
3 you know, distilling from this ag innovation
4 system graphic.

5 You know, this is a -- this is
6 what we are coming out with. We are putting
7 at the center our target of innovation for
8 producers and I am going to add in
9 entrepreneurs.

10 And then the circles that we have
11 really represent the five strategic areas of
12 central Feed the Future, USAID capacity
13 development investment. So we have got policy
14 and data. We have got research, got extension
15 and advisory services, got education and we
16 have got agribusiness and value chain.

17 And so these five areas are
18 corresponded, the elements of the agricultural
19 innovation system that we saw in the previous
20 graphic. Okay, so I think this is a central
21 slide for us and something that we want your
22 feedback on and something also that responds

1 to Gebisa's earlier question.

2 So our proposed approach is to
3 think in terms of making platform investments.
4 So we already are investing broadly and to
5 respond to and support a range of capacity
6 development needs and missions and to
7 emphasize and suggest to missions the
8 importance of capacity development.

9 So what we are trying to do now
10 really is focus on several dedicated central
11 investments, central investment platforms that
12 serve as a service to missions but also
13 provide them with a way to coordinate with
14 other donors, to coordinate investments across
15 the U.S. Government, to coordinate with
16 country plans to provide a source of technical
17 assistance, but also, you know, a feedback
18 loop essentially.

19 Best practices, you know, what
20 results are you having and what -- you know,
21 can similar approaches be implemented in other
22 countries? What can we all learn together

1 from this?

2 So we have got in the middle USAID
3 Washington, Bureau of Food Security and
4 others, the idea of the platform so missions
5 access capacity development services from
6 central programs. And I will talk about those
7 in a minute.

8 You've got missions on the left
9 identifying their needs based on their multi-
10 year strategies, which are in turn based on
11 the country development strategies. And then
12 you have got implementation and management
13 mostly in the court of the missions, but again
14 supported by USAID Washington and mission
15 field staff.

16 So we have a kind of mega-
17 platform, you know, that we already have in
18 place. And that is the Borlaug 21st Century
19 Leadership Program, which sort of is going to
20 be the umbrella platform for almost everything
21 that we do in capacity development in all of
22 their troubles that we are looking at.

1 So this is a program that we
2 announced last year and are representing a
3 \$13.5 million investment, the central
4 commission contributions. It's -- okay, and
5 then so think of that as the overall, the
6 mega-platform.

7 And then I want to go through, you
8 know, for these individual umbrellas sort of
9 the types of programs that we are currently
10 engaged with and that we wish to bring
11 together more purposefully through this
12 platform approach.

13 So capacity development in
14 research, we have got -- I won't go through
15 all of these but you can see, you know, a
16 number of programs, the AWARD program focusing
17 on developing capacity of African women.

18 We have got long-term degrees,
19 training for developing country students as
20 well as long-term degree training for U.S.
21 students. And, you know, I am particularly
22 pleased about that because I think this has

1 been really an area that we have neglected
2 pretty substantially over the last few years.

3 And having been a beneficiary
4 myself of USAID support, you know, for young
5 folks -- not so young anymore, but at one time
6 I was young. So I think it is important, you
7 know, because we need to draw from those folks
8 for USAID in the future, for other
9 institutions.

10 Okay, so just to go through, the
11 Purdue US Borlaug Fellows Program is just one
12 of these. A graduate research fellowship
13 grant program, so this is meant again to
14 expand the pool U.S. through security
15 professionals who have the scientific base
16 necessary to be effective.

17 The Borlaug Fellowship program,
18 okay. And so I want to spend a few minutes on
19 announcing. One of the programs that we are
20 very, very excited about, so I believe that
21 this RFA is being released today.

22 I am looking around for

1 confirmation from APLU.

2 MR. BERTRAM: We hope so.

3 DR. HOWARD: Okay. Is it safe for
4 me to continue talking about it?

5 MR. BERTRAM: Yes.

6 DR. HOWARD: Okay, great. Okay.
7 Well, so, I mean we are very pleased that we
8 think the RFA is going to be issued today by
9 APLU for a brand new, long-term training
10 program which is called -- this is very
11 innovative -- the Borlaug Higher Education for
12 Agricultural Research and Development, BHEARD.

13 And we are really excited about
14 this partnership between APLU and CIMMYT, you
15 know, which many of you know was Dr. Borlaug's
16 home institution.

17 And this is a program that is
18 going to offer long-term graduate fellowships
19 and institutional capacity development for
20 developing country researcher and Feed the
21 Future focus countries.

22 And many of these researchers will

1 complete their degrees at U.S. land grant
2 universities. So APLU is playing a lead role
3 in this. They are going to lead the selection
4 of the university or a consortium of
5 universities is going to manage this effort.

6 And there will be many
7 opportunities for U.S. universities to host
8 developing country students who are studying
9 for their degrees. And, you know, again I
10 think this is so important.

11 When I think back on my own
12 training, possibly the most important part of
13 my training was being able to interact in my
14 program with developing country students.

15 There is no better way to learn
16 about what life and development is really
17 like. So we are going to pilot the program in
18 Zambia in Mozambique, in Ghana, Bangladesh and
19 also in Mali.

20 But the program is ultimately
21 going to be open to any Feed the Future
22 country interested in long-term training. So

1 I want to thank APLU. And thanks to you,
2 especially, Malcolm, for your role in making
3 this a reality.

4 MR. BUTLER: If I could just offer
5 one clarification, APLU will sit on the panel,
6 including AID and university representatives.

7 DR. HOWARD: Great. Okay.

8 DR. DELAUDER: And how much money
9 do you think is associated with this?

10 DR. HOWARD: How much money?

11 MR. BERTRAM: This year it is the
12 essential budget which includes probably about
13 three and a half million dollars.

14 DR. HOWARD: Okay. All right,
15 well, so let me sort of run quickly through.
16 So these are examples of the programs that we
17 are doing under these different areas and that
18 we are planning to have platforms again to
19 support that critical central mission
20 coordinating learning function.

21 So we have this in post-secondary
22 education and we have the modernizing

1 agriculture education training systems that
2 will serve as that platform.

3 And we have our investments with
4 the donor platform, the Team Africa program I
5 was telling you about.

6 Okay, again capacity development
7 in extension. The platform here is MEAS,
8 Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services.
9 We have other programs, for example, in
10 collaboration with the Gates Foundation and
11 other partners.

12 Infarmer, to increase use of ICT
13 in extension. Entrepreneurship, you know, a
14 number of different programs. Africa Lead,
15 the leadership training capacity building.

16 And also I think sometimes a
17 forgotten, but very important part of capacity
18 building is a lot of the work that we are
19 doing to support farm association development.

20 So this is, you know, in my mind
21 one of the most unsung success stories of U.S.
22 development assistance, the extent to which we

1 have really been able to help build strong
2 farmer associations and cooperatives and
3 farmer-owned businesses.

4 Okay, capacity development in
5 policy and data, you know, that multiple
6 element. The enabling environment, very,
7 very, important. Another place where U.S.
8 investments have been quite, quite important
9 in terms of providing analysis, training,
10 developing country researchers and analysts to
11 be able to inform their policy-makers.

12 What are the options? You know,
13 what should we do? Should we use fertilizer
14 subsidies or not? What is the outlook for
15 production over the next season?

16 Okay, well, let me pause here.
17 This is the next-to-last slide, and really
18 sort of drill in a little bit with you. I am
19 hoping that we can discuss a little bit here.

20 I am hoping that you will engage
21 us by e-mail or phone later. These are some
22 of the critical questions that we think as we

1 are moving forward with this platform
2 approach.

3 What are the things that we need
4 to think about? First of about, is the
5 agriculture innovation system framework that
6 we have laid out, is this an effective way,
7 you know, for us to align and integrate our
8 range of investments?

9 And you can see they are quite
10 far-ranging. Is that effective, you know? Is
11 this the right way? And then secondly, what
12 are the best ways, you know, that we can serve
13 the field, you know, linking central USAID and
14 mission investments?

15 So I think, you know, really as
16 the platform is conceived right now it is kind
17 of spot on. But, you know, I also think, you
18 know, we have a challenge in going beyond
19 thinking about just USAID investments.

20 How do we make this framework
21 really whole of government, and able to draw
22 on HICD resources across U.S. Government

1 agencies?

2 You know, I have a dream, you
3 know, of us, you know, U.S. missions sitting
4 down in countries and saying, gosh, you know,
5 we've got this -- we've got a plan that has
6 been developed, a capacity development plan
7 that flows from the country investment plan.

8 And we have got these targets to
9 hi over the next five years in terms of, you
10 know, supported business schools, support to
11 technical colleges, support to ministries.

12 And, you know, USAID can take this
13 piece. USDA through its programs might be able
14 to take on this piece. Health and Human
15 Services and FDA might be able to take on this
16 piece. And for this other range of
17 investments, this is how we are coordinating
18 with donors.

19 And, you know, I dream that that
20 might be a conversation that we'll see over
21 the next two or three years, you know, being
22 able to engage not only U.S. missions but

1 other donors, foundations, and sort of a much
2 more comprehensive framework for investment
3 and a way of tracking how well are we doing,
4 you know, at meeting those targets.

5 How well are we doing at
6 coordinating our investments? Because having
7 been out in the field, you know, we know
8 sometimes that our investments, although they
9 are important, you know, may not be -- be used
10 well enough against, you know, a well-defined
11 target.

12 So we may have a number of study
13 trips. But maybe with a, you know, a more
14 focused goals we could say this year we are
15 really, really focusing hard on cooperative
16 development.

17 So we would like, you know, help
18 from states and USDA when they have
19 opportunities for short-term visits to really
20 help us focus in on that objective; and
21 similarly.

22 Okay, so how can we make our

1 framework whole of government? And then the
2 next, how will these objectives, how will what
3 we are doing in our platforms correspond to
4 CAADP, to country objectives and to investment
5 plans?

6 And how will we -- we set
7 benchmarks for achievement, you know, for
8 USAID and also more broadly at country level.
9 Another question: How can the private sector
10 contribute?

11 How does the private sector both
12 benefit and contribute to HICD? And then I
13 just think this larger question of how donors,
14 countries and private sector work together,
15 you know, to figure out what the needs are,
16 you know, over a period of time to coordinate,
17 track investments and the impacts of this
18 diverse set of HICD programs.

19 How do we program against common
20 objectives and hold ourselves accountable for
21 those benchmarks for achievement? Okay, so
22 quickly, I mean, the BIFAD working group has

1 already begun work and we are hoping to
2 accelerate our joint efforts in this area and
3 carry out an informal consultation, stake
4 holder consultation over the next few weeks.

5 And then we are hoping to finalize
6 our HICD framework by July of this year. So
7 key folks working on this with us: Clara
8 Cohen and Gary Alex. Are both of them here
9 today, Clara and Alex? Okay.

10 And with that, I thank you.

11 (Applause).

12 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Julie, thank
13 you. Let's turn to members of the board for
14 any questions or comments at this time.

15 DR. DELAUDER: Will you send a
16 copy of the PowerPoint?

17 DR. HOWARD: Yes. Will I send --
18 it was a softball. Will I send a copy of the
19 PowerPoint? The answer was yes.

20 DR. MURANO: I have a couple of
21 questions. Why is -- I guess in the whole
22 portfolio of HICD, and I don't mean for the

1 whole history of the agency but these last
2 programs over the last, you know, three years
3 or whatever, what would you say is the total
4 amount of the portfolio from USAID? Not other
5 donors, not USDA.

6 But what would you say is the
7 agency's investment in HICD specifically, HICD
8 programs like those that you mentioned< the
9 Borlaug leadership and all that?

10 DR. HOWARD: Yeah, I'm turning to
11 Rob, the king of numbers.

12 DR. MURANO: Ball park, you know.
13 Thirty million? Ten? A hundred?

14 DR. HOWARD: Clara? Gary? Total
15 investment this past year?

16 DR. MURANO: Yeah, yeah. About
17 the I guess --

18 DR. HOWARD: The level of --

19 DR. MURANO: -- the last couple --

20 DR. HOWARD: -- total investment -

21 -

22 DR. MURANO: -- of years.

1 DR. HOWARD: -- which we know is
2 growing and we have been adding programs, you
3 know. I still have the figure of 13.5 for
4 Borlaug over five years.

5 But that doesn't represent our --
6 you know, the problem is that we're -- it is
7 difficult for us to sort of corral all the
8 mission investments in this area.

9 DR. MURANO: Right.

10 DR. HOWARD: But Gary?

11 MR. GARY: To get it exactly is
12 the difficulty of corralling the mission
13 investments and choosing out of them how much
14 is direct delivery of services and how much is
15 capacity building. We plan to do that, but
16 that is going to take a while.

17 DR. MURANO: Sure. And I didn't
18 mean that, because obviously that is difficult
19 because the CRSP system, for example, they do
20 lots of capacity development.

21 So I know that is going to be a
22 difficult thing. But just target it for

1 capacity development such as the Borlaug 21st
2 Century, the Borlaug -- well, I guess Borlaug
3 Fellows is USDA.

4 But this new one from -- that APLU
5 will be managing. I guess I'm trying to get
6 a sense of -- you know, from the total
7 portfolio. As you said very well, Julie, we
8 all believe very strongly that HICD is key.

9 But I'm just sensing that maybe
10 our total portfolio is not matching the need.
11 And I may be completely wrong because maybe
12 the bulk of it, as you said, maybe 80 percent
13 of it is being done through these other means
14 that we can't really tease out that easily.

15 DR. HOWARD: Yes. No, I would
16 agree with you there, I mean, that we need to
17 build the investments. I mean, we are
18 definitely recovering from the debts, you
19 know, of the early 2000s.

20 But I think, you know, Gary and
21 Clara, perhaps we can work together over the
22 next few days to get a clearer idea of a ball

1 park, you know, mission and central
2 investments in this across the board.

3 DR. MURANO: Yes. Only in
4 agriculture.

5 MR. BERTRAM: Thank you. I just
6 wanted to add a comment, maybe a clarifying
7 comment that I think what we were talking
8 about here this morning is this platform that
9 Julie is talking about, which are sort of very
10 generically-focused pieces of the innovation
11 chain.

12 A huge amount of our human and
13 institution capacity building is mainstreamed
14 into our programs. And the CRSPs are the best
15 example.

16 DR. HOWARD: Right.

17 MR. BERTRAM: I mean, that's their
18 -- right at the core of their business. So it
19 is a little misleading sometimes if we just --
20 when we are counting up it would be good if we
21 could somehow capture both of those kinds of
22 investments because we do it all over.

1 I mean, if you are going to have a
2 sustainable program you are going to build in
3 that human capacity building.

4 DR. HOWARD: So -- but I would say
5 even as we are thinking about these platforms,
6 I would expect that the platforms would also
7 reach out and see, well, how do we coordinate
8 the capacity building that is being done in
9 the CRSP.

10 That's really -- that's really
11 essential. And it -- I mean, that just sort
12 of epitomizes the problem that we face, you
13 know. A lot of effort is going on, a lot of
14 important things.

15 But we don't necessarily know if
16 we are on track to, you know, our goal of
17 having whatever -- 20 plant breeders, you
18 know, active and functioning or a functioning
19 department or policy analysis capacity.

20 You know, we know that something
21 is going on out there, but no one is sort of
22 keeping track of, okay, you know, this program

1 is taking care of this set of policy analysts.

2 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay. We
3 are, Julie, very -- if any burning questions,
4 otherwise we are close on time here and -- I'm
5 sorry, I'm getting -- okay.

6 Any other comments? We'll have a
7 chance to visit -- revisit some of this later
8 on in the discussion and particularly as we
9 talk about the inception workshop I think that
10 is going to provide an opportunity for
11 interaction on issues that we have observed in
12 the research plan.

13 We are going to take a short break
14 right now. And it's right now by my clock
15 10:42. Let's try to be back as quickly as
16 possible, maybe by 10:50 or so. Eight minutes
17 okay for a break? Thank you.

18 That's not enough? Or maybe five
19 minutes more than that.

20 (Whereupon, the foregoing
21 proceeding went off the record at 10:42 a.m.
22 and went back on the record at 11:02 a.m.)

1 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: So for the
2 next hour you are going to hear reports from
3 myself on the visit I had with the inception
4 workshop in Tanzania, Elsa Murano, who
5 participated in a similar workshop in
6 Ethiopia, and Marty McVey, who participated in
7 IPM/CRSP meetings in India, Nepal and
8 Bangladesh.

9 And these members of the board --
10 Jo Luck, who could not be here, and I have not
11 explained this actually. Another member of
12 our board who is absent today, Jo Luck, had a
13 medical situation that arose as a result of
14 too much dust from a wind blower or a leaf
15 blower.

16 That created some real damage and
17 it had to be remedied. And so, unfortunately,
18 she was not here. And she had participated in
19 a CRSP, peanut CRSP meeting in Malta and would
20 have been making a presentation.

21 And then Rob Bertram will be
22 responding and talking about the research

1 strategy and a summary fashion response to
2 what you are hearing from the three of us.

3 And let me say that we undertook
4 this effort to participate in the inception
5 workshops and with the CRSP meetings in
6 response to Administrator Shah's admonition
7 for us to be fully engaged with the programs
8 of USAID in the field.

9 And so, we took that seriously and
10 set about organizing ourselves to be full
11 participants and really just want to, for the
12 next few minutes, share some of that
13 experience with you.

14 Because I think each of us had a
15 great deal of excitement about our role and
16 what we were doing with the workshops. And we
17 will give you a sense of those. And each of
18 the individuals that I have just mentioned
19 will be making a brief presentation.

20 I have actually already said most
21 of what you are seeing up here. I didn't
22 coordinate this fully. As I said, we were

1 trying to respond.

2 The purpose of these inception
3 workshops as some of the work with CRSP as
4 well that is taking place is an attempt to
5 ensure that the research strategy of USAID in
6 the Feed the Future area is aligned with
7 country missions, is identifying partners and
8 bringing the parties that are involved in the
9 entire research and implementation process
10 together to engage in strategic planning for
11 implementing the entire strategy from the
12 research right down to the field applications
13 and adoption of new processes.

14 And Rob will respond and clarify
15 that if I have missed any part of that. And
16 I think what was very exciting to us as we
17 looked at the -- and each of the visits was
18 set up so that those of us participating would
19 visit the USAID mission as well, participate
20 in the discussion with the actors in the
21 working, meeting either then with the country
22 ambassador or the mission director and have

1 additional site visits out in the field with
2 partner projects or Feed the Future implement
3 of partners.

4 And I participated in one of those
5 in Tanzania and I will say this again in a
6 moment, but one of the really exciting things
7 was to see the strategy developing with all
8 the players and then to see it carried into
9 USAID planning sessions in a very specific and
10 concrete way.

11 USAID has a solid history in
12 Tanzania and these are some examples of
13 project work that has taken place in the
14 country.

15 And I was able to visit Sokoine
16 University after sitting in the workshops and
17 actually seeing the fruition of what was
18 actually several years of involvement with
19 USAID with Sokoine University.

20 For example, Robert Cunnane, the
21 mission director here, presented a million-
22 dollar check to Sokoine.

1 I will call attention to the
2 university linkages here a bit because that
3 was something I did out in the field as we
4 completed the inception workshop.

5 We had a kickoff session. Julie
6 Howard, whom you heard earlier, was also here
7 to kick off and provide the overall purpose
8 and scope of what we were going to be engaging
9 in in the workshop.

10 And we also had the minister of
11 agriculture of Tanzania who met with us. We
12 had a very invigorating and stimulating
13 workshop. And this provided background for
14 what went on in the workshop and continued
15 dialogue with the mission and with leaders of
16 the country.

17 The workshops were very
18 operational. And, Larry, I believe you were
19 there in Tanzania with us as well. So I'm
20 presuming you tasked with the CRSP.

21 And we had participants from a
22 variety of in-country organizations. The

1 CRSPs that were active in the country, the
2 NGO, CDOs, the various private sector
3 institutions involved, as well as educational
4 institutions.

5 And I think one thing that we all
6 did a checklist at some point was: Did we
7 have the right group of people here? Did we
8 miss anyone important? And that may come out
9 as we engage in discussions here.

10 I think one observation we made in
11 Tanzania was that perhaps my memory is that we
12 could have perhaps had more representation
13 from some of the universities and educational
14 institutions, including Sokoine, in the
15 workshop.

16 We had then follow-up discussions
17 with them in the field about that. Each
18 component of the entire implementation process
19 took place in small groups where various
20 groups could address specific issues, then
21 bring it back together and report back to the
22 large group with an attempt made to develop

1 very clear strategies for implementation.

2 And the push towards actual
3 implementation with each partner involved
4 being -- identifying the responsibility they
5 would undertake and how that would add up to
6 successful Feed the Future objectives in the
7 country every dimension of it was focused on.

8 The partnership -- I have
9 mentioned several of the institutions involved
10 with Tanzanian institutions, Sokoine being the
11 SUA and the National Agricultural Research
12 System and the various components of field
13 stations that are involved in the various
14 parts of the USAID programming in the country
15 were brought into this.

16 And I made a specific visit to
17 Morogoro with the Ohio State-led consortium
18 that involves Michigan State and a variety of
19 other institutions in the United States.

20 And currently, there is a Gaps
21 analysis being conducted where research things
22 are being done on the key priority research

1 issues within Tanzania.

2 At Sokoine it was particularly
3 interesting to see the very rapid advancement
4 that had been made on identifying postgraduate
5 training opportunities for 20 doctoral
6 students and 100 master's-level students.

7 And these students are -- were
8 selected with the idea of filling some of the
9 research gaps that were being undertaken. And
10 we visited a number of field sites where
11 research from the laboratories of the country
12 as well as where previous participants who had
13 been educated in the United States.

14 I'm thinking of a specific example
15 at Penn State University where there is
16 research being undertaken on viruses affecting
17 tomatoes and various kinds of mulching
18 processes that were being used to prevent
19 fungus development and disease development was
20 being monitored by the instructor who had just
21 completed her doctorate at Penn State.

22 And she was in touch with the

1 research labs at Penn State at the same time
2 that she was engaged in the field trials.

3 And also they worked with farmers'
4 associations throughout the country. They
5 have a select group of farmers that they test
6 out these strategies with and then use a
7 broader farmer organization and farmers'
8 association to implement and carry out the
9 dissemination of the research results.

10 I think it is interesting to
11 recognize in each of the countries as this
12 kind of work is going on that you are actually
13 involved in creating specific institutional
14 arrangements that may emerge into a new kind
15 of cooperative form for the purchasing of
16 inputs or the sale of outputs and tapping a
17 very important entrepreneurial element in the
18 country.

19 And we saw evidence of this with a
20 number of the commodities being produced:
21 rice, vegetable crops, field crops, within
22 Tanzania. And in every one of those there

1 had been both private sector entities who were
2 involved in the workshop in Dar es Salaam as
3 they carried those out.

4 The workshops were met with
5 tremendous enthusiasms by the participants.
6 It was clear that it was something they were
7 excited about participating in.

8 And it was also clear that they
9 were ready to look at concrete strategies for
10 the implementation of the research results.
11 So from my standpoint, it was a very, very
12 successful effort.

13 And we were able to talk about
14 certainly what BIFAD is all about in our role
15 and what we were learning as we participated
16 in the workshop with them and the messages
17 that then we could take back here.

18 And there were a number of major
19 initiatives that were identified within the
20 country that really I think impacted my
21 thinking a great deal. And let me just share
22 a couple of observations with you on those.

1 And one was the very simple
2 observation that if you are going to
3 successfully implement this entire framework
4 of research and implementation you have got to
5 have all parties involved in the process in
6 order to be successful.

7 And that was obvious from the --
8 almost a micro look that you have to take in
9 various regions of the country to develop the
10 strategies and then to pull them together in
11 a way that they themselves could see how the
12 pieces added up to the bigger whole in the
13 research process.

14 So I am saying nothing more than
15 those affected and involved need to be there
16 for the planning process for it to be
17 successful.

18 And I think the workshop
19 demonstrated that and put it within the
20 context of not only USAID's mission but the
21 agricultural system of the country itself
22 being very, very critical.

1 And aligning those strategies with
2 the various private sector, public sector,
3 multinational entities involved, including the
4 variety of organizations within South and
5 Eastern Africa who are involved in this
6 process; so that participation is vital.

7 The workshop played a very
8 critical role in calling attention to the
9 breadth of involvement.

10 Another very important observation
11 that was made during the workshop by a variety
12 of individuals was how critical it is for
13 those donor agencies to maintain long-term
14 involvement with participants.

15 And there was a lot of examples
16 given about the success that can be garnered
17 in a country when you have a U.S. university
18 that maintains ties with someone who has been
19 a CRSP participant, for example, goes back to
20 the country.

21 The need for start-up funds and
22 the need for continued professional mentoring

1 and involvement, and that point was made again
2 and again when I visited the university.

3 And I visited, had a special
4 session with those faculty members at the
5 university who had been trained in U.S.
6 institutions. And hearing them talk about
7 that need was very touching, really, because
8 you saw the professional development
9 occurring.

10 And here was a country which had
11 had tremendous gaps in the amount of funding
12 available for postgraduate training. And
13 therefore, you had a generation -- you had a
14 generational gap.

15 You had an elder group ready to
16 retire with no young group right below them.
17 And then you have new initiatives under way.
18 So you have -- you do not have a continuity at
19 a time when in fact you need that continuity
20 at all levels to be able to develop the kind
21 of human capital that is needed within the
22 country.

1 So I think that notion is
2 something that I feel USAID needs to address
3 and its human and institutional capacity
4 building is ensuring longer-term continuity
5 and support for those individuals that we are
6 working with.

7 So I know that is not going to be
8 news to many of you, but it was something that
9 left me very excited about that potential for
10 adding to what we are doing.

11 So we saw some wonderful examples
12 of human resource development. We saw a lot
13 of needs identified in some very obvious ways,
14 seed development and distribution, some very
15 technical areas.

16 And we saw good examples of the
17 way in which cutting edge research is
18 implemented at the field level. And in my
19 field visits, I got good examples of that.

20 We also saw the need for continued
21 consultation with the educational institutions
22 within that country, within Tanzania, or any

1 other country that we are working with so that
2 we gain that partnership at all levels and
3 have educational institutions that are aligned
4 also in providing continuing support with the
5 private sector entities as well as with the
6 USAID mission longer term.

7 So with that, let me move on to
8 our next presenter and we will look forward to
9 continuing discussions. We have Dr. Elsa
10 Murano, who will be talking about her visit to
11 Ethiopia for the inception workshop.

12 DR. MURANO: Well, my trip to
13 Ethiopia was similar in many ways to Dr.
14 Deaton's, but also somewhat different. And I
15 will illustrate in what ways.

16 I wanted to first say that we had
17 really great accommodations at ILRI and Addis.
18 And it was really a great way to see the kinds
19 of facilities that one can have when one
20 engages in these kinds of projects and in
21 collaboration with a CG center like ILRI.

22 Ethiopia, as a lot of you know who

1 have been there, is a wonderful country, and
2 wonderful people. Very friendly, very polite
3 people, but people who are very determined to
4 try to do better for themselves.

5 And as I like to think about it,
6 and as all of us know here, it is a country
7 that is surrounded by trouble. Maybe that's
8 a good way to look at it.

9 And so it has a lot of challenges
10 not of their own making a lot of times. And
11 I commend these people for just being so
12 resilient over so many years after so many
13 struggles.

14 You have got to love a country
15 that has a ceremony for drinking coffee, don't
16 you think? I think.

17 Agricultural production there, of
18 course, is quite varied but the main crops are
19 the Feed the Future: maize, sorghum, wheat,
20 barley.

21 And as you may know if you have
22 been to Ethiopia, teff is a grain that is used

1 by Ethiopians constantly because it is the
2 main ingredient, if you will, for this
3 fermented bread injera that they use in their
4 typical meals. And so, a very important
5 commodity for them.

6 And also production, of course, as
7 well, cattle, sheep and goats, and so forth.
8 And, of course, as I said before, coffee. I
9 think on this map picture I am showing you
10 coffee production areas in green throughout
11 the country, so fairly diverse agriculture.

12 The workshop that was held there
13 was in a very, very similar way as the
14 Tanzania inception workshop that Dr. Deaton
15 attended. It was populated by a diverse group
16 of people, by scientists, by educators, by
17 policy-makers.

18 And you can see there a list of
19 the various organizations that were
20 represented. From the Ethiopian Government,
21 obviously the minister of agriculture, but
22 also the Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural

1 Research, a very important player there.

2 CG center representatives were
3 there, not of everyone, but of the ones that
4 were germane to the discussion. The U.S.
5 academic community I was very pleased to see,
6 some of the core center directors present.

7 And then they had NGOs. Various
8 foundation representatives were there as well,
9 and certainly USAID not only from Washington
10 headquarters but also the mission there
11 locally.

12 So it was a really good group of
13 people from various perspectives and points of
14 view and backgrounds. And yet they were all
15 there, convened to try to develop a plan.

16 And so I was very impressed, to be
17 quite honest with you, because I didn't think
18 that this kind of activity went on. And it
19 was of great benefit I think to me to see as
20 a member of BIFAD the real implementation of
21 this idea to coordinate at the planning stages
22 very much manifested at this workshop.

1 So as I understood it, our purpose
2 was to enhance collaboration, and that's why
3 all these people were invited, and minimize
4 duplication of effort among all these stake
5 holders.

6 Obviously, agricultural production
7 in Ethiopia was the main focus, but not only.
8 There was lots of other things in keeping with
9 the Feed the Future mission.

10 So the aim was to develop a plan
11 that would help improve field and production
12 efficiency over mixed crop and livestock
13 system through sustainable intensification,
14 the time that we have all come to adapt and
15 adopt, I should say, as a way to go.

16 Rob Bertram was there, as well as
17 other people from Washington. And so, he
18 stayed the whole and participated. And again,
19 that is impressive to me, because having been
20 at a government agency myself a lot of times,
21 you know, the big shots show up and leave.

22 And you didn't do that, as big of

1 a shot as you are. So I'm just saying this
2 because Paul is here, so you know he actually
3 was there the whole time and worked very hard.

4 And of course the increased market
5 opportunities through improvements and the
6 value chain, and our hosts were everywhere
7 extremely good to us, I have to say, provided
8 all the things that one needs to engage in an
9 activity like this successfully.

10 So in health and nutrition and
11 health of women and children, economic
12 prosperity, conservation, natural resources,
13 taking into account climate change, gender
14 issues, all of the Feed the Future themes were
15 certainly there.

16 There were breakout sessions to
17 try to develop this plan. And I will tell you
18 that the discussions were pretty spirited, at
19 least at the table where I sat, and then later
20 on as they made us move around.

21 But very collegial, very much
22 people wanting to get at not what their

1 individual agendas were from all their various
2 institutions, but really what needs to be done
3 in Ethiopia.

4 And so I found it to be very
5 refreshing and fairly devoid of those, you
6 know, individual agenda pressures that
7 sometimes we see. So there you see a group of
8 folks we, as happens at these kinds of
9 workshops, you paste a lot of papers on the
10 wall and do all kinds of crazy things like
11 that.

12 And so at coffee break time we all
13 try to read them and make some sense out of
14 them. So, very much a working workshop from
15 the very first in the morning till the end of
16 the day.

17 One of the main, I think, aims of
18 this was to try to connect with similar
19 projects and similar efforts. So the minister
20 of agriculture plan and then the center
21 projects for the CG Centers that were
22 represented.

1 There's CYMMT and ICARDA, ICRISAT,
2 IFRPI, IWMI and ILRI, as well as the CRSP
3 projects that were represented there. Other
4 USAID-funded projects, and certainly the
5 research projects of Ethiopia itself.

6 So there was a real effort, like I
7 said, to try to integrate this as much as
8 possible which, you know, may have been
9 something that reflects what is done all the
10 time.

11 I wasn't familiar with it so I was
12 certainly impressed by it and thought it was
13 a great way to do this. It takes time, takes
14 effort. The more people you involve in an
15 activity like this, you know, the longer it
16 takes to arrive at the end.

17 But the end product is going to
18 not only have the buy-in of people, but it is
19 going to have the thoughtful input of all
20 these people that will make it a better work
21 product.

22 So in addition to participating in

1 the workshop, I did not get a chance, unlike
2 Dr. Deaton, to go in the field, unfortunately,
3 in Ethiopia. But I did get to pay some
4 peripheral visits, is what I am calling it,
5 visits to other entities or to specific people
6 there in Addis.

7 One of them was a visit to the
8 U.S. embassy. And, you know, you are not
9 supposed to take pictures of the embassy, but,
10 you know, I was able to snap that real quickly
11 in the car as we were coming in. So that was
12 it.

13 And then they confiscated my cell
14 phone. So, we needed to -- I needed to talk
15 to mission folks there at AID and I found them
16 to be very open, very willing to share with me
17 their opinions and their thoughts, which was
18 definitely what I needed to do.

19 And so, after some very
20 interesting conversations with some AID folks,
21 you know, they came up with what I would say
22 is two over-arching needs. And this is

1 frankly true of any government agency, you
2 know, that is large and that extends itself
3 into various places.

4 The need to be included in
5 decisions early in the process, you know, you
6 will find that field personnel always have
7 that as a concern. And then the need to
8 ensure that headquarters understands what they
9 live with, their realities on the ground.

10 And, you know, these are not new.
11 These are the kinds of things that they are
12 concerned with all the time. Sometimes those
13 concerns are more than other times.

14 The good thing is that they had
15 someone who had been at the mission who is now
16 at headquarters. And I can't remember her
17 name but those kinds of, you know,
18 interactions where you have people who have
19 been at the mission for a number of years and
20 then they get to go to D.C., or vice versa, is
21 what will help bridge these gaps more and
22 more.

1 And then we visited with the
2 ambassador, a very interesting person. I
3 basically told about who BIFAD, what BIFAD is.
4 He wasn't all that familiar with it, as most
5 people are not, Dr. Deaton, so I need to
6 continually talk about us and what we are
7 there to do to help the agency.

8 And certainly he did not need to
9 be convinced about the importance of
10 agriculture and development. He understands
11 it, knows it very well, and was very -- had
12 his finger I would say pretty well on the
13 pulse, you know, for -- on agriculture as
14 very, very important for Ethiopia.

15 So I found that visit to be, you
16 know, very useful. And then I was able to
17 visit with the State Minister of Agriculture,
18 Wondirad Mandefro. And he gave me a good
19 insight as to the educational needs, talking
20 about capacity building.

21 One of the things he told me, he
22 says, you know, in Ethiopia, as I think

1 happens in most other countries except the
2 United States, for the most part, is that you
3 have extension folks are the ones that do the
4 training of the farmers and industry folks and
5 what have you.

6 And they are not located at
7 universities. They are usually under the
8 Ministry of Agriculture. But people who come
9 from universities are the ones that train
10 those folks, train the extensionists.

11 And his point to me was, is that
12 the extensionists need to have very hands-on
13 information to help farmers and others. And
14 they don't often get that hands-on from the
15 university-educated people.

16 University-educated people have
17 all the theory in the world, but they don't
18 have the practical knowledge. And so he was
19 telling me, if you guys are going to do
20 anything at universities here, you need to
21 help them get educated and trained, you know,
22 for whether it is a master's degree or

1 whatever it is in a way that is very practical
2 education. It is not just pie in the sky
3 education.

4 So I thought that was certainly
5 useful for BIFAD to know. And then, of
6 course, the importance of the livestock
7 industry in Ethiopia, he impressed me as
8 really thinking that that was one of the big
9 keys for Ethiopia to do well.

10 And so we talked a little bit
11 about some projects that had been done already
12 and that are being done in livestock industry
13 so that they can export meat products, for
14 example, to outside of Ethiopia and in that
15 way really enhance their economic development.

16 I visited also with a
17 representative from the Ethiopian Institute of
18 Water Resources which is, as it says here,
19 collaboration between several Ethiopian
20 universities and University of Connecticut and
21 some other American universities to educate at
22 the master's and Ph.D. level Ethiopian

1 students doing research in water.

2 So that certainly is one of those
3 projects where we will -- we should keep an
4 eye on to see if maybe it can serve as a model
5 for other similar efforts.

6 It is funded by USAID and Higher
7 Education for Development. This is a picture
8 of the minister. But then down here is the
9 entry to the Ministry of Agriculture.

10 And he is very personable, one of
11 these folks that, as soon as I sat down even
12 though I had just come from lunch and had a
13 nice lunch and coffee and all that, he
14 insisted I taste coffee from his special
15 reserve.

16 And I thought, well, I don't need
17 any more coffee. But I ended up drinking it,
18 Dr. Gebisa Ejeta, because it is just the best
19 coffee there is. I will tell you that. You
20 can't say no to a cup of Ethiopian coffee.

21 So in conclusion, I would say that
22 the efforts of the agency to try to integrate

1 a multitude of projects and partners and so
2 forth obviously is a very sound approach and
3 is one that they are not just, at least in
4 this example it is not lip service.

5 It was being done. It was
6 happening. The emphasis on sustainable
7 intensification and combining crops and
8 livestock certainly is what needs to be done
9 there in Ethiopia.

10 And Ethiopia itself is a great
11 place to work because there is somewhat of the
12 infrastructure that they need. Not
13 completely, but certainly a commitment, I
14 would say, from the government entities as
15 well as their universities.

16 We again need to ensure that the
17 mission is included in planning as well as
18 execution and that long-term planning, as
19 difficult as that is because we all live in
20 the short term, give-me-the-results kind of
21 world, we need to include those as much as
22 possible in order to really eventually make a

1 big difference.

2 With that I am going to end,
3 because I know that my colleague, Marty McVey,
4 he went to lots of places so he has got a lot
5 more to say than I did. So thank you very
6 much.

7 (Applause).

8 MR. McVEY: Thank you. I am going
9 to stay seated because I have got all my notes
10 all around here, so if folks don't mind that.
11 Thank you.

12 And in an effort for the CRSP
13 study that is currently going under way right
14 now, I won't go into great detail on opinions
15 and that like, but I also want to recognize
16 John Bowman, who was on the trip from AID, and
17 what a great resource it was to have him
18 accompany me and the team as well as Muni is
19 here as well from Virginia Tech.

20 So it's a great resource to me to
21 be able to have these folks on the trip as
22 well. And I share with the other members how

1 important these trips are.

2 The BIFAD members are able to get
3 into the field and see the work that is being
4 done and make recommendations for the future
5 and be able to participate in the success of
6 the CRSP or any mission that USAID is funding.

7 So we'll start, I think -- you're
8 going to start with some slides here. These
9 are basically just some photos. And we
10 started the trip in India and we visited the
11 trade and intellectual property department and
12 spent the day reviewing the socioeconomic
13 research on impact assessment and gender
14 equality.

15 Discussions covered primary data
16 collected on full and partial adopters of IPM/
17 CRSP technologies on onion, eggplant, okra,
18 tomatoes and cauliflower.

19 Considerable discussions focused
20 on the papaya mealybug, which we renamed the
21 "Munibug," which has a huge impact on not only
22 papaya but also mulberry and other fruit

1 crops.

2 With additional funds we will be
3 able to qualify the impacts of the mealybug on
4 other horticultural crops and environmental
5 impact. During this discussion it was
6 discovered that there was limited work done on
7 the gender equality group.

8 And a plan is in place for year
9 two, for 2010-2011 gender difference in the
10 level of IPM knowledge on how to control crop
11 pests and access to assets.

12 The scientists at this workshop
13 prepared a book and packages for several
14 vegetable crops and distributed to the farmers
15 during the meeting.

16 The meeting was attended by over
17 700 farmers and was covered by all Indian
18 radio and local newspapers. So a great deal
19 of media coverage was experienced with this.
20 We also were welcomed by the mission.

21 And William Hammink is the mission
22 director for USAID and very knowledgeable,

1 too. Also, I briefed on BIFAD and what our
2 role is and the charge by the administrator,
3 and very receptive in any of these countries
4 that I visited.

5 And I have already heard it said
6 by the other members today that the missions
7 are really responsive to our travel there and
8 I think it is good dialogue. So the IPM/CRSP
9 was about to give the mission director a good
10 briefing on what they had been working on and
11 how to work together for the future.

12 Mr. Hammink gave us an updated on,
13 you know, what the priorities of the mission
14 is right now. And it is public-private sector
15 partnerships and development innovations,
16 partnership innovations, food security, clean
17 energy and global health.

18 We also discussed U.S.-India-
19 Africa trilateral program. So India is, you
20 know, already into clean energy, obviously,
21 and global health. So they are advancing at
22 a very rapid pace.

1 We also had the opportunity to
2 meet with the Indian Council on Agricultural
3 Research and got the update on biological
4 controls of papaya mealybug. So that was very
5 helpful.

6 We travelled to Nepal and met with
7 the mission director, David Atteberry, who is
8 a very experienced and well-versed director
9 there. And he had mentioned to us about the
10 RFP and prefers the project to facilitate the
11 mission focus programs.

12 So I think that the RFP on IPM,
13 the new RFP is already out by now, I'm sure.
14 We travelled to Pokhara, which is in the
15 north, and a very beautiful place and we
16 visited fields that are using biofertilizer
17 and biopesticides for production of
18 cauliflower and other vegetables.

19 Very beautiful scenery up there as
20 well. We visited farmers who graft tomatoes
21 from tomato root stock to overcome bacterial
22 wilt disease and nematodes as well as the

1 longer longevity.

2 So it is very interesting and
3 consistent, you know. Paul mentioned in his
4 presentation about the role of women in these
5 programs. And that truly is working. I think
6 it is something that should be expanded on.

7 Because all of the women that we
8 talked to and what do they do with their
9 profits or their excess capacity is that they
10 reinvest into education for their children.

11 And out of 10 probably that I have
12 talked to, nine were reinvesting in education
13 for their children. One is reinvesting in
14 better seeds, you know, but putting it back
15 into the farms.

16 In Bangladesh we attended a
17 meeting for IPM/CRSP activities in Bangladesh
18 Agriculture Research Institute, BARI, which is
19 a very impressive setup there. And we
20 discussed successes of IPM/CRSP over the last
21 13 years.

22 We had BARI scientists that

1 presented their research and extension
2 activities in developing IPM packages for
3 different vegetables and disseminating the
4 information through field days, farmer school
5 days and mass media.

6 I was briefed about by the ABSPII
7 project in Bangladesh and the quarantine
8 fields that are there in the BARI project.
9 Also is the BARI Soci (phonetic) economic
10 group. It will host a student for the next
11 seven months.

12 Altogether they will implement
13 another survey to be used in the impact
14 assessment work. I travelled to Bogra and
15 visited pumpkin fields where pheromone traps
16 were set up for the control of melon fly.

17 I think it might be -- that's
18 Bogra there, and visited a village where women
19 were producing trichodermic compost in fields
20 where trichodermic compost was applied.

21 Many of the farmers expressed
22 their appreciation for introduction of the

1 trichodermic compost production and use in the
2 field. And you can really see some good
3 results from that increase in their yield.

4 We travelled to meet with the
5 ambassador, Don Mozena, who is also -- who
6 grew up on a farm in Iowa, so he has a lot to
7 say about the agriculture, and of course
8 briefed him on what BIFAD is and what a good
9 group of folk resources that the missions
10 could take advantage of. And he was very
11 receptive to that.

12 We had attended the international
13 training workshop in Dhaka. It was conducted
14 on diagnosis and management of insect pests
15 and disease in horticultural crops under the
16 IPM/ CRSP international plant diagnostic
17 network at BARI.

18 That is a mouthful, which is
19 really fantastic. The program provided
20 theoretical background for identification of
21 bacterial and viral disease in vegetable
22 crops, identification of biocontrol agents,

1 and use of modern molecular and serological
2 diagnostic methods.

3 The hands-on laboratory that they
4 have there and the subsequent training
5 provided three major case studies:
6 identification of the papaya mealybug,
7 identification of causative in bacterial wilt
8 and identification of tomato leaf curl viruses
9 and whiteflies.

10 A manual will be developed on IPDM
11 by the IPM/CRSP as a result. Here's some
12 other farmers.

13 So I think that some of the
14 observations, again without skewing the CRSP
15 study that is under way right now, is that
16 certainly there is an opportunity to have more
17 collaboration between the CRSP and the
18 mission.

19 The CRSP, at least in the three
20 countries that I visited certainly could
21 benefit by having more access to the mission
22 and the staff there.

1 Another opportunity is to identify
2 the true impact of the capacity building that
3 is going on, what are the results, and how do
4 you measure those.

5 I think that more documentation,
6 and we talked about this at the Memphis
7 meeting with the group there, more
8 documentation of what the successes really
9 are.

10 We need to be able to demonstrate
11 the use of the funds that are going into these
12 projects and provide those to the
13 administrator for additional projects that may
14 come up. And how do we learn from those?

15 I think as the study goes on and
16 as the mission gets more involved with the
17 CRSP it is: How do we get from farm to
18 market? I think that is lacking in how we are
19 putting these projects into application.

20 So that is the development piece
21 of the research that needs to go hand in hand.
22 And I think if we can focus on that, then that

1 ties back to the engagement with the private
2 sector.

3 You know, involving them in the --
4 at an earlier stage, not necessarily
5 developing or doing the research and here it
6 is. What are the needs so, you know, the
7 benefits can be shared by the masses.

8 And I think that's certainly --
9 these trips, again, are very important. I
10 encourage other members to travel on these
11 trips and see the projects that are under way.

12 I look forward to going back,
13 especially to Bangladesh. I see a great deal
14 of opportunity there to grow their -- have 160
15 million people in the country.

16 Ten percent of that is within the
17 capital so they have a great deal of labor
18 that is around to do these projects. I would
19 also recommend that the farms that are being
20 used for the studies be expanded so you can
21 see more, you know, more study impact.

22 Thank you. If there is any

1 questions?

2 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Marty, thank
3 you very much.

4 (Applause).

5 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Well, those
6 are the three perspectives from those of us
7 who were travelling. And any questions among
8 the board here?

9 We are going to move to Rob
10 Bertram in just a moment for a reaction to the
11 entire panel. But it is clear that we saw
12 different things in different places.

13 We have not had -- we have had a
14 limited opportunity for comparing notes
15 ourselves and the observations of getting to
16 market, for example, problems that you saw.

17 For example, in Tanzania, my sense
18 was that was being pretty well addressed, you
19 know, by the private sector and they were
20 involved in the workshops anyway.

21 But the transportation workshops
22 are different from this -- the visit for the

1 trip, too. But those are the kinds of issues
2 that we'll refine and look at as we go
3 forward.

4 Any reactions from anyone else?

5 Otherwise I'll --

6 DR. EJETA: I don't have a
7 question, but with your permission if you may
8 give me a couple of minutes to embarrass Rob
9 Bertram.

10 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Rob, let's go
11 ahead with your -- did you want to do that
12 after?

13 DR. EJETA: I would like to do it
14 right now while I have the chance.

15 You know, the whole concept of
16 this Feed the Future research strategy
17 development process has been really and
18 excellent process that has been put together.

19 I'm sure his staff had contributed
20 greatly, but I have had -- I have been perhaps
21 one of the very few people that have been
22 involved in the process since the early days

1 when he and Josette Lewis started thinking
2 about it.

3 And it's really a very impressive
4 process in terms of how thoughtful it has been
5 and in terms of building on the experiences of
6 agricultural research in developing countries,
7 agricultural research in the CGIR system.

8 And then how consumptively it has
9 been a process in terms of thinking about what
10 has worked, what has not worked in the past,
11 defining them and concentrating them to these
12 three or four areas that they came back to;
13 and engaging people at various levels to bring
14 in lessons from the past in projecting this
15 research agenda.

16 I really thought this inception
17 workshop concept was a very brilliant concept
18 in terms of bringing it to the areas where
19 these researches are being conducted.

20 And also, many of you may not have
21 picked on this, but this is something that I
22 have been enrolled in in the dialogue within

1 the CG system that there was an attempt to
2 bring in all of the research dimensions into
3 ecological areas.

4 And in a process that we have
5 really not succeeded in moving the agenda
6 within the CG system to get that done, and
7 then now you will see ID approves Mark's
8 leadership, is really beginning to get that
9 done.

10 Not only is that going to bring in
11 the research into the areas that are
12 strategically selected in both in India and
13 these African regions, bringing in ecological
14 based agricultural research systems, but in
15 doing so it is beginning to influence
16 decision-making within the CGIR that now they
17 are thinking that with a very small investment
18 from the USAID there is an opportunity to
19 influence a research agenda that the entire CG
20 system may begin to adopt and do that.

21 And doing all of this, I know just
22 personally I worked with Rob for years and it

1 is just leading from the back with a lot of
2 humility, deference to people and it just has
3 been very, very impressive to me, Rob.

4 And I just -- I give you my
5 applause. I respect all of what you said in
6 there.

7 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Gebisa, thank
8 you. And, Rob, we will turn to you. And let
9 me, while you are moving up here, just say Rob
10 was thoroughly involved in the Tanzanian
11 workshop.

12 I believe you were each of the
13 three inception workshops, as was Julie
14 Howard, and clearly demonstrated a lot of
15 leadership, and obviously have a lot of
16 respect among the communities involved in
17 that, with those discussions.

18 MR. BERTRAM: Thank you, Brady.

19 Frankly, I was afraid it was going
20 to be a different kind of embarrassment, so
21 thank you very much, Gebisa.

22 And, you know, it is totally a

1 team effort. I want to single out one person
2 in particular. That's Jerry Glover.

3 And for those of you who were at
4 the workshop, you know how Jerry's vision and
5 leadership and his incredible background in
6 systems work and the literature, and as Gebisa
7 said, what has worked, what hasn't worked,
8 why, is making a huge difference.

9 And then I also want to -- there's
10 a lot of CRSP people here who also were key
11 participants and key drivers. So like Elsa
12 and Gebisa said, we were so fortunate to bring
13 together such a great group of people from the
14 national side, from the international, and
15 from our U.S. community.

16 Well, thank you. I wanted to
17 start this morning to just remind us how we
18 got here a little bit. This is the cover of
19 what came out of the consultation that we did
20 with APLU and with the blessing of BIFAD this
21 started out at the Purdue workshop in January
22 of last year.

1 Bob was there and it has continued
2 through the research forum where many of you
3 participated last June. We had 1,000 -- more
4 than 1,000 participants in the online
5 conversation.

6 It was worldwide in terms of scope
7 and participation. It was very, very
8 gratifying. And I wanted to say that last
9 fall when we met in Des Moines, speaking of
10 the BIFAD, we -- I laid out how we were
11 implementing the strategy of USAID.

12 So I think what I would like to do
13 today is just kind of hit some highlights.
14 And you have already captured some of those in
15 your comments. But in just a few months I
16 think we are making significant process (sic).

17 I want to try to cover some of
18 those areas this morning and I also want to
19 flag a few areas where I think maybe there is
20 more progress to be made or we are not doing
21 enough.

22 And I have to say your first hour

1 this morning when you were talking about your
2 areas of concern that many of you raised was
3 really music to my ears because it was -- I
4 think there is a real connection between the
5 board's thinking and our thinking inside AID.

6 So a few things just to say sort
7 of generically. We are building bridges
8 across our staff and programs. I'm really
9 excited about the participation we just talked
10 about with the CRSPs and the CGIR and the
11 NARS.

12 But we also have our lead staff,
13 our AOTRs, our AORs, the agreement officers,
14 people like John Bowman and others who are
15 managing both CRSPs and the relevant CGIR
16 programs or international programs.

17 So Vern Long manages INTSORMIL and
18 the peanut CRSP. She also is the lead for the
19 CGIR programs in dryland grains and the things
20 to do with peanuts.

21 Lots of other examples: Larry
22 Beach with dry gain pulses and the legumes

1 program. We also, I think we are really
2 excited, for example, last summer the grain
3 legumes. CRSP had a global research strategy
4 meeting at Penn State that involved people
5 from USDA, from the CGIR, from the
6 universities, private sector.

7 Similarly, in Malta the peanut
8 CRSP brought together a global research
9 community to talk about our work in peanuts.

10 And I am very pleased that later
11 this month and early next month we are sending
12 U.S. researchers -- not just from the CRSP;
13 there's several from the CRSP but also some
14 from outside the CRSP -- to the CGIR planning
15 workshops on the legumes program and on the
16 dry grain cereals program, and some of our
17 staff as well.

18 So we are really getting this
19 global partnership and I think it is really
20 encouraging. Another thing I wanted to flag
21 and Paul and Julie have already I think
22 flagged this this morning, is how -- what a

1 different environment we are in in terms of
2 the fact that we have these 19 or 20 focus
3 missions now who have major investments in
4 food security and agriculture.

5 And it is such an important
6 opportunity for those of us on the R&D side to
7 try to connect with those. It has already
8 come out several times today.

9 But I also think it has some
10 bearing about what we do in R&D. And how do
11 we pass off? How do we make that jump from
12 the innovation in terms of the research side
13 to pass off to the implementation in the
14 field?

15 And of course part of what those
16 sustainable intensification programs are about
17 is just that. So I won't spend much time on
18 this. I think you have all seen this.

19 This is the areas that we are
20 working in. In a nutshell, our sustainable
21 intensification is about climate resilience.
22 It is about reducing risk. It is about

1 increased efficiency in use of water and other
2 resources, as Paul mentioned this morning.

3 It is about productivity gains,
4 but through efficiencies as well as other
5 ways, and it is about market efficiencies,
6 too. It is not technology separate from the
7 context, the human and the institutional
8 context.

9 Livestock, key issue for
10 nutrition, for income. Biomass, another key
11 issue both for livestock feed, but also for
12 soil fertility and great resilience. Drought,
13 the whole issue of soil and water
14 conservation.

15 So these are all the things that
16 the workshops that Brady and Elsa and others
17 have discussed are -- that is what we were
18 really trying to grapple with.

19 Now, I want to just -- we are
20 calling our program in Africa, Africa Rising.
21 And I wanted to put the definition up here
22 just so you can see that we have the hunger

1 and poverty, which Paul talked about, and we
2 also have the women and children and the
3 nutrition piece that is very important, and of
4 course the natural resource base.

5 We tried to capture that all. I
6 think that is actually still a high bar, and
7 we will talk a little bit more about that.

8 Now, this is just a screen shot.
9 You can go to africa-rising.wikispaces.com and
10 we can send that to everyone so that you know
11 where to go.

12 But again, as I said, Jerry
13 Glover, Elizabeth Skewgar and others have just
14 done -- Eric Witte has done incredible work on
15 this. And of course the other thing that came
16 out, I think in Elsa's comments, we had Gates
17 involved.

18 But we also have strong interest
19 from DFID, the U.K., and also from Australia,
20 who are also interested in the concept of
21 sustainable intensification. Now, this is
22 Jerry's creation and it is a little bit much

1 to look at.

2 But what I wanted -- what it does
3 show you -- the main focus of our program is
4 here on production. We are connected through
5 extension, equipment, fertilizer, market,
6 seeds and breeds.

7 But our research in these programs
8 won't fund those for sale. And then this is
9 past the production end to the post-harvest,
10 milling and packaging and marketing.

11 So our main thrust is here but we
12 have connections up and down. And I think
13 those connections, of course, are critical to
14 the success of the program for a longer term.

15 Now, as I think came out in the
16 comments, one of things that we did at these
17 workshops is talk about how do we get this
18 community engaged? How do we show something
19 in a short term? We are not starting from
20 scratch.

21 And we came up with the quick
22 start approach. And both the Ethiopia and the

1 East Africa workshop have done -- are doing
2 that.

3 And so here, the point here is to
4 really energize some of the partners -- many
5 partners, frankly -- and to generate results
6 by September to tap into the knowledge and
7 engage people in the program going forward.

8 And we have six projects in the
9 Ethiopian highlands. I am going to show a few
10 examples. And we have 10 in Eastern and
11 Southern Africa.

12 And then in West Africa, it was a
13 little different but there are still a lot of
14 programs that have gotten started. Here are
15 some examples.

16 In Ethiopia we have the
17 regionalizing fertilizer rate. That involves
18 IFPRI, the SANREM CRSP, University of
19 Tennessee, the ATA, that is the Agricultural
20 Transformation Agency in Ethiopia -- it is
21 hugely important -- and the Ethiopian
22 Institute of Agricultural Research.

1 We have value chain analyses,
2 again spanning CRSPs, local universities,
3 mission-funded projects, a couple
4 international centers. And then in West
5 Africa you can see another effort that
6 involves ICRISAT, but also the peanut CRSP,
7 INTSORMIL, SANREM CRSP, IITA and the national
8 program in Mali and Ghana.

9 So lots of real partnerships here.
10 We also have groups like World Vision
11 involved. We have local private sector. We
12 have seed companies, small, local seed
13 companies.

14 And I am happy to share the list
15 if anybody -- Jerry and Elizabeth have
16 compiled a list of those grants. So if you
17 would like to see them, just kind of get a
18 deeper flavor of what they are about we'll be
19 happy to do that.

20 Then I want to also mention CSISA
21 and Saharah Moon Chapotin, who leads the
22 research team that's here. And this is really

1 her creation along with partners in the Gates
2 Foundation and the national programs of India,
3 Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and the related
4 international centers.

5 This has been going for a while.
6 We are funding it with the Gates Foundation in
7 four countries. It is all about climate
8 resilience. And again, it is about this issue
9 of system productivity.

10 We are not looking in isolation.
11 We have an example here where we are talking
12 about -- what do I do there? Postpone, right?

13 So, for example, if we don't use
14 flooded rice, if we use irrigated rice we can
15 get the wheat in earlier. We can plant wheat
16 into cotton stubble.

17 That can give us an extra ton of
18 wheat by missing the drought. If you don't
19 have a flooded field, you don't have to wait
20 two or three weeks for it to dry out in order
21 to plant.

22 The other thing we have a lot of

1 emphasis on is on livestock and grain legumes.
2 And, you know, grain legumes have become
3 relatively expensive and declined as a portion
4 of the diet, to the detriment of poor people
5 in particular.

6 So we are looking for ways to
7 remedy that. A little bit more here on some
8 impact data. The partnership, a lot of
9 households adopting these conservation
10 technologies. These result also in savings in
11 energy and water.

12 We have policy demonstrations. We
13 actually have our influencing policy in the
14 Indian State of Bihar, so the government
15 actually subsidized the development of this
16 locally-produced conservation tillage
17 equipment to try to encourage their uptake.

18 So that is quite a feat, actually,
19 for an agricultural research program. There
20 is also -- Saharah Moon has been very involved
21 in the development of transition strategies to
22 really hand this over to the local public and

1 private sector; both are involved.

2 And we are now scaling up in
3 Nepal. There are new hubs in Bangladesh. The
4 MYAPs, M-Y-A-P-S, those are our NGO Title II
5 programs, another incredibly important
6 collection -- connection in terms of moving
7 technology from research into the hands of
8 small holder farmers, very important partners
9 to us.

10 And then finally Pakistan is
11 coming on line in a bigger way, we think. And
12 the point here is that even though that is not
13 a Feed the Future country, it is a country
14 where the R&D that we do is extremely
15 relevant.

16 So we are making those connections
17 to the mission in Pakistan and to the
18 Pakistani organizations and also connecting
19 them to their regional partners, the four
20 countries that are involved.

21 Now, I said I wanted to say a bit
22 more about stuff we are not doing enough of,

1 perhaps. And before I do that though I want
2 to just say that the programs we fund have
3 incredible leverage.

4 We were talking yesterday with
5 some of the CRSPs. They are leveraging
6 researchers who have USDA grants from NIFA,
7 CAP grants, AFSI grants. They have NIH
8 grants. They have NSF grants. They have a
9 lot of grants from industry here in the United
10 States.

11 So USAID in this program, and I am
12 mentioning this now because as we think about
13 this very consciously as we go into new areas
14 of effort, can actually integrate all these
15 other streams of funding and resources around
16 a focused agenda for food security-related
17 R&D.

18 The other thing I want to say, and
19 I checked this is on the Web, Paul. So our
20 budget is significantly improved this year.
21 Our R&D budget, Dr. Shah has pushed very hard
22 for this and he has pushed hard for it on the

1 basis of climate resilience: crops,
2 livestock, and some of the kinds of systems
3 work, too, that they're talking about here.

4 So our budget is actually up about
5 \$60 million over FY2012. We have no knowledge
6 of what the future will be yet. But, you
7 know, the best defense is a good offense and
8 that is to have really incredibly smart,
9 strong, well-thought-out programs.

10 And so that is why I wanted to
11 flag here for BIFAD this morning a few of the
12 areas where I think you have already done it
13 in your earlier comments.

14 So, for example -- oh, I first
15 want to come back to this slide. This was the
16 first slide. If you take a look there you see
17 a child and a mother.

18 You see a handful of grain
19 legumes. I think those are cowpeas. You see
20 fish, cereals, animal source. You have
21 livestock. You don't see vegetables but
22 where's Bess? They should be there. And

1 Muni. The horse folks will want them to be
2 there, and we believe that, too.

3 But, you know, it just -- this is
4 to remind us of what Feed the Future is about.
5 And as we look, for example, at sustainable
6 intensification what do we really need to do
7 to build nutrition in?

8 I mean, we know we want it.
9 Everybody agrees. We had some nutritionists -
10 - not enough, but some, at the workshop. But
11 I think we have got a real opportunity and I
12 was glad to hear the board mention it this
13 morning.

14 I would really like to see if we
15 couldn't convene with the Global Health Bureau
16 at AID an effort to really think through how
17 we can engage the two sectors together to see
18 if we can drive the nutritional gains that we
19 are on the hook for.

20 As Paul said, I mean, we are on
21 the hook for something, reductions, and if we
22 are serious about that we are just going to

1 have to think more clearly about that.

2 So I would like to really invite
3 BIFAD to work with us and help us reach out to
4 our partners across the aisle, as we might say
5 in AID, in terms of another bureau to take
6 that forward.

7 Another area for -- I think that I
8 wanted to flag for you is this new -- is the
9 climate-resilient cereals. This is actually
10 something we started from last year's budget.

11 The call on this just closed but
12 we are very excited that it is going to lead
13 to a series of new partnerships, some with
14 universities, no doubt some with the private
15 sector.

16 It is procurement-sensitive. I
17 can't really say much more than that. But we
18 know we are going to be leveraging again a
19 huge amount of other resources from both
20 public and private sources here.

21 And I also want to flag -- wish
22 Max was here because I have to say this. It

1 is not just about private resilience crops.
2 This one was, but we are also interested in
3 climate resilience and livestock.

4 And we have some thoughts about
5 that being another area that we would like to
6 develop going forward. Wheat research,
7 another area where we actually do a fair
8 amount.

9 We are -- our programs like FIFA,
10 but also our CGIR program in wheat are
11 screening heat and drought tolerance and
12 disease resistance, germ plasma.

13 You are familiar with our ref work
14 with the CGIR, Bill and Melinda Gates and
15 USDA. We are building a new greenhouse at
16 USDA's cereal disease lab in St. Paul to help
17 them play more of a global role.

18 And we are -- we have the hope of
19 some more drought or heat-tolerant work coming
20 out. Issues of drought and heat tolerance in
21 wheat are huge and this is probably one of the
22 most sensitive crops in some of the areas that

1 are most sensitive, say South and Central
2 Asia, Ethiopia.

3 We really want to be ahead of
4 this. The other thing I want to flag on
5 something like wheat is, not a lot of our
6 missions have this as a value chain but we
7 know it is incredibly important to food
8 security.

9 So it was a question of, even if
10 it is not necessarily a total overlay, we know
11 that for a lot of our countries the
12 performance of the wheat crop is incredibly
13 important for their food security. Places
14 like Nepal, Bangladesh, but also Afghanistan,
15 Pakistan and many others.

16 And then finally -- I think this
17 is my last slide, I wanted to -- I think this
18 was already mentioned again, the issue of
19 water. And it is an area that we flagged
20 before, Brady, in conversations.

21 But AID had gotten out of the
22 irrigation business about 20 years ago. And

1 of course our work used to be very much around
2 large-scale systems in places like South Asia.

3 But now when we talk about
4 sustainable intensification for small holders
5 in places like Africa, we want to think about
6 water because there is nothing more important
7 in terms of reducing risk.

8 Irrigation, also water use
9 efficiency, and I know SANREM and some of the
10 other CRSPs are working on this and some of
11 the centers, but I think this is an area where
12 we could again do some convening and really
13 think it through.

14 You have big investments being
15 made in U.S. universities. The Daugherty
16 Center in Nebraska is one example but there
17 are many others.

18 And again, it is an issue where we
19 can -- we have a lot of experience to bear.
20 There's a lot of U.S. universities that have
21 worked globally, so I think maybe the time is
22 ripe to bring -- reconvene on that.

1 And then the last point you don't
2 have a slide on but I want us to let everyone
3 know we are not forgetting policy. And we
4 have a new policy activity under design now.
5 It is still in developmental stages.

6 So we have a policy team in the
7 Agricultural Research and Policy Office headed
8 by Jeff Hill. We have people like Jim Oehmke
9 from Michigan State and Dave Atwood and
10 others, a strong group.

11 And we -- that's another area
12 where again we are going to be looking to the
13 U.S. university community and others to help
14 us ensure that those -- both those upward and
15 downward linkages that I showed in that slide
16 slanting the production focus get the
17 attention they deserve.

18 So thank you very much.

19 (Applause).

20 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Rob, thank
21 you very much. Let me turn to the board
22 itself for any comments or further discussion

1 regarding any of the presentations we heard,
2 Rob's particularly.

3 Catherine?

4 MS. BERTINI: I have a question,
5 Rob. I'm not sure if it's for you or one of
6 your colleagues. I just read today that
7 Canadian CEDAW was considering some
8 significant cuts in their AID package and it
9 would impact on some of the Feed the Future
10 countries.

11 Notwithstanding whatever they do,
12 I am wondering how USAID interacts with -- you
13 mentioned DFID with others and how you support
14 each other. And we go up and down ourselves
15 in an effort to try to sustain support.

16 MR. BERTRAM: I think Julie could
17 speak to this as well because it is very much
18 in our minds right now with the G8 planning
19 and G20 planning coming up.

20 But I would say that there are ups
21 and downs, and hopefully not all donors or
22 development agencies move the same direction

1 at once. So we do get some smoothing out.

2 We certainly believe that the
3 processes like the L'Aquila process that
4 President Obama and other world leaders
5 launched on in 2009 has paid off tremendously.

6 And I think one of the challenges
7 we all have is: How do we maintain that
8 central focus for the issues? The price rises
9 are not transient. They haven't gone away.

10 And the driving forces, which are
11 the shift in diet and the demand for more food
12 for a richer diet by emerging middle classes
13 on the one hand plus, frankly, a declining
14 rate of productivity growth in agriculture on
15 the other, those two things are still there.

16 So -- but let me ask Julie. It is
17 a concern, but having sharp priorities and
18 focus and being able to articulate always
19 helps. But, Julie?

20 DR. HOWARD: Well, so it's a
21 great, great comment and question. I think
22 both through our G8 and the G20 discussions

1 where we are getting to a better place, it is
2 not without pain.

3 But, say, you know, for the G8
4 discussions on around technology and
5 innovation, really, you know, the things that
6 we are talking about with our G8 partners is
7 how we do specific things to better coordinate
8 in especially technologies already developed
9 and making sure they get commercialized rather
10 wide-scaled and let farmers know about them.

11 So it's, you know, I think that is
12 the bridge that we haven't been able to cross
13 yet, you know. And it is a very important
14 bridge to go over, you know, as we continue to
15 develop from L'Aquila, you know, into actual
16 what does this need for donor coordination and
17 corrective recording of impacts against a
18 common target?

19 On the G20, you know, I think that
20 is also -- we are beginning to have some
21 interesting conversations there, you know,
22 about how we get better even at reporting what

1 we are spending.

2 I mean, we really have a very,
3 very loose idea of what we are spending on
4 agricultural research and development. It is
5 kind of -- it's very shocking.

6 Until we get better at knowing
7 what we are spending, you know, we also can't
8 get better at knowing where are the gaps.
9 What do we really need to focus on, and all
10 the things that you need really to go into
11 ex/ante impact analysis.

12 And so that is critical to the
13 smoothing function that you are talking about.
14 So even if a donor drops down, you know, that
15 we can highlight it early enough to say, look,
16 you know, we really need a surgeon in rust
17 research or something like that.

18 MR. WEISENFELD: Just a couple of
19 quick points to add, Catherine. Canada has
20 been a critical partner of ours, not just in
21 funding but as a critical thought partnership
22 on the formation of the global agricultural

1 food security program, on really being a
2 leader in thinking about the Ag Pull
3 Mechanism, which you may or may not know
4 about.

5 But in the current economic --
6 worldwide economic environment, this is
7 obviously a big concern of ours. Nonetheless,
8 I do think that in our discussions with Canada
9 we are extremely hopeful that as their budgets
10 are constrained they will still prioritize
11 food security.

12 And I am -- just to repeat, I
13 think we are very hopeful on that score. The
14 G8 I think is a real forum coming up that can
15 help people prioritize food security and
16 nutrition issues in the constrained global
17 economic environment.

18 The other thing I would add is,
19 the European Union has already approached us
20 about their design of programs over the coming
21 -- I forget if it is a five- or seven-year
22 transfer. Seven.

1 But they are about to re-think
2 where they are focusing and they are very
3 interested in focusing on food security. And
4 they have a big envelope of research. So as
5 Rob says, not everyone goes up and down at the
6 same time.

7 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Other members
8 of the board, comments? Questions?

9 Rob, let me just say you really
10 outlined a series of very rich initiatives,
11 areas where additional research and planning
12 and strategy would pay off, from dropped
13 tolerance issues to the global nutrition, the
14 water issues.

15 And in every scientific conference
16 I sit in, I see some new insight comes
17 forward, that I'm sitting there thinking,
18 gosh, I wonder how fully incorporated that is
19 in the various missions around the world.

20 And in a sense, we need almost a
21 querying system to determine that. Or in
22 fact, as you know, I send you Bill Davies,

1 some information on him because he is talking
2 about these very innovative ways that plants
3 are using water with root systems and the kind
4 of molecular biology work or pathology work
5 that they were engaged in.

6 And it appeared new to many in the
7 conference I was in. And so that is just an
8 example. But it's just to make the point that
9 some very, very powerful findings are
10 potentially there that could really change the
11 nature of the way we are looking right now.

12 DR. MURANO: Can I just ask one
13 question? It just occurred to me. If you
14 could comment a little bit, as you said, the
15 agency works pretty much in that middle part
16 of production. Not only, but from a -- okay.

17 Speak a little bit to the post-
18 harvest area, because not only obviously is
19 that important for markets and so forth, but
20 also when we think about health.

21 And we were talking about that
22 earlier this morning. Nutrition obviously is

1 an important player, but other things such as
2 food safety and things of that nature.

3 MR. BERTRAM: Right. Thank you,
4 Elsa. The slide there was really clearly just
5 about the sustainable intensification
6 programs. And even there, there's some real
7 challenges.

8 And what I would like to propose
9 is, the next time you meet that we get Dr.
10 Glover, maybe some of the partners, to talk
11 about where they are coming out on the
12 research design.

13 You will remember, Brady and Elsa,
14 that we were going to have this intense period
15 of designing a longer term program even while
16 we got these quick start activities up.

17 So there is going to be -- because
18 going from the household level to the
19 landscape level, for example, if you want to
20 deal with natural resource issues is no simple
21 thing, as Dr. Ejeta knows.

22 So we would like to come back to

1 you on that. On a couple of the points, water
2 and also post-harvest, we have been thinking
3 hard about what's the real R&D entry point
4 there?

5 There's a lot of technology that
6 we know can help. And some of our programs
7 are dealing with technology applications. The
8 hort CRSP is a good example to really see how
9 our technology can be adapted and utilized and
10 then hopefully transformative in a small
11 holder production system.

12 So what I would like to do, I am
13 going to pass the mic to Saharah Moon for a
14 minute because she has been -- is that okay?
15 She has been thinking about this issue of
16 post-harvest and research in some of the
17 areas.

18 And I want to just ask her --
19 well, I'll give her one second to think about
20 that.

21 Oh, okay. You're right, you're right. John
22 is our lead on that.

1 But the other thing I wanted to
2 flag I left out. The reason I mentioned the
3 budget, the fact that we have this positive
4 scenario, I wanted -- I don't want to say that
5 we are talking about cutting one thing in
6 order to do something else necessarily.

7 I mean, there may be reasons to do
8 some that but we have the scope here of
9 actually, I think, thinking a bit more boldly.

10 And another one that I forgot to
11 mention -- I'm always challenged if I have to
12 operate the PowerPoint and look at my notes --
13 is there is another crop that we don't talk
14 about much and yet it's incredibly important;
15 and that's soy.

16 And it has been sort of a third
17 rail for us in terms of development, and yet
18 we know that the U.S. soy community could
19 benefit from international research
20 collaborations.

21 And it's so important we are
22 prioritizing grain legumes. It's a small

1 holder crop. It is being used -- it's being
2 used as human food in a lot of countries.

3 So I recently had the opportunity
4 at the World Initiative on Soy and Human
5 Health to talk to the audience about that.
6 And I think people are a lot more open to
7 thinking about this.

8 But again, that is another case in
9 point where maybe it's time for a re-think, a
10 re-look. And let me pass it now to John or
11 Saharah Moon.

12 DR. BOWMAN: Well, I have only
13 been on board for about a year but I have kind
14 of been asked to look to caretake two areas
15 that are extremely important to ask that the
16 food security, which are post-harvest losses
17 and then the general area of food safety.

18 Because for whatever reason, you
19 know, for whatever, you know, we don't have
20 any high profile signature kind of centrally
21 funded project out of our research portfolio
22 right now in these areas.

1 But there's not to say we are not
2 doing them throughout Feed the Future. We are
3 addressing these problems fairly aggressively
4 through the mission-led projects.

5 Post-harvest is seen as one of the
6 key components you have to address in the
7 value chain, whether it is the value of either
8 grain or horticulture or fish or legume,
9 whatever.

10 And so, the difficulty is finding,
11 making linkages between, you know, centralized
12 research programs that are trying to find
13 things especially that are researchable.

14 And where our research community,
15 the academic community and the CG systems, for
16 example, have particular leverage on the
17 situation that can look at longer term, post-
18 harvest food safety issues that could
19 essentially complement the mission-led value
20 chain project approach to post-harvest which
21 is, you know, you've got extreme losses.

22 You have to have -- you've got

1 storage, infrastructure problems. You've got
2 transport problems. You've got, you know,
3 loss getting -- so much loss in just getting
4 the crops to market.

5 And we are losing a lot of our,
6 you know, our front-end investment on
7 productivity. So everybody wants us to work
8 on this. There's been -- there's been and
9 there will continue to be conferences and
10 symposia on this.

11 And there will be a constant kind
12 of demand on AID to do more. I mean, I can
13 see that coming. So we are working on it and
14 we are -- we've got some funding set aside.

15 So I think, you know, to think
16 about, you know, how we can catalyze, you
17 know, some new AID research interests in this
18 area. But, you know, one of them -- one of
19 the most visible ways that we are working in
20 kind of -- in a microcosm in this area is the
21 area of, you know, our work on aflatoxins and
22 mycotoxins, which again we don't have, you

1 know, one particularly centralized activity.

2 But many of the CRSPs are working
3 on aflatoxin, in particular the peanut CRSP
4 doing, you know, great, you know, academic
5 work as well as practical work.

6 We have -- we are building a
7 relationship with USDA and we'll be working
8 with them. They have already -- they have got
9 a scope of work in front of us which will be
10 a combination of work in aflatoxin in terms of
11 their breeding and biocontrol.

12 Those are the two main areas. And
13 our, for example, our sister office, the
14 Office of Markets, Partnership and Innovation,
15 they have got several GBAs going now with
16 Gates and Meridian to look at appropriate
17 storage structures.

18 And they have already got
19 efficient -- there's many efficient storage
20 technologies, some of which have been devised
21 CYMMT, for example. CYMMT has been funded to
22 look at galvanized steel, farm level storage,

1 this kind of thing.

2 But the Gates project will look at
3 other types of storage like plastic bin
4 containers at farm level. And we will be
5 getting some results out of those aspects.

6 But these are -- yeah, so you can
7 kind of target me in terms of, you know,
8 what's going on in this area in the future.
9 We are trying, we're thinking.

10 These are areas that are spread
11 over health, you know, as well as agriculture.
12 And we are planning a handle on them. That
13 gives you some insight.

14 MS. CHAPOTIN: Thanks for that.
15 If I could just add a couple sentences,
16 thinking about this as John said, we don't
17 have a huge signature program on this issue at
18 the level of the research team here in
19 Washington.

20 But much as Rob said on water, I
21 think we are going to be doing some thinking
22 over the summer.

1 And my challenge to John and
2 others on the team has been to -- are there
3 some really kind of out-of-the-box thinking or
4 research activities that we can do as a
5 research team that, given the wide range of
6 investments in areas like post-harvest and
7 mycotoxins that are happening across the
8 agency and other donors, what are some of the
9 things that none of them can do that we can
10 do?

11 And, you know, he mentioned
12 breeding for aflatoxin as one thing. But that
13 has been going on a long time and with mixed
14 efforts or mixed results.

15 But perhaps there are new tools
16 out there. And I can say pretty confidently
17 that no one else in the agency is probably
18 going to support a topic like that. But
19 perhaps it is one that needs more thought.

20 So, looking for other -- welcome
21 BIFAD's input on this but we are looking for
22 areas where we can -- where we have a unique,

1 I guess, advantage in the types of resources
2 we have to invest in some research that really
3 could have -- have wide-ranging impacts even
4 though it may be a little bit more long-term.

5 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Let's turn to
6 -- do any other members of the board have
7 comments? I didn't see anyone raising their
8 hand.

9 So I do want to open up here for
10 any other public comments. Many of you in the
11 audience, we do have a few moments, and would
12 be open to any comments you would like to
13 make. Okay.

14 DR. ARES: Rob, can you please
15 comment more about the concept of new hubs?

16 MS. CHAPOTIN: You mean hubs?

17 DR. ARES: Yeah, hubs, H-U-B. And
18 how are they funded?

19 MS. CHAPOTIN: You mean when he
20 mentioned the CSISA program in South Asia?
21 The new hubs?

22 DR. ARES: Yes. I think Rob

1 mentioned several.

2 MS. CHAPOTIN: In Bangladesh and -

3 -

4 DR. ARES: In Bangladesh and

5 Africa.

6 MS. CHAPOTIN: Yes. So this is --

7 the CSISA program, as he explained, is a

8 regional program across four countries that

9 was initially funded by USAID Washington and

10 the Gates Foundation.

11 And our investments were primarily

12 out of our research project. However, the

13 program, due to the success it has

14 demonstrated on the ground and the relevance

15 for the USAID missions, two of missions so

16 far, and likely to be a third.

17 So Bangladesh and India are ready

18 and Nepal likely coming on board, have chosen

19 to scale up that project by funding the

20 establishment of new hubs, in addition to the

21 five hubs that we established at the beginning

22 of the project. Five, I think.

1 So as the Bangladesh mission
2 provided additional funds to CSISA to
3 establish hubs in Bangladesh, similarly there
4 is going to be a new hub coming on, on board
5 in Orissa in India.

6 And those hubs are -- they vary
7 from hub to hub. They do happen to have a
8 physical office but that is not really what
9 the plans -- they are areas where CSISA is
10 working with a range of partners on the ground
11 from state and national government partners to
12 private and local partners, universities.

13 And much as has happened with the
14 Africa Rising project in Africa, I am trying
15 to now start to build connections between the
16 CSISA efforts and the other university -- U.S.
17 university CRSP efforts on the ground to build
18 those linkages.

19 For example, I know that there is
20 a CRSP project in Orissa under the SANREM
21 CRSP. As the CSISA hub in Orissa gets going,
22 they need to link up and see where there are

1 opportunities for collaboration.

2 MR. BERTRAM: If I could add one
3 point, coming back on the nutrition side, in
4 Nepal the nutrition CRSP is working, led by
5 Tufts University.

6 And there is also CSISA working
7 there. And I think as a result of Saharah
8 Moon's recent trip there and work with our
9 other staff, those two programs are coming
10 together.

11 And it's an example of the kind of
12 coming together that I think maybe we need
13 more, you know, sort of a formal think-through
14 in terms of the convening and such that I
15 mentioned that Catherine and I were talking
16 about last night at dinner.

17 DR. EJETA: I'll go back to the
18 post-harvest research issues that have been
19 discussed. In view of the fact that the CG
20 system generally have gone away from food
21 processing post-harvest technology research,
22 what kind of vision do you have in terms of

1 leveraging for greater impact in terms of very
2 small investments in post-harvest research,
3 you know, whether it is with the U.S.
4 university community or the private sector?

5 What path may you have in terms of
6 getting more for the bank, whether in fact you
7 may even capitalize the re-engagement of the
8 CG system into this very, very important
9 agenda, particularly at this particular time?

10 John or Robert or anyone who wants
11 to -- ?

12 MR. BERTRAM: Well, the CRSPs
13 actually, some of them have some real
14 strengths here. And it does strike me that
15 the value chain approach that some of our
16 missions are taking, many of our focus country
17 missions are taking, offers an opportunity to
18 plug in our food technology work into those
19 value chains.

20 And some of the things we have
21 been talking about is, well, how could we
22 facilitate that kind of connection? That was

1 what I meant when I was referring to some of
2 the handoff where you go out beyond the
3 research into a delivery and to the uptake in
4 the private sector.

5 In terms of approaching it in a
6 way that would be useful for others, I guess
7 the key is really through value addition and
8 somehow, having that value addition, Gebisa,
9 feed back to the ability of small holders to
10 access the market and somehow do better
11 because of it.

12 And I think, frankly, in the
13 missions there is probably a lot of thinking
14 going on in this way around the value chains.

15 I should flag that on the
16 nutrition and agriculture side, I think Paul
17 referred to this this morning, there is a lot
18 going on around value chains where it is not
19 as clear as in research and R&D how to make
20 those connections.

21 But it's as Saharah Moon suggests,
22 maybe it needs some more thinking. And your

1 point is a good one that it is an area that a
2 lot of places have pulled back on, and so we
3 do have some opportunities.

4 John, do you want to add?

5 DR. BOWMAN: I'll just add a
6 little bit. A reminder also that when we are
7 thinking about post-harvest losses it is not
8 just grains and horticulture.

9 We have also got to think about
10 losses in dairy and livestock and in fish.
11 And I think, I mean, there's a lot of, you
12 know, research we could be doing essentially,
13 you know, in terms of the physiological
14 aspects of this.

15 When you look at the work, the
16 center of expertise at U.C. Davis on post-
17 harvest technologies and horticulture, for
18 example, it's just one example of research
19 that can essentially, you know, postpone the
20 degradation of products to, you know, fairly
21 sophisticated, you know, controlled atmosphere
22 adding certain types, you know, mainly

1 ethylene, this type of thing.

2 A lot of this is being pursued
3 aggressively in the U.S. but small holder
4 context in Africa, Asia, it's not getting out
5 there as much.

6 We are entering into a -- we have
7 made a small pledge. A World Bank Food Safety
8 Trust Fund has just been set up similar to the
9 Global Food Safety Fund. This is a new World
10 Bank-led trust fund on -- I'm sorry, it's the
11 global one on food security at World Bank,
12 which is quite large.

13 But we now have a smaller one
14 dedicated to food safety. AID is contributing
15 to that, as is the private sector. And it's
16 another way we can start to -- start the work
17 on these issues.

18 But part of the problem is, part
19 of the thinking is that, you know, look at the
20 U.S. or Canada or Europe. Despite all of our
21 sophistication, you know, we have these huge
22 problems in food safety ourselves and a huge

1 amount of food post-harvest losses and food
2 wastage.

3 And despite all of our efforts,
4 you know, we have these problems. You know,
5 what can we do on small budget levels in large
6 African countries, for example? It's
7 daunting, you know, how we can make an impact.

8 So we have got a lot -- a lot to
9 think about and often we think of the private
10 sector as the solution, and not us. So we
11 have to work together with private sector and
12 together with the value chain privates to find
13 our niche.

14 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: And with that
15 --

16 DR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: -- thank you
18 very much, John. And with that, it has been
19 a very rich discussion and we want to break
20 now for lunch. And at 1:45 we will have a
21 presentation by Ticora Jones on update on the
22 Higher Education Solutions Network.

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And I know everyone is looking forward to that, so we will start sharply at 1:45 back here. Thank you all very much.

(Whereupon, the meeting was in lunch recess from 12:35 p.m. to 1:58 p.m.)

1 A-F-T-E-R-N-O-O-N S-E-S-S-I-O-N

2 (1:57 p.m.)

3 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Thank you for
4 being here. And after this presentation and
5 board discussion with our next presenter,
6 Ticora Jones, we will then have time for open
7 discussion with you on subjects that we have
8 covered today and any issues you want to bring
9 up.

10 So again, thanks for being here.
11 Our speaker at this next session for an update
12 on the Higher Education Solutions Network is
13 Ticora Jones, who earned her Ph.D. in polymer
14 science and engineering from the University of
15 Massachusetts at Amherst and received her B.S.
16 in materials science and engineering from MIT
17 in 2000.

18 She is an NIH Fellowship
19 recipient, a Ford Foundation pre-doctoral
20 fellow during her graduate career, and a
21 Materials Science Society's Congressional
22 Fellowship.

1 She served as a AAAS science and
2 technology policy fellow at USAID, where she
3 helped establish the new Office of Science and
4 Technology.

5 She now serves as a senior advisor
6 in the Science and Technology Office and is
7 leading the latest agency university
8 engagement effort: Higher Education Solutions
9 Network. And, Dr. Jones, we are very happy to
10 have you with us.

11 DR. JONES: All right. Well, good
12 afternoon everybody. I know it is after lunch
13 so we will keep it short and to the point.
14 And I would really like to get to the point
15 where we could actually have some dialogue on
16 what I am going to talk about.

17 But thank you for that
18 introduction, and I am happy to be here. So,
19 just a show of hands. How many of you all
20 have heard about the Higher Education
21 Solutions Network?

22 I am not going to ask how many of

1 you applied because then I can't talk to you
2 afterwards because of our procurement rules,
3 so I don't want to know.

4 But it has been an exciting last
5 nine or so months at USAID in our office as we
6 have been putting forward the Higher Education
7 Solutions Network.

8 And so today, I am just going to
9 give you a kind of brief overview of what has
10 been going on in terms of the objective, the
11 status of this particular effort, and the
12 timeline as it relates to what has happened.

13 As you would imagine, there has
14 been a great deal of enthusiasm for this
15 particular effort on many campuses around the
16 world, and we are really excited about that.

17 But with that excitement comes
18 lack of sleep. I'll put it that way. So, you
19 know, one of the challenges is that in terms
20 of the academic landscape, it continues to
21 evolve and we know that there is just so much
22 enthusiasm

1 for development and for people applying their
2 knowledge to problems where they really feel
3 like they can make a difference.

4 And this is happening by and large
5 on many campuses. And one of those examples
6 that Alex always uses is that when he went to
7 Duke University to give a talk, they talked
8 about how the global health program had gone
9 from, you know, maybe 30 or so students.

10 They were getting 400 students and
11 completely oversubscribed classes. And this
12 is happening on many different campuses.

13 As a student at MIT, there wasn't
14 anything in particular related to
15 international development that Amy Smith --
16 three years after I graduated I always tell
17 her that I am a little upset that this
18 happened after I graduated -- started the D
19 Lab

20 And they have grown from what was,
21 you know, about 12 students in one class to
22 400 students, 12 classes, completely

1 oversubscribed. There is just so much
2 enthusiasm from students and from faculty to
3 apply themselves to development challenges
4 that we, as an agency, really wanted to find
5 a way to harness this.

6 The administrator's interest in
7 leveraging the activity on campuses really is
8 rooted in that enthusiasm. And the way that
9 USAID currently works with universities, it is
10 difficult to actually be able to capture that.

11 And so, one of the objectives of
12 this particular effort is really to be able to
13 create new relationships that allow us to
14 leverage the resources, intellectual power and
15 energy of universities around the world and
16 other institutions to address global
17 development problems in a very
18 multidisciplinary fashion.

19 One of other objectives, as I am
20 sure most of you if you were interested in it
21 and you may have applied for it, you probably
22 read the RFA already, is to really get at

1 multidisciplinary approach to data and
2 analytics for development.

3 The relationship that you all have
4 to your CRSPs and the relationships that other
5 people have through a variety of other
6 entities are very focused sectorally.

7 But we wanted to think about ways
8 that we could use this particular network to
9 create relationships that span the sectors of
10 development because it is a systems -- a
11 systems discipline.

12 One of the other things was to
13 think about how we approach solutions in
14 development. We know that cook stoves are
15 something that have their controversy, but
16 cook stoves in many different contexts require
17 a whole lot of different data around them and
18 an understanding of the context of that
19 situation before you could make
20 recommendations.

21 But we don't have people thinking
22 about development problems in that particular

1 way. And so we wanted to encourage that kind
2 of thinking as well.

3 In addition, as I said before,
4 really engaging students in creating new
5 approaches for development, it is not just the
6 students. It is also the faculty and NGOs and
7 private sector and all these other different
8 actors in this space to try to find creative
9 ways to do this.

10 And one of the challenges was
11 that, you know, the RFA as it was written was
12 very open. We didn't require any regional
13 focus. We didn't require any sector focus.

14 We did point people to the
15 strategic framework that USAID put out so that
16 people would actually be in development. But
17 we did not specify because we didn't want to
18 limit the creativity of the applicants because
19 we knew that there were things out there that
20 we didn't know about.

21 And so essentially opening it up
22 to see what we got is kind of where we are.

1 And we did get a lot. I'll talk to you about
2 the logistics of what we got on the back end
3 shortly.

4 Now, how does this issue from our
5 existing relationships with the university
6 community? USAID's relationships with the
7 university community are very diverse, but
8 they are also very diffuse.

9 One would think that they are only
10 focused in the sector areas, but there is more
11 than that. You know, there is the human and
12 institutional capacity development that we do.
13 And some of that could be the scholarship work
14 that is done.

15 But some of that is also the work
16 that is done through the CG centers for
17 agricultural research. There is also a very
18 specific relationship that we have with
19 countries and the relationships that they have
20 with U.S. universities. And so there's kind
21 of scholarship programs.

22 Then sectorally there are also

1 some very specific programs that go on as
2 well. And each of these has their value. We
3 know that the peanut CRSP and the horticulture
4 CRSP and all these other different activities
5 are very important to agriculture and
6 development.

7 And they have their place and
8 should remain. But then, how do you connect
9 those things? And so that is one of the
10 questions that I would actually like to get
11 some feedback from this audience on, how this
12 new network will work with our existing
13 relationships.

14 Because on the back end, you know,
15 we may only award five to seven of these, but
16 we have a number of applicants. We have a
17 number of existing relationships, and we want
18 to find ways to actually leverage all the
19 knowledge that is generated by all these other
20 actors and actually start to put it together.

21 So the way that I think about that
22 is, you know, very simplistically is in three

1 different spaces. There is the information
2 piece, because if we think about people who
3 are very interested in development but don't
4 necessarily know what to do about it or people
5 who have connections to agriculture but not as
6 much of a connection to health, or a
7 connection to environment but not as much with
8 agriculture.

9 How do you create information so
10 that it is disseminated both through this
11 network and throughout the rest of the
12 university partners that we have, throughout
13 other academic partners that we have?

14 How do you find ways to connect
15 those two people? One of the interesting
16 things that happened at the development
17 exchange for the Saving Lives at Birth Grand
18 Challenge was, you had 77 nominees that came
19 together in July of last year.

20 And as they were all there, there
21 were a number of them that were actually from
22 academic institutions. But as they were all

1 there, there were some people who were looking
2 at each other from across the aisle because
3 they had setups where it was kind of like a
4 science fair.

5 And they were like, "Oh, wait,
6 that's what you work on? Oh, I work on the
7 same thing." So just the conversations that
8 need to happen.

9 And USAID, as a convening force to
10 bring some of those people together to
11 actually connect them in ways that they hadn't
12 necessarily thought about because they didn't
13 always know what else, what other people were
14 doing.

15 I think that one of our
16 responsibilities to this network is to help
17 promote those kinds of connections. The other
18 piece is action.

19 Because there are so many people
20 acting in development through their NGOs,
21 through other partners, through the private
22 sector, through all these different spaces,

1 how can we use the network to help inform them
2 so that the actions that they take are the
3 ones that actually do promote development most
4 effectively?

5 So those are those three spaces.
6 There's lots of things under that. And one of
7 the other things that is happening, supposedly
8 from May 5th to 6th is that the Geospatial
9 Center, in partnership with the Development
10 Credit Authority, is actually opening up a
11 crowd sourcing activity.

12 And this is one of the things that
13 they would actually like to involve students
14 in. So they register in data.gov and
15 basically scrub data sets to help understand
16 what the lending power is for the Development
17 Credit Authority is for USAID.

18 And so this is a pilot that one
19 could imagine in terms of information and
20 action using the network to find other data
21 sets that are relevant to development and
22 other things and essentially involve people in

1 very short-term things that inform them but
2 also allow them to add, even if it is not
3 necessarily connecting them.

4 So that is just another thing to
5 think about. In terms of the application
6 process, it has been two stages. We asked for
7 five-page concept notes that were due March
8 22nd. We got over 450.

9 So as I said, back to sleep. And
10 we are currently in the process of winnowing
11 those down. We have about 80 reviewers from
12 inside and outside the agency that are in the
13 process of helping make the decision on
14 whether to invite or not invite.

15 Because essentially, the next
16 stage of the process will be to invite a
17 select number of concept notes to the final,
18 to the full application process.

19 At this point, we haven't
20 determined what that number will be. It could
21 be around 40-ish. We'll see. But that kind
22 of depends on what we come out with on the

1 back end.

2 In terms of what will be awarded,
3 we are looking at potentially five to seven
4 awards. But the composition of those awards we
5 haven't made that determination.

6 Some of them are \$1-2 million.
7 The single institution awards are \$1-2 million
8 for 5 years and the consortium awards are \$4-5
9 million for 5 years. And in terms of the
10 application pool, we are putting together a
11 press release on this but we haven't released
12 it yet.

13 But in terms of the pool, there is
14 a good mix of those two separate award levels.
15 So timeline-wise, we will essentially
16 requesting full applications within the next
17 couple of weeks and the full applications will
18 be due July 17th.

19 In theory, awards will be made in
20 September. So you can see that this is going
21 to be a rapid process. But we were very
22 heartened by the enthusiasm that we received

1 as it related to just the webinar that we did
2 on the draft that came out.

3 So we did release the draft in
4 January, January 13th. And basically, we are
5 doing it as a webinar, did a webinar to
6 essentially kind of answer people's questions
7 and, you know, just be able to socialize it.

8 We released it on Thursday. By
9 Monday we had 500 registrants for the webinar
10 and I realized that I didn't know if the
11 agency capabilities could hold any more than
12 that. So we set up another one and capped it
13 at 750 for the first and then 750 people for
14 the second.

15 So like I said, the enthusiasm is
16 there in terms of the response that we got.
17 We also did the analysis on the pool that we
18 had and we had about 49 or 50 states
19 represented in terms of the concept note pool,
20 about 20 percent from outside the U.S., and I
21 think a little more than 300 -- more than 350
22 institutions, separate institutions.

1 So as I said, we are very excited
2 about what we have seen and I really would
3 like to get your feedback on how you think
4 this network could connect to USAID's existing
5 relationships.

6 This is a conversation that we
7 will continue to have because there's a lot of
8 different audiences. And so, I welcome your
9 questions, your comments, and thank you very
10 much for your time.

11 (Applause).

12 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Ticora, thank
13 you very much. And yes, we will first turn to
14 our board here and see if there are any
15 specific questions or follow-ups that they
16 would like to, and then we will open it up to
17 others who may want.

18 DR. JONES: Okay, thank you.

19 DR. MURANO: If I may, Mr.
20 Chairman. You talked about the 80 reviewers.
21 Can you speak a little bit about, you know,
22 what walks of life, if you will.

1 DR. JONES: We've got a little bit
2 of everything.

3 DR. MURANO: The composition.

4 DR. JONES: The composition of the
5 reviewers is a little bit of everything.
6 We've got some youthful folks reviewing.
7 We've got some seasoned people reviewing.

8 We have some professors. We have
9 some people who are private sector. We have
10 a little bit of everything in terms of the
11 review panel. And so we are really --

12 DR. MURANO: Agency, too.

13 DR. JONES: Agency inside and
14 outside. So, no, we've got a little bit of
15 everything.

16 DR. DeLAUDER: Again, how many
17 applications did you receive?

18 DR. JONES: We don't have a final-
19 final number, but over 450.

20 MS. BERTINI: Hi. Were a lot of
21 them, like, consortium -- consortia people ?

22 DR. JONES: Almost half and half,

1 but a few more individual versus consortia.

2 DR. EJETA: Anything you might do
3 to encourage linkages with existing programs
4 or new initiatives in the USAID by way of
5 encouraging the finals with their
6 preparations?

7 DR. JONES: State your question
8 again?

9 DR. EJETA: In terms of the
10 connections, the thing that you have been
11 worrying about. Would you be more deliberate
12 in your request for proposals in encouraging
13 that any more in the levels?

14 DR. JONES: I'm not sure that we
15 need to be that deliberate on this side of it.
16 But as we think about the convening of the
17 network in out years, you know, we don't want
18 the convening of the network to only be the
19 network partners.

20 We want it to be people who do sit
21 in other relationships that we have. And so,
22 ideally, the network as it is convened would

1 be, yes, the network partners and their
2 associated kind of individuals within it.

3 We actually also want to -- we are
4 really thinking about how we have the student
5 track that is convened alongside the rest of
6 the network. And so that is also of interest.

7 But then we also want to make sure
8 we reach out to the existing partnerships that
9 we have to bring them to the convening as
10 well. And so how that is structured we are
11 not sure, but it is definitely of interest to
12 have it be something than broader than just
13 the network winners.

14 DR. MURANO: One more question.
15 Regarding the funding I am assuming that a
16 certain amount was carved out of the agency as
17 a whole.

18 So if you receive, for example,
19 applications that have to do specifically with
20 agriculture, is that something that then is
21 expected that the Bureau of Food Security
22 would fund? Or how -- can you speak a little

1 bit about that?

2 DR. JONES: I can and I can't.

3 DR. MURANO: Okay.

4 DR. JONES: Just speaking that
5 there is funding; what and where and how is
6 all still kind of coming together.

7 DR. MURANO: Okay.

8 DR. JONES: Anybody else have any
9 other questions?

10 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay, and you
11 are open to questions from the public here --

12 DR. JONES: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: -- on this
14 particular project? Because there is a lot of
15 national interest on this. So if anyone wants
16 to ask any questions on this specific topic at
17 this time, feel free to ask. Larry?

18 MR. BEACH: Having not specified
19 the topics and throwing it wide open, you have
20 a privileged point of view to see what has
21 come in from a large number of people, a not
22 large number of institutions.

1 And you have a huge review task.
2 With over 450 applications, it is hard to put
3 out any feedback. But that will be an
4 extremely valuable thing to be able to do.

5 Do you have in plan to review the
6 concept note, provide feedback for the concept
7 notes or provide maybe a higher level of
8 feedback that you invite, those 40 or so that
9 you invite?

10 DR. JONES: Yes, we are working to
11 make sure that the reviewers do provide at
12 least some feedback that can help. That is
13 one of the challenges with this, that because
14 it is new and because we don't have solid
15 examples that we got a lot of different
16 things.

17 In terms of thematic areas, we
18 asked people to self-select into thematic
19 areas, but they feel their application
20 addressed. And we included basically
21 everything that USAID does.

22 And we got everything. On the low

1 end we got fewer that associated with
2 democracy, governance, gender, and those kinds
3 of areas. In the higher end there was more
4 global health and agriculture.

5 But we do hope that we are able to
6 provide at least minimal feedback to each of
7 the concept notes that we received, yes.

8 Anybody else? Oh, come on. I
9 didn't cover everything, did I? Oh, we've got
10 one.

11 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: The question
12 was --

13 DR. JONES: You just want to see
14 it again. Yes, these are the things we know.
15 After that, we'll see what happens.

16 DR. MURANO: I do have one. I was
17 just curious. You talked about if I got this
18 right that 20 percent of the consultators were
19 outside the U.S.

20 DR. JONES: Uh-huh.

21 DR. MURANO: Can you speak about
22 that? I mean, was it Europe? Was it -- just

1 --

2 DR. JONES: It was a little bit of
3 everything. We -- I don't have all the
4 numbers in my head right now exactly where.
5 But we did get a couple from Europe but we did
6 get Sub-Saharan African, Middle East and Asia
7 and Latin America. So we did get something
8 from everywhere, yes.

9 MS. OWENS: Hello. How are you
10 doing. Thanks for your presentation. I was
11 wondering about the projects that will be
12 funded. You said five to seven projects.

13 But is AID making a commitment for
14 five years for each of these five to seven
15 projects?

16 DR. JONES: Pending availability -
17 -

18 MS. OWENS: Pending availability
19 of funds.

20 DR. JONES: -- of appropriations.

21 MS. OWENS: And then do you plan
22 to do a similar competition each year?

1 DR. JONES: We haven't made that
2 determination yet. But one of the things that
3 we wanted to model this on is sort of the
4 National Science Foundation Engineering
5 Research Centers.

6 And so, you know, the solicitation
7 that goes out from them goes out a couple
8 years after we have to see what we get and see
9 what is funded and see how that works.

10 But it is possible that if another
11 solicitation were to go out, pending the
12 availability of funds, that it might be
13 tailored a little more differently because we
14 will have had partners that have been
15 established already.

16 MS. OWENS: And then also, how do
17 you anticipate -- do you think these
18 institutions are going to feed into a Higher
19 Education Solutions Network that will be
20 established and that will, you know, engender
21 an ongoing dialogue among the institutions and
22 --

1 DR. JONES: Yes.

2 MS. OWENS: -- among more
3 institutions? Is that --

4 DR. JONES: Yes.

5 MS. OWENS: -- what your concept
6 is?

7 DR. JONES: That is definitely our
8 intention --

9 MS. OWENS: Okay.

10 DR. JONES: -- that each of these
11 -- each of these winners, as it were, or
12 apparently successful applicants when we get
13 to that stage would not just be an entity unto
14 themselves.

15 They would be a member of this
16 network and they would be asked to share,
17 disseminate, convene, do other things that are
18 associated with the network, yes.

19 MR. BUTLER: The math on the back
20 of the envelope tells me you probably got \$2
21 billion worth of ideas.

22 DR. JONES: You need to add it up

1 that way so I can figure out exactly what we
2 do have.

3 MR. BUTLER: But you probably --
4 well, let's say it's \$1, \$1.5 to \$2.5 billion.

5 DR. JONES: Uh-huh.

6 MR. BUTLER: It depends on the
7 number of consortia and the number of --

8 DR. JONES: Yes.

9 MR. BUTLER: -- singles and all
10 the rest of it. But anyhow, let's say it's a
11 lot.

12 DR. JONES: A lot.

13 MR. BUTLER: And you are going to
14 award \$100 million.

15 DR. JONES: Uh-huh.

16 MR. BUTLER: How are you going to
17 -- what are your plans for taking advantage of
18 the unfunded \$1.9 or whatever the figure may
19 be?

20 DR. JONES: That was actually
21 another one of the questions that, you know,
22 we want to definitely have a dialogue on

1 because, you know, we expect that whoever will
2 be invited, you know, we know that only maybe
3 10 to 15 percent of those would funded,
4 possibly.

5 We are not sure exactly. But that
6 is another question that is open because in
7 one sense you have a whole bunch of people
8 that have put together concept notes that are
9 potentially able to shop them around to other
10 organizations.

11 But we also want to connect with
12 other organizations who do fund these type of
13 things. So we are in dialogue about a lot of
14 things right now.

15 So that's another -- that's
16 another open question for us because we
17 definitely want the network to be able to
18 reach out to the people who didn't win but
19 find ways to involve them in ongoing
20 convenings and activities.

21 Nobody?

22 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Well, this is

1 a topic, of course, that higher education
2 community obviously, advisedly understood them
3 and they demonstrated that, I think.

4 And so I appreciate Malcolm's
5 question because I think for all of us who
6 have a faculty investing time in these things
7 we hope that we will one way or the other find
8 time -- find a way to continue to stimulate
9 creative thinking and then take advantage and
10 build it into future forums that occur,
11 dialogue that occurs, or even potential
12 linkages.

13 So in the ideal world it seems to
14 me, and I know we can't operate that way, but
15 all these ideas and connections would be on a
16 map and then you award seven.

17 But those seven would know exactly
18 where to go to get three other key partners in
19 doing what they are doing, or to simulate what
20 they are doing, or to create the next
21 scientific forum.

22 Or if you are looking at a

1 scientific breakthrough, they will know where
2 to draw. And so it is that lost opportunity
3 that, let me say, we are not looking to use
4 specifically.

5 But I think all of us share that
6 responsibility to think about, gosh, how can
7 we take advantage of all this now and move in
8 a new direction. I know on campus when we do
9 these things we try to find a way then to
10 enable all to do something later on.

11 By formulating it, by -- sometimes
12 they don't win out in competition but then we
13 have someone else pick up something that looks
14 very valuable. It didn't fit exactly what we
15 wanted, but we actually shopped it ourselves
16 internally.

17 Or I have turned to our research
18 office on occasion. I have said, "Look, this
19 was not funded. It was weak in these areas
20 for what we wanted. But this is an idea that
21 could be taken to NIH and get funding."

22 So those kinds of things can

1 happen a lot of if we can find a way to
2 creatively form a team, you know, that looks
3 at them and is engaged in the continued
4 development of them.

5 DR. JONES: Definitely, just
6 because there are so many that people put
7 together so much --

8 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Right.

9 DR. JONES: -- to get to this
10 point. And they are finding a way to even,
11 for the people who aren't invited for the next
12 round, finding a way to keep them involved,
13 keep them engaged, keep them reaching out to
14 their students, keep them reaching out to
15 their fellow faculty members.

16 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Right.

17 DR. JONES: And we are definitely
18 interested in doing that as well.

19 Okay, anybody else?

20 DR. WILLIAMS: It seems to me that
21 one of the great sources of data for analysis
22 that exists is in actual fact all of the

1 activity that USAID has done historically.

2 I think some of the challenge to
3 that is actually accessing that data. And do
4 you envisage that whoever does get awarded
5 would have access to the historic data that
6 USAID has acquired in various ways through its
7 partners and that kind of stuff?

8 DR. JONES: I think that is a
9 question that we should definitely consider,
10 especially given the example that I gave of
11 what is going forward with the Development
12 Credit Authority.

13 And so they are scrubbing a bunch
14 of the historical data and current data as
15 well but had to go through a number of
16 clearance processes to get to the point where
17 they can do that.

18 But if that is something that not
19 just the network has access to, but a whole
20 lot of people have access to, it is least
21 works to our transparency objectives. I think
22 that that is something that would definitely

1 promote the kinds of thought and analysis that
2 we are talking about.

3 DR. WILLIAMS: Okay. And for the
4 -- and this relates to perhaps broader issues
5 than this. But for the proposals that don't,
6 you know, come through that might be perfectly
7 worthy but -- you know?

8 Is there some mechanism that could
9 be promoted through the whole of government
10 approach that those things could actually be
11 promoted into NIH and NSA or what have you?

12 DR. JONES: That's actually
13 something I don't know the answer to. Does
14 anybody else from USAID know the answer to
15 that?

16 Because for me procurement lines
17 would have to talk with our procurement
18 officers to see if that was possible. But I
19 don't know the answer to that. Anybody else?
20 But definitely something for us to think
21 about.

22 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay, Ticora.

1 Thanks so much. Appreciate it.

2 (Applause).

3 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: This has been
4 a series of great discussions and I want to
5 take just a few minutes to allow our own board
6 to have any discussion about any points of the
7 day that they want to bring up.

8 And then we will take a few
9 minutes on that and then turn to you for
10 additional comments on any other issues
11 related to BIFAD or the program of the day.

12 So in that order we will proceed
13 for the next few minutes. So, Catherine?

14 MS. BERTINI: We certainly have a
15 consensus on this idea about working on
16 nutrition, health, agriculture. So maybe we
17 should just decide what our next step forward
18 should be, either among ourselves or with
19 USAID.

20 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Sure. Okay.

21 Thoughts on next steps? On the
22 human health-nutrition-agriculture interface

1 and how we are establishing it as a priority
2 for continued emphasis and discussion? Any
3 thoughts that any members of the board have on
4 what -- maybe what is -- what is an
5 appropriate next step for that?

6 And one could think, I guess, in
7 terms of should we have a symposium, should we
8 have a work group to address something very
9 specifically? Or are there other issues or
10 are there other events going on?

11 And, Catherine, you may have
12 something specific in mind also. But I
13 appreciate your bringing it up.

14 MS. BERTINI: No, I don't, but
15 perhaps Rob does, too. I don't.

16 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Let me just
17 check. Gebisa, were you wanting to comment on
18 this right now?

19 DR. EJETA: Any time you find it's
20 appropriate I can make some comments.

21 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Why don't you
22 go ahead, and then we will turn to Rob.

1 DR. EJETA: Just following on what
2 I had seen in the past, recognizing that
3 finding a way to get some of these things
4 done, particularly at the research level not
5 being easy, requiring a lot of contemplative
6 thoughts, probably what I would think would be
7 forming a small committee to put together a
8 program for a workshop of some kind and then
9 selecting carefully the kind of people you
10 would call upon to develop those thoughts
11 further would be a good way to go.

12 And then naturally we cover the
13 mix of skill sets that are going to be
14 required, engaging people in health and
15 nutrition and agriculture and I don't know
16 what.

17 Maybe talk to the agencies where
18 the environmental change ought to be as part
19 of that.

20 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Right.

21 DR. EJETA: And then getting a
22 good mix of people would be -- would be

1 important. And it gets to be very enriching
2 when that happens.

3 Not necessarily leading to
4 specific things that need to be done at that
5 time but really coalescing these thoughts into
6 something informative that one can take and
7 develop it further.

8 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Right, okay.

9 Rob?

10 MR. BERTRAM: Thank you. Thank
11 you, Brady.

12 Well, I am glad also that
13 Catherine raised the topic. It is something -
14 - there's a couple things that come to mind.
15 One is the point we made earlier about
16 reaching out to the health side of the agency.

17 And I think BIFAD's sponsorship
18 and oversight of a process would enable that
19 happening. And I expect the administrator
20 would welcome that.

21 The second thing that Saharah Moon
22 has just reminded me of is that we were

1 planning to sponsor a workshop at next year's
2 AAAS meetings in Boston where of course Tufts,
3 one of our main partners is, on this topic.

4 And not that that would replace
5 that, but it might be a goal at which we could
6 maybe jointly sponsor it with BIFAD if that is
7 something that would be of interest to the
8 board.

9 But then think of it in terms of
10 some convening or workshop, as Dr. Ejeta said
11 before then, but then with the idea of trying
12 to, you know, go global in a sense with the
13 larger community.

14 And we think this one of those
15 topics that does really resonate outside of
16 the Justar (phonetic) community to a much
17 wider set. So that is --

18 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Has the AAAS
19 program been set at this point in terms of
20 resources or people?

21 MS. CHAPOTIN: The deadline is
22 approaching for submitting proposals for

1 sessions. Perhaps we should say we are hoping
2 that we will be able to have a symposium at
3 next year's AAAS meeting, assuming they accept
4 our proposal.

5 So we haven't yet thought through
6 who would be on. We are going to have to
7 submit a list of names and proposed topics and
8 we have not done that yet. But the deadline
9 is the 26th of April.

10 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay.

11 MR. BERTRAM: So, I mean, we could
12 follow up just in the next week or two through
13 some e-mail contact in terms of your ideas on
14 it. And if it sounds like something, then we
15 could even then perhaps have it formally be
16 BIFAD's sponsorship. Sounds interesting.

17 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: So you are
18 suggesting the possibility of us sending ideas
19 in to Susan and --

20 MR. BERTRAM: Right. Well, why
21 wouldn't -- we could do that, but we could
22 also start with what we have, send you that.

1 And then I know -- I know you're going to have
2 ideas. We have some. And then come together.
3 But either way is fine.

4 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: We've got --
5 do we have anything written?

6 MR. BERTRAM: We just have some
7 brainstorming, basically. But we know this
8 deadline is fast approaching. This has been
9 very much on our mind, of course, this week.
10 So we're --

11 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: So we could
12 iterate -- we could iterate by e-mail.

13 MR. BERTRAM: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: And then get
15 to the point where we would have maybe a board
16 representative meeting with you or, say, or
17 Helen.

18 MR. BERTRAM: Right. And then I
19 think the other thing would be, I mean, in
20 parallel we would want to think about the
21 process between now and then in terms of some
22 convening and that sort of thing.

1 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Bill, you had
2 a --

3 DR. DeLAUDER: No, I was going to
4 say that other thing we can do prior to that
5 is that the agenda is not set for the next
6 board meeting. We could assemble a panel and
7 identify appropriate individuals to discuss
8 this issue at our next board meeting.

9 What were you, Rob, also
10 suggesting? That BIFAD be a co-sponsor of
11 this AAAS meeting or --

12 MR. BERTRAM: I was going to
13 invite that, yes. I think it would add --

14 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: I think that
15 would be excellent if we could do that and
16 think of having a program. We would put
17 together a program for the fall meeting.

18 MR. BERTRAM: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: And then from
20 -- and it would -- but that being a trajectory
21 to the AAAS meeting.

22 DR. DeLAUDER: Right. Yes.

1 MR. BERTRAM: Exactly. They are
2 not that far apart. And then we can also --
3 but we could plan something good for Des
4 Moines. I assume we will be in Des Moines.

5 DR. DeLAUDER: Right.

6 MR. BERTRAM: And then we can
7 think about maybe something in the preparatory
8 activity of some kind this summer.

9 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay. Is
10 that specific enough at this point, do you
11 think? Any other thoughts on that?

12 Thank you, Rob.

13 MR. BERTRAM: The ball is in our
14 court, at least for a few days.

15 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Okay. And
16 then we will reiterate and we will discuss it
17 further also today. Catherine?

18 MS. BERTINI: If you are open for
19 another topic, another thing we talked about
20 was BIFAD Hill visits. And is there anything
21 that we wanted? I don't have a proposal.

22 I just wanted to put it back on

1 the table for what we want to do or building
2 some sort of strategy for how we -- what the
3 messages would be and then maybe taking
4 advantage of members' times when they are
5 already in D.C. to make it --

6 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Right, right.
7 I like that and Administrator Shah has been
8 very positive on that idea, as I think we said
9 earlier.

10 And we can gain from the
11 secretariat sort of key legislative strategies
12 that are there. And then I like the idea of
13 certainly when we are visiting we can be in
14 touch with Susan and then add on individuals
15 and then coordinate so that we aren't over --
16 accidentally overpowering.

17 I don't think that will happen. I
18 think most of the issue is trying to free up
19 the time to be able to do this.

20 But just for the couple of visits,
21 one can sometimes have some impact and I think
22 it is important to those members of our

1 delegation -- those of us who visit a
2 delegation for a certain purpose, like in my
3 case Missouri, or food or science-related
4 issues to press these issues and bring up
5 something.

6 They aren't expecting it, but to
7 know that your university or your program area
8 is vitally concerned about food security and
9 in the role that USAID plays, the role that
10 our university plays vis a vis that, and your
11 particular on BIFAD certainly has some very
12 important impact, I think.

13 And it helps educate for the
14 longer run. And we often forget that while we
15 are educating the elected representatives we
16 also are very much educating the staff people.

17 And they may be there longer than
18 some of the elected representatives, so they
19 have long-term impact, as you know. I like
20 that idea.

21 So then they do something that --
22 Susan, would it make sense for you to prepare

1 just a brief statement about what the key
2 priorities are, points to emphasize?

3 Just as a skeleton so we certainly
4 don't undertake any -- we don't do any damage
5 but we are able to add that to whatever our
6 message might be otherwise or maybe be
7 cognizant of it. And maybe some of the key
8 committees are that we are interfacing with
9 also.

10 MS. OWENS: We can give you some
11 data, too.

12 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Excellent,
13 yes.

14 MS. BERTINI: Well, I would think
15 the talking points are one thing. But the
16 other thing is, I think if any of us said,
17 okay, we are going to be in town on such and
18 such a day, then I think it has still got to
19 go back to AID to your multistoried office to
20 say, well, we suggest that you might see so-
21 and-so and so-and -so, unless we are already
22 going to see somebody on our own because --

1 MS. OWENS: We have that
2 communication open though. Yes.

3 MR. McVEY: Just a point, Susan.
4 I'll take you up on that. I'll be back in
5 Washington on Monday.

6 MS. OWENS: Okay.

7 MR. McVEY: And my other board
8 that I serve on will have meetings with about
9 five members differently, and also at the
10 White House. So if you have got some extra
11 time this weekend, maybe you can send me
12 something on that. I will be glad to carry
13 the torch next week.

14 MS. OWENS: Yes.

15 MR. McVEY: If it's possible and
16 on short notice.

17 MS. OWENS: Well, we'll dig it up.

18 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Bill?

19 DR. DeLAUDER: I have been
20 somewhat encouraged by the discussion of HICD.
21 We are not doing nearly what we need to do,
22 but at least we are moving in the right -- in

1 the right direction.

2 But I wanted -- and this is
3 probably a question for Rob. When we met with
4 the mission directors -- and I have forgotten
5 when that was. Was it in the fall or --

6 MR. BERTRAM: In November.

7 DR. DeLAUDER: It was in November?
8 We met with the mission directors. That was
9 one of the issues that came up about the
10 importance of long-term training and every one
11 of them recognized that this was important.

12 But when you asked them why
13 weren't they more engaged, they pointed out
14 that they are being expected to show results
15 for the work that they do and it is too risky
16 for them to invest money in something that has
17 a long-term outcome expected, as opposed to
18 something short-term.

19 Has there been a change in the
20 policy as it relates to the mission to make
21 them more comfortable with addressing some of
22 things that they think were important but

1 don't give short-term results?

2 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Yes, Rob?

3 MR. BERTRAM: Has there been a
4 change? Well, I don't know that a significant
5 change other than I think because the dialogue
6 is active again that people are starting to
7 recognize how strategic an investment this is
8 for the United States.

9 And we didn't see the history. We
10 couldn't see the graph this morning from
11 Julie. But it really does go down. And that
12 decline was exactly parallel to the decline in
13 our bilateral mission funding.

14 So as I said in my comments, one
15 of the changes in our landscape is that that
16 funding is back. And so I think a couple of
17 things.

18 One, it is up to us to advocate
19 for this and there are several missions.
20 Brady has the first-hand experience actually
21 because of his visit to Sokoine, where the
22 Tanzania mission is really investing in a

1 substantial way.

2 And I am going to be very frank
3 here. One of the things that worries me a
4 little bit in USAID Forward is, you know, the
5 idea there is to shift resources to the local
6 partners. Very, very, noble idea.

7 We ought to all ought to be
8 working to that in everything we do to empower
9 them and to build their capacities. That
10 doesn't mean that we don't need the long-term
11 relationships with our U.S. universities.

12 The comments came out this morning
13 and showed how valuable those are. And I do
14 think there's a lot of innovations going on
15 that can maybe pick up the pace at which the
16 local partners strengthen their abilities to
17 manage funds and to be accountable.

18 The things that often come up, as
19 you know, Bill, when we are making a federal
20 grant.

21 So there's -- that's an area where
22 I think we need more discussion about the

1 special role of higher education with respect
2 to sustainability of the overall enterprise,
3 the overall Feed the Future enterprise, not
4 just in things like ag research and such.

5 Let me think if there's anything
6 else I would add to that. The other point is
7 two things that -- it is mainstream, you know,
8 other investments.

9 But what you saw this morning in
10 Julie's presentation were some platform
11 approaches that we hope will be a springboard
12 for the missions to actually bring out some of
13 the best practices, get some good analysis and
14 then move to that next step of a longer term,
15 more substantial institutionally-oriented
16 investment.

17 So we are certainly trying to put
18 in place the elements of that. And as BIFAD
19 considers this whole area of human and
20 institution capacity building, we will
21 continue to welcome exchange and advice and
22 thinking on that to help engender those kinds

1 -- the actual long-term investment.

2 At the end of the day we have to
3 be working with the missions. That's where
4 the resources are. That's -- you are not
5 going to get your numbers of trainees and
6 graduate students and faculty exchanges just
7 from central investments.

8 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: At this time
9 I think we can open things up generally for
10 any public comment. If you have comments on
11 any subject that you feel you want to add your
12 voice to the concerns of the day, we would
13 appreciate hearing that. Yes?

14 DR. RANGAWMAY: On behalf of the
15 IPM/CRSP, personally I want to thank also
16 Marty McVey for taking time and visiting with
17 the IPM/CRSP in Nepal, Bangladesh and India.

18 And going through the field trials
19 and all, we really thank you for that. And
20 also for attending the -- taking the committee
21 meeting in Memphis. We greatly benefitted
22 from your association with the IPM/CRSP.

1 MR. McVEY: Thank you very much,
2 Muni.

3 DR. RANGAWMAY: And also I want to
4 thank Chairman Brady Deaton for attending the
5 IPM technical committee meeting in Memphis and
6 participating in the meeting. And your input
7 was very valuable. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Thank you
9 very much.

10 DR. RANGAWMAY: And also I want to
11 thank Dr. John Bowman for attending the
12 technical committee meeting as well as the
13 South Asia planning meeting. Thank you, John.

14 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Thanks, Muni,
15 very much. It was inspiring for Marty and I
16 both on that.

17 MR. McVEY: Wonderful.

18 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Are there
19 other thoughts from the floor?

20 (No response).

21 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Well, if not,
22 let me thank you. Any comments from anyone

1 else here at the head table, so to speak,
2 board table?

3 MR. McVEY: I would just like to
4 add a comment how much I appreciate the work
5 that USAID staff is doing, and Susan and all
6 the folks at APLU, and John and others.

7 We really do appreciate it. And
8 we like to be updated and briefed, and I think
9 that something that is very needed and it
10 helps us in our volunteer work that we do.
11 So, thank you very much.

12 CHAIRPERSON DEATON: Let me just
13 say in closing that there were -- I noted this
14 very top-of-the-head here -- five key things,
15 ky initiatives that were -- I feel like we
16 have accomplished during this meeting and
17 moved them forward.

18 And one of those, of course, is
19 just what we have been discussing with regard
20 to the agriculture-nutrition-health focus
21 points. We are going to be pushing hard
22 there.

1 And with the support, with staff,
2 Rob, and the Food Security Bureau we want to
3 really try to make an impact there because it
4 is something I know that some of us have had
5 a long-term felt commitment and need to be
6 engaged in.

7 Second, the Higher Education
8 Solutions report we heard and the potential
9 linkage of that with a lot of the other
10 things, particularly the human and
11 institution-building components and the
12 research components of CRSPs is something that
13 we will be looking to see how that evolves.

14 That is going to be something very
15 important. The CRSP evaluation, we really
16 appreciate Robert Jones and other members and
17 other members of the team being here to
18 participate with us.

19 And we are looking forward to that
20 evaluation process and to the potential that
21 it holds for really doing something innovative
22 to move ahead and capture the best of what we

1 have done and make it even sharper than we
2 have in the past.

3 Fourth, I would just like to
4 commend Bill DeLauder again for bringing the
5 awards program to action and implementation.
6 Bill, thank you, and we will be moving ahead
7 immediately on that.

8 And then the thoughts on
9 legislative affairs that we just talked about
10 I think could potentially be a very important
11 step for us to be taking as BIFAD.

12 Beyond that, we will continue to
13 be concerned about -- and I may have missed
14 something else that came up that I should have
15 noted, let me say. And if so, we will pick
16 that up later.

17 But I just saw the news in the
18 headlines this morning about drought
19 conditions affecting most of North America.
20 And you can't help but if you have worked with
21 food aid issues, as I know some of us have.

22 And Catherine particularly, you

1 have to be concerned about what effect on the
2 national and international dialogue food --
3 potential food shortages may bring to U.S. and
4 global food aid programs and that interface
5 with development assistance and USAID work
6 generally.

7 And frankly, as you are also
8 aware, it changes the nature of science, even,
9 the nature of what is explored in science. So
10 these are just vital issues of today, coming
11 at a particular time.

12 And the drought issue is one that,
13 you know, it has been there in Africa and
14 addressed in one sense. When it hits a major
15 food-producing country like the United States
16 it has different effects, of course.

17 So we will be looking to see what
18 kind of impact that and other kind of global
19 matters have on the way we do our business and
20 the kind of dialogue that we generate. I want
21 to thank all the members of the board for
22 their cooperative work.

1 We send our best to Jo Luck and we
2 will miss her throughout the remainder of this
3 session and look forward to having her back
4 with us next time around.

5 Thanks to all of you for being
6 here, and a particular thanks -- I join Marty
7 in thanking Susan and Malcolm, the work that
8 you have done and the work that is so evident
9 from USAID in so many, many ways.

10 And seeing so many of you at the
11 inception workshop in Tanzania and then having
12 you here is particularly enriching. So thanks
13 so much for everything you have done.

14 (Whereupon, at 2:46 p.m., the
15 meeting was concluded.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Public Meeting on BIFAD and New
University Partnerships

Before: US AID

Date: 04-13-12

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