



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Title XII Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2021

September 2022

The U.S. Agency for International Development submits this report to Congress pursuant to Section 300 of Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

Table of Contents

LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR	2
I. ENGAGEMENT BY THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH INSTITUTIONS DEFINED UNDER TITLE XII OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED	4
Global Distribution of USAID’s Investments in HEIs	4
Table 1: Summary of USAID’s Investments in Higher-Education Institutions	5
Figure 1: Geographic Distribution of USAID’s Direct Awards to Foreign Universities.	6
The Feed the Future Innovation Labs	7
II. FIVE-YEAR PROJECTION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	7
III. SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN FISCAL YEAR 2021	8
Table 2. BIFAD Events, Highlights, and Recommendations	9
IV. RESPONSE BY THE BOARD FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO THE REPORT SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS BY THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FY 2021 UNDER TITLE XII OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED	14
V. APPENDICES	19
Appendix 1: U.S. Higher-Educational Partners of the Feed the Future Innovation Labs during Fiscal Year 2021	19
Appendix 2: U.S. Universities with Direct Awards from the U.S. Agency for International Development in Fiscal Year 2021	20

LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

We are in the midst of one of the most significant global food crises the world has faced in recent memory. Economic disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, massive climate shocks, and the trade impacts of Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine have reversed critical global development progress on poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. The implications for Feed the Future and its efforts to end global hunger are stark. According to the World Food Programme, 345 million people around the world are experiencing acute food insecurity, more than double pre-pandemic levels.

While the United States races to provide lifesaving humanitarian assistance to those in immediate need, we know that the only way to break the cycle of food crises and sustainably end hunger and malnutrition is to invest in agricultural productivity and long-term food security.

While economic and societal disruptions have affected Feed the Future's university and research partners, these partnerships (and particularly those with U.S. universities) continue to yield groundbreaking innovations that are critical to our shared goals of inclusive, agriculture-led growth, improved nutrition outcomes, and strengthened resilience. From the beginning of Feed the Future in 2010, U.S. universities have been key partners. Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) of 1961, as amended, formalized a rich and productive relationship between USAID and U.S. universities in the food-security and agriculture sectors.

Universities continue to provide cutting-edge research and innovation, education and training, and additional partnerships that have driven policy changes, supported workforce development, and spurred economic growth and investment. The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), established by Title XII of the FAA, draws on U.S. university leaders to advise USAID on issues of agriculture, higher education, food insecurity, and nutrition.

Between Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 and FY 2021, USAID invested more than \$5.4 billion in higher-education institutions (HEIs) in the United States and around the world, of which over 80 percent was awarded to U.S. universities defined under Title XII of the FAA. These investments advance knowledge and skills in agriculture, nutrition, health, education, water, and sanitation in partner nations. Notably, many Title XII universities lead Feed the Future Innovation Labs, which draw from the expertise of top U.S. faculty and host-country research institutions to generate solutions that reduce global hunger, poverty, and malnutrition. In FY 2021, there were 21 Feed the Future Innovation Labs working in 40 countries around the globe, involving more than 70 top U.S. colleges and universities and 130 partner-country research and educational institutions. Looking

ahead, the Feed the Future interagency community plans to implement the updated U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy 2022–2026 and the U.S. Global Water Strategy as well as launch the revised U.S. Government Global Food Security Research Strategy. These plans will guide Feed the Future’s work over the next five years by taking into account the major dislocations to global food security in recent years as well as evidence and lessons learned from the last five years of implementation. U.S. universities will remain our critical partners in these efforts.

Our partnerships with Title XII institutions will be more important than ever as the world looks for effective, innovative, and equitable solutions to drive what will be a long recovery from the global food crisis and its wide range of effects. For more than a decade, we have invested in agriculture-led growth, nutrition, and resilience to tackle the root causes of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. Our work built a sustainable foundation for long-term global food security and continues to open new markets and increase demand for U.S. innovations. USAID is proud to partner with U.S. universities in our mission to end global hunger.

Samantha Power

USAID Administrator and Feed the Future Global Coordinator

I. ENGAGEMENT BY THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH INSTITUTIONS DEFINED UNDER TITLE XII OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED

This report to Congress summarizes the partnerships between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and U.S. higher-education institutions (HEIs) during Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. It is submitted pursuant to Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) of 1961, as amended (Public Law 87-195). The report focuses on the Agency's collaboration with U.S. universities defined under Title XII of the FAA to address global food-security challenges in USAID's partner countries through investments in agricultural research, education, extension, and capacity-strengthening programs and allied projects in nutrition, resilience, water and sanitation, natural-resources management, policy formulation, and trade.

Global Distribution of USAID's Investments in HEIs

Between FY 2011 and FY 2021—a decade since the inception of the Feed the Future Initiative—USAID's global investments in HEIs totaled more than \$5.4 billion, of which more than 80 percent was awarded to universities defined as Title XII institutions under the FAA.

Table 1 shows obligations to U.S., foreign, and Title XII institutions for FY 2021 and each year of the Feed the Future Initiative. USAID's obligations to all HEIs (U.S. and foreign) increased by 4 percent from FY 2020 to FY 2021, with a 4 percent reduction in funding obligated to U.S. HEIs and a substantial, 45 percent increase in funding obligated to foreign HEIs relative to FY 2020. Notably, there were similar levels of funding obligated to foreign HEIs in FY 2019 and FY 2021, while funding levels were reduced in FY 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Agency awarded 76.3 percent of FY 2021 HEI obligations (\$365,548,809) to Title XII universities, 23.4 percent (\$112,049,156) to universities outside the United States, and 0.3 percent (\$1,360,000) to a non-Title XII U.S. university, a stand-alone medical school.

In FY 2021, 24.2 percent of USAID's U.S. HEI obligations (\$88.9 million) were awarded for agriculture, nutrition, and water and sanitation programming, while the remaining 75.8 percent of obligations (\$278.1 million) were awarded for other USAID program areas including health and education.

Table 1: Summary of USAID’s Investments in Higher-Education Institutions

Institutional Type	Total Obligations in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021¹ (\$, in millions)	Agriculture, Nutrition, and WASH Obligations in FY 2021 (\$, in millions)	Total Obligations from FY 2011–FY 2021 (\$, in millions)	Percentage Change in Total Obligations from FY 2020 to FY 2021
All Higher-Education Institutions (Foreign and U.S.)	479	90.3	5438	4
U.S. Higher-Education Institutions	367	88.9	4469	-4
Foreign Higher-Education Institutions	112	1.4	879	45
U.S. Title XII Institutions²	365	88.9	4416	0
U.S. Non-Title XII Institutions	1.4	0	143	-89

Source for all data: USAID Enterprise Reporting Portal, accessed June 27, 2022.

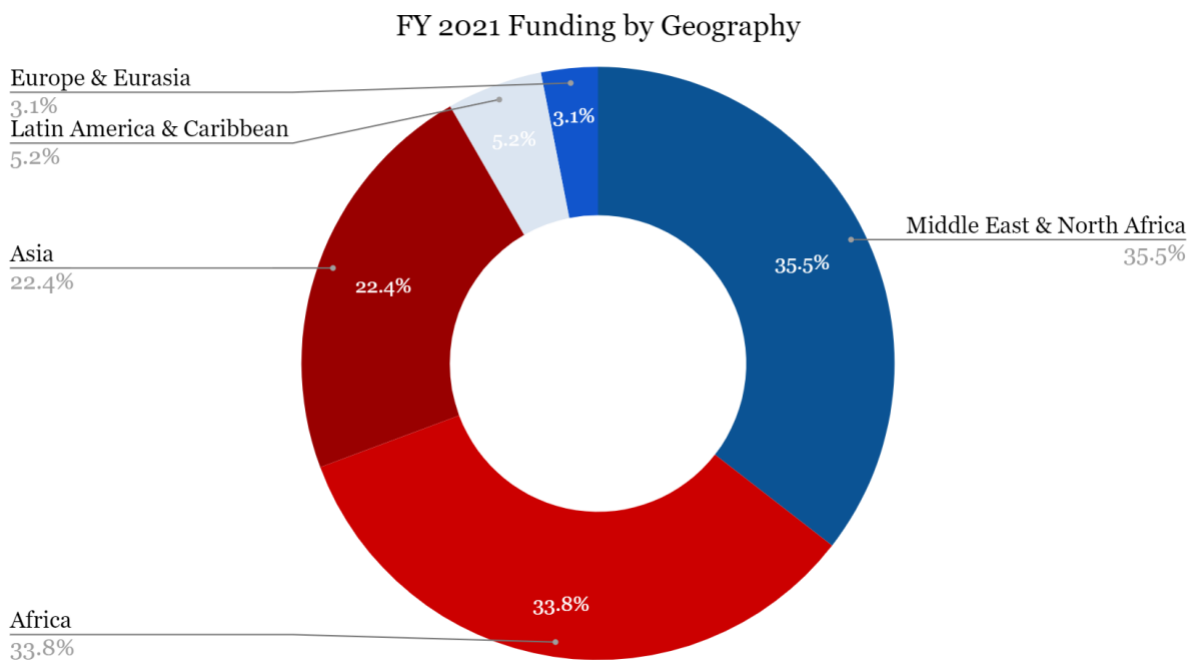
¹All data contained in this report are based on financial obligations for direct awards to HEIs, as well as a limited number of other organizations that make large sub-awards to HEIs and provide support to U.S. higher education. The latter comprise approximately eight percent of the total funding disbursed by USAID. Funds are rounded to the nearest million.

² USAID uses an inclusive definition of a “Title XII institution,” in alignment with the provisions of the Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-373). This legislation broadened the purpose of Title XII of the FAA from preventing famine and establishing freedom from hunger to achieving, “the mutual goals among nations of ensuring food security, human health, agricultural growth, trade expansion, and the wise and sustainable use of natural resources.” Institutions under Title XII of the FAA, therefore, comprise the following: 1) those listed in the First Morrill Act (1862) or the Second Morrill Act (1890); 2) those listed in the Sea Grant College and Program Act (1966); 3) Native American land-grant colleges as authorized under the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994; and, 4) other U.S. colleges and universities that a) have demonstrable capacity in teaching, research, and extension (including outreach) activities in the agricultural sciences; and, b) can contribute effectively to the attainment of the objective of Title XII.

Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of funding outside the United States by geography. Most foreign universities received direct funding from USAID-established partnerships with U.S. university collaborators, which indicates that U.S. universities play an important role in strengthening the capacity of foreign counterparts. In addition to direct awards, foreign universities received \$22.3 million in sub-awards in FY 2021 under grants and contracts from private-sector entities and non-profit organizations funded by USAID, according to [USA Spending](#).

Figure 1: Geographic Distribution of USAID’s Direct Awards to Foreign Universities.

Source: USAID Enterprise Reporting Portal. Accessed July 2022.



In FY 2021, a total of 39 HEIs in 25 foreign countries received direct awards from USAID. Figure 1 reflects the percentage of spending in each geographical region.

Fourteen institutions in seven sub-Saharan African countries (Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe) received 33.8 percent of USAID’s funding to foreign universities. Seven institutions in six countries in Asia (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Vietnam) received 22.4 percent of the Agency’s total funding to foreign universities. In the Middle East and North Africa, five institutions in three countries (Egypt, Israel, and Lebanon) received 35.5 percent of USAID’s total funding to foreign universities. In Latin America and the Caribbean, six institutions in five countries (Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru) received 5.2 percent of the Agency’s total funding to foreign universities. Seven institutions in

four European or Eurasian countries (Armenia, Hungary, Kosovo, and Sweden) received 3.1 percent of the Agency's total funding to foreign universities.

The Feed the Future Innovation Labs

In FY 2021, the 21 Feed the Future Innovation Labs, supported by over 70 U.S. colleges and universities in 40 states, partnered with 130 international institutions of higher education in 40 countries. These partnerships include both research and degree programs.

The Innovation Labs provide short- and long-term training to support the sustainability of food systems, agricultural, and nutrition research and development activities while training the next generation of scientists. In FY 2021, 42,096 individuals received short-term training. Where sex was identified (87 percent), 38 percent of short-term training participants were female. Training took place primarily in Africa (47 percent) and (Asia 21 percent).

Innovation Labs provided long-term, primarily graduate degree training to 408 individuals (45 percent female) from 29 countries. By region, Africa had the largest percentage of degree trainees (61 percent) followed by Asia (22 percent), the United States (13 percent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (2 percent). Of the U.S. degree trainees total (48), 24 were international students who studied at 12 U.S. universities.

The annual Feed the Future Innovation Labs Partners Meeting was held virtually on May 18 - 19, 2021. The meeting a) examined key climate-related challenges faced in the host countries of various Missions and implementing partners; b) explored how the Innovation Labs can be a strategic partner in addressing these challenges through their research for development programs; and c) discussed how the Product Life Cycle framework can be used for scaling climate-smart technologies.

The Feed the Future Innovation Labs Annual Meeting was held virtually on September 18, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to highlight the future of food security, the role of climate change and COVID-19, and how USAID is refreshing the Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS) to address these challenges through its programming and the Feed the Future Innovation Labs.

II. FIVE-YEAR PROJECTION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

In FY 2021, the multi-year GFSS—which guides the implementation of the Feed the Future initiative, promoting agriculture-led growth, resilience, and nutrition—was refreshed and extended, taking into account the evidence and lessons learned from the last four years of implementation. The companion U.S. Government's Global Food Security Research Strategy—also developed by partner U.S. Government agencies in Feed the Future to help reduce hunger, poverty and malnutrition through science, technology, and innovation—was similarly refreshed and extended in FY 2021 for launch in FY 2022. The revised GFSS and the Global Food Security Research Strategy

will influence the design and implementation of activities and programs that engage U.S. HEIs over the next five years. These strategies anticipate that new forces—including the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, and climate change—will reshape the global context prominently in future U.S. university activities and programs.

Priorities specific to U.S. university science, technology, and innovation activities and programming will collectively represent three themes: 1) climate-smart agricultural innovation; 2) nutrition and food systems; and 3) genetic improvement of crops and livestock. The Feed the Future research portfolio will continue to integrate biophysical, socioeconomic, behavioral, and policy research toward supporting affordable, nutritious diets for a well-nourished population, meeting the challenges of climate change; advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion; and strengthening and expanding access to markets and trade.

To advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of U.S. university research partners, USAID plans activities to promote greater engagement of minority-serving institutions (MSIs), including: establishing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between USAID and MSIs to provide professional development opportunities for MSI students, MSI-led research programs, and engagement and inclusion of MSIs in Innovation Lab research activities, drawing upon the strengths of MSIs.

III. SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN FISCAL YEAR 2021

The Board for Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) is a presidentially appointed, seven-member advisory committee to USAID that includes at least four representatives from U.S. universities, with additional representation from the private sector and civil society. Congress mandated the establishment of BIFAD, authorized under Section 298 of Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) of 1961, as amended, in recognition of the role that U.S. higher-education institutions play in agricultural development and ensuring food security, both domestically and abroad. USAID funds and facilitates BIFAD's work in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972.

BIFAD members at the start of FY 2021 included: Mark Keenum, Chair and President of Mississippi State University; Pamela K. Anderson, Director General Emerita, International Potato Center; James M. Ash, Food and Agribusiness Group Leader, Husch Blackwell LLP; Brady Deaton, Chancellor Emeritus, University of Missouri; Gebisa Ejeta, World Food Prize Laureate and Distinguished Professor of Agronomy at Purdue University; and Richard Lackey, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of World Food Bank. BIFAD member Waded Cruzado, President, Montana State University had previously resigned from the Board in August 2020 but attended BIFAD's public meeting in October 2020. BIFAD member and former BIFAD Chair Brady Deaton completed his service in January 2021. President Donald Trump appointed David Matthews, Chief Agriculture Officer, Bazelet Corporation and Mark McDaniel, Partner, McDaniel and

McDaniel Attorneys, LLC to the Board in January 2021. With these appointments, BIFAD was improperly constituted with regard to the statutory requirement that four members represent U.S. universities. This prevented the Board from holding public meetings or transmitting formal recommendations to the USAID Administrator for the remainder of FY 2021.

Table 2 summarizes BIFAD’s public events, engagement and outreach, and recommendations to USAID during FY 2021.

Table 2. BIFAD Events, Highlights, and Recommendations

Date and Location	Event	Highlights
<p>October 12, 2020 (Email Transmittal)</p>	<p>Transmittal of Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations from the BIFAD Public Meeting, <i>COVID-19 and Nutrition: Impacts, Field Innovations, and the Way Forward</i>, to the USAID Acting Administrator</p>	<p>Following expert testimony and public discussion at the September 14, 2020, BIFAD public meeting, BIFAD Chair Mark Keenum, on behalf of BIFAD, submitted a summary of findings and formal recommendations to USAID Acting Administrator John Barsa. BIFAD recommended that USAID build on a strong foundation of nutrition leadership and programming and use the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examining and strengthening food systems; ● Examining and strengthening health systems; ● Influencing political commitment; ● Encouraging a multi-sectoral approach; ● Scaling up data, research, and evidence-based policymaking; and ● Accelerating leveraging digital technology. <p>Conclusions and recommendations were further outlined in an enclosed briefer.</p>
<p>February 8, 2021 (Email Transmittal)</p>	<p>Agency response to BIFAD’s Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations from the BIFAD Public Meeting, <i>COVID-19 and Nutrition: Impacts, Field Innovations, and the Way Forward</i></p>	<p>In a letter, Gloria D. Steele, USAID Acting Administrator, expressed appreciation to BIFAD for sharing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations from the public meeting. The Acting Administrator indicated that USAID will take BIFAD’s findings, conclusions, and recommendations into account as the Agency reviews current programs and develops future strategies in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Appended to the letter was a summary by area of USAID’s planned response to each of the findings and recommendations.</p>

Date and Location	Event	Highlights
October 13, 2020 (Virtual)	BIFAD 183rd Public Meeting, <i>Agricultural Growth, Economic Transformation, and the Journey to Self-Reliance: Implications for USAID Programming</i>	BIFAD hosted a virtual public meeting on <i>Agricultural Growth, Economic Transformation, and the Journey to Self-Reliance: Implications for USAID Programming</i> to better understand the concept of economic transformation and how it contributes to a country’s resilience to shocks, such as COVID-19, and its progression toward self-reliance. Authors of a BIFAD-commissioned study shared preliminary findings and lessons learned on emerging success stories in agricultural productivity-led economic transformation and discussed the implications of this evidence for USAID’s agricultural and food security development and social safety net priorities and programming.
November 10, 2020 (Email Transmittal)	Transmittal of recommendations from the BIFAD Public Meeting, <i>Agriculture and Food Security in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts</i>, to the USAID Administrator	Following expert testimony and public discussion at the October 15, 2019, BIFAD public meeting, BIFAD Chair Mark Keenum on behalf of BIFAD submitted a summary of findings and formal recommendations to USAID Acting Deputy Administrator John Barsa. The memo outlined six overarching recommendations to improve food security and agricultural systems in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The letter outlined recommendations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on agriculture, food systems, agriculture-linked livelihoods, and resilience as essential determinants of survival and recovery in conflict-affected areas; ● Promote conflict sensitivity, understanding the context and dynamics that fuel conflict; ● Develop technical guidance and research for conflict-affected and fragile settings; ● Work with and through local systems; ● Leverage formal and informal markets; and ● Maximize the impact of agriculture and food security investments by coordinating across other development sectors as well as humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts.
August 13, 2021	Agency response to BIFAD’s Findings, Conclusions, and	In a memo, USAID leadership outlined Agency responses to each of the findings and recommendations BIFAD submitted on November

Date and Location	Event	Highlights
(Email Transmittal)	Recommendations from the BIFAD Public Meeting, <i>Agriculture and Food Security in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts</i>	10, 2020, following the BIFAD Public Meeting, Agriculture and Food Security in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts.
April 26, 2021 (Online Posting)	Public posting of the BIFAD-commissioned report, <i>Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID</i>	The BIFAD-commissioned report, <i>Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID</i> , reviews the evidence of evolving economic transformation and progress toward resilience in sub-Saharan Africa and provides a priority agenda for promoting transformation and resilience in the region, recognizing the varying challenges faced by fragile, low-income, lower-middle-income, and resource-rich countries. The report recommends that USAID contribute to economic transformation and resilience by supporting African governments and other partners across the following opportunity areas: 1) supporting COVID-19 recovery; 2) accelerating productivity-led agricultural growth; 3) expanding employment opportunities for young Africans; 4) achieving economic empowerment for women; 5) capturing opportunities for intra-African agricultural trade and supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement; 6) reducing the rural infrastructural deficit; 7) leveraging USAID strengths in institutional capacity development; and 8) Leveraging USAID convening power and U.S. global leadership in agricultural innovation.
June 7, 2021 (Virtual)	BIFAD-commissioned report author presentations at the Association for International Agricultural and Rural Development (AIARD) Conference	The BIFAD-commissioned report, <i>Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID</i> , was highlighted during the AIARD virtual meeting, with co-author Dr. Louise Fox leading a roundtable discussion centered on the report recommendations and a discussion focused on strategies for resilience in Africa.

Date and Location	Event	Highlights
		<p>The BIFAD-commissioned report, <i>How the United States Benefits from Agricultural and Food Security Investments in Developing Countries</i>, was also highlighted during the AIARD virtual meeting, with co-author Dr. David Kraybill presenting a flash talk to share significant findings and recommendations from the report.</p>
<p>June 24, 2021 (Virtual)</p>	<p>BIFAD-commissioned report author presentation and engagement in a workshop with the USAID West Africa Regional Mission and West Africa Bilateral Missions.</p>	<p>At the invitation of the USAID/West Africa Regional Mission, the author team of the BIFAD-commissioned report, <i>Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID</i> led a briefing with the West Africa regional and USAID bilateral Missions in West Africa to discuss the implications of the study findings and recommendations for West Africa bilateral missions and implementing partners. This forum was intended for regionally specific discussion of the implications for strategies and USAID priorities in West Africa, with a particular focus on trade. Following the presentation, the Regional Trade and Investment Team Leader at USAID/West Africa facilitated discussion around how USAID and partners can apply the report findings to their work and within existing frameworks.</p>
<p>July 7, 2021 (Virtual)</p>	<p>BIFAD report co-author presentations at USAID and BIFAD co-hosted Side Event to the United Nations Food Systems Summit Science Days</p>	<p>At the invitation of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) Science Committee, following submission of a proposal, BIFAD report co-authors participated in a panel presentation and discussion as a side event to the UNFSS Science Days along with the World Bank, African Development Bank, the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI), and the Alliance for African Partnerships. The purpose of the event was to convene leaders across the private and public research and development sectors to identify and discuss the key actions needed to advance adaptive agricultural research and develop an enabling policy environment to support the steady</p>

Date and Location	Event	Highlights
		<p>stream of technological innovations necessary for resilient and sustainable food systems. The co-hosting organizations submitted a report of highlights to the UNFSS Science Days organizer and a full, formal, independent dialogue report to be included in the synthesis report of independent dialogues to inform decisions put forward at the UNFSS held in September 2021.</p>
<p>August 29, 2021 (Virtual)</p>	<p>Presentation of findings of the BIFAD-commissioned report, <i>Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID</i>, at the International Conference of Agricultural Economists.</p>	<p>Co-authors of the BIFAD-commissioned report, <i>Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID</i>, shared an invited presentation at the International Conference of Agricultural Economists titled, <i>Resilience and Economic Transformation in a Post-COVID-19 Sub-Saharan Africa: What Could Agricultural Productivity Growth Contribute?</i> Using the concepts of a) agricultural and economic transformation and b) macroeconomic and microeconomic resilience, the panel introduced a new framework with which to understand and evaluate the drivers of economic development progress in sub-Saharan Africa over the past 20 years and how these factors could again drive economic development in the region post COVID-19. The presentation drew substantially from the BIFAD-commissioned report.</p>
<p>September 7, 2021 (Virtual)</p>	<p>BIFAD co-hosted a side event at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF).</p>	<p>Invited by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), BIFAD co-hosted a presentation and panel discussion on the 2021 AGRF event. Convening leaders from diverse stakeholder groups, BIFAD and USAID co-hosted the side event with the African Development Bank, World Bank, ReNAPRI, and the Alliance for African Partnership. The panel discussion identified conditions and properties of resilient, sustainable food systems and proposed policies and programs for African governments to achieve them. Considering varying conditions across Africa, expert private- and public-sector panelists discussed effective strategies for resilient, sustainable food systems and how these differ</p>

Date and Location	Event	Highlights
-------------------	-------	------------

across countries, with consideration of fragile and resource-rich states.

IV. RESPONSE BY THE BOARD FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO THE REPORT SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS BY THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FY 2021 UNDER TITLE XII OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED

Introduction

BIFAD is pleased to respond to the Title XII Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2021. In a year of unprecedented challenges, BIFAD commends USAID and partners around the world for their global leadership and continued commitment to meaningful engagement with U.S. and foreign institutions of higher education, research, and development.

Distribution of USAID’s Investments

The Title XII Report to Congress highlights the contributions of the U.S. university community in the efforts to end global hunger and malnutrition. While the overall trend in funding for the previous 10 years has been upward, there was a notable 20 percent decrease in funding to U.S. and foreign HEIs between FY 2019 and FY 2020. While reduction is understandable in the first year of the pandemic, the FY 2021 funding has not returned to the pre-pandemic funding levels, and funding to the U.S. HEIs decreased again by 4 percent in FY 2021. The role of university communities to support research, gather data, and stimulate innovation to solve some of the world’s most complex challenges is more important now than ever. Thus, BIFAD hopes to see funding levels return and continue in an upward trend in the future to help ensure universities are fully represented in global partnerships. In addition, while the 45 percent increase in funding to local HEIs this fiscal year as compared to last and a return to pre-pandemic levels is encouraging, BIFAD would like to see a greater share of funding to local HEIs in the agriculture, nutrition, and food security sectors in view of the climate change crisis and the current global food and fertilizer price crisis. We need to go further in engaging HEIs from partner countries that have expertise and invaluable on-the-ground knowledge in these areas.

Benefits of USAID Investments in Agricultural Research

An example of the leadership of the U.S. academic community globally and a cornerstone of USAID’s University engagement programming, the Feed the Future Innovation Labs continued their work this past year, overcoming significant implementation challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Innovation Labs and their global partners are an important mechanism through which evidence is

generated (e.g., climate-smart technologies that promote resilience) to guide and inform practical, actionable interventions by USAID, country governments, donors, and other partners to improve the welfare of the world's poorest.

A recent study titled *Costs, Benefits, and Welfare Implications of USAID Investment in Agricultural Research through U.S. Universities*¹ found the present economic benefit of USAID's investments in the past 40 years through the Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs) and Feed the Future Innovation Labs to be \$8.4 billion—8.5 times greater than the total program costs. Eighty percent of these economic benefits are realized by individuals with incomes less than \$5.50/day, and 29 percent by households living on less than \$1.90/day. Other measurable impacts of university-led agricultural research include improved human health, reduced environmental degradation, and strengthened resilience to shocks.

Furthermore, the tremendous reciprocal benefits to food production, the economy, and security in the U.S. should likewise not be overlooked². While the primary objective of U.S. foreign agricultural assistance is to stimulate growth of the world's poorest regions and increase global stability, BIFAD's 2019 commissioned study—*How the United States Benefits from Agricultural Development and Food Security Investments in Developing Countries*—has quantified how U.S. foreign agricultural assistance investments also bring substantial economic, health, and security benefits to the United States. U.S. producers, and consumers through increased exports and jobs, technology spillovers, health and nutrition, and global and U.S. security.

Strengthening Partnerships with Local Research, Education, and Extension Institutions

A major focus of BIFAD's work in FY 2020–2021 was the commissioning of a report, *Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID*³. The study reviewed the evidence of evolving economic transformation and progress towards resilience in sub-Saharan Africa and provided a priority agenda for promoting transformation and resilience in the region. The report pointed to agricultural production growth as a major driver of the region's economic growth and significant positive progress across a broad range of indicators in health, education, public service delivery, and government effectiveness. The report documented that agricultural growth in sub-Saharan Africa has been consistent since

¹ Dalton, T., & Fuglie, K. (2022). Costs, Benefits, and Welfare Implications of USAID Investment in Agricultural Research through U.S. Universities. *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 1-19. <https://doi:10.1017/aae.2022.18>

² Kraybill, D., Mercier, S., & Glauber, J. (2019). *How the United States Benefits from Agricultural and Food Security Investments in Developing Countries*. Report Commissioned by the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC. <https://doi:10.2499/p15738coll2.133419>

³ Jayne, T.S., Fox, L., Fuglie, K., & Adelaja, A. (2021). *Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID*. Report Commissioned by the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, Washington, DC. <https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/documents/agricultural-productivity-growth-resilience-and-economic-transformation-sub-saharan-africa>

2002 and is currently the highest agricultural growth in the world. However, approximately 75 percent of this growth has been achieved through the expansion of land under agricultural cultivation rather than an increase in agricultural productivity, and this strategy for continued agricultural growth is not sustainable. A pivot to productivity-led growth will require strengthening the capacity of local research, education, and extension systems to produce a continual flow of technologies aimed at local agricultural productivity growth. Notably, countries that have made substantial investments in adaptive agricultural research and development and extension systems generally demonstrate the catalytic role of productivity-led agricultural growth in contributing to employment, resilience, and economic transformation.

BIFAD was encouraged that the commissioned report's results were significant in informing the theory of change for the whole-of-government refresh of the GFSS⁴, centered on the evidence that “a productive, efficient agriculture and food system can drive improved living standards and resilience” (p. 27). The report results were also taken up in other influential fora, such as the United Nations Food Systems Summit Science Days and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa Forum.

BIFAD's recommendations to USAID based on the report include leveraging Agency strengths in institutional capacity development to strengthen the enabling policy environment and to support research, development, and extension capacity⁵. This includes improved coordination between international and National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), including local universities and research centers, to develop locally appropriate and viable solutions, capturing and combining cutting-edge innovations with indigenous knowledge and technologies. BIFAD also recommended further evidence gathering to better understand the necessary governance, political economy, and institutional dimensions that support countries moving to make necessary investments to spur increased productivity. The capacity development programs led by U.S. universities across the globe are contributing to these human and organizational capacity strengthening needs. Capacity development programs, including the short- and longer-term training programs through the Feed the Future Innovation Labs, are training tomorrow's innovators and leaders and should be reviewed so they can be supported to continue what they do well and make necessary adjustments to ensure that they are strengthening the capacity of local systems to drive productivity. The organizational impact of USAID's investments in partnerships between U.S. and foreign universities is evident, as many international partner institutions are now leading or serving as significant partners for the implementation of USAID programs, elevating these local

⁴ U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). (2022). The U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy, 2022–2026. <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/agriculture-and-food-security/us-government-global-food-security-strategy>

⁵ Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD). (2022). Transmittal memo, *Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID, 2021*. <https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/documents/agstudytransmittalmemo>

institutions to drive research, community outreach, and thought leadership in their home countries.

Engaging the Full Breadth of Higher Education Partnerships

Advancing solutions to the world's most pressing challenges requires leveraging the full capacity of the U.S. university community, including strengthening and expanding partnerships with Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). BIFAD is encouraged by USAID's commitment, in the Title XII report and in notable actions in recent years, to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of U.S. university partners. Twelve years ago, BIFAD convened a working group to identify opportunities for engaging MSIs in USAID's global food security development agenda and put forward recommendations to USAID. The working group's recommendations⁶ include the following: 1) make MSI engagement a policy priority; 2) improve communication between USAID and MSIs and among MSIs; 3) increase grant opportunities for MSIs; 4) develop more flexible funding mechanisms; and 5) support long-term training and education at MSIs. It is notable, however, that of the 21 Feed the Future Innovation Labs in FY 2021, only one is led by an MSI (University of California-Davis), and of the 38 universities with direct USAID funding in FY 2021, only seven are designated MSIs. USAID has recently begun to increase partnerships with MSIs through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), with four new MOUs signed just this past year, including three with HBCUs and one with a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). These partnerships between USAID and MSIs can bring focus to the capacities of MSIs, spur improved communication between the institution and USAID, and incrementally improve MSI participation in USAID programming. However, there are practical limitations to the number of MOUs USAID can initiate, considering the over 700 designated MSIs in the United States, and MOUs alone will not lead to the transformative changes needed to remove the fundamental bottlenecks to participation.

BIFAD looks forward to working with USAID to support expansion of funding to historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and other MSIs, while acknowledging the need to strengthen the agricultural, nutrition, and food systems capacity of MSIs to successfully compete for and implement funding opportunities, and to address barriers to strengthened partnerships with MSIs (e.g., other federal agencies have specific statutory authorities to restrict eligibility to MSIs, while USAID currently does not possess these types of specific authorities for agricultural programming). These partnerships continue to be an important priority to BIFAD, and the board has plans to convene the MSI community and USAID for conversations around these issues in 2022–2023. Expanding partnerships with MSIs is essential to fully leverage the knowledge and perspective of the wider research community.

⁶ BIFAD. (2011). *Working Group on Minority-Serving Institutions: Expanding the Role of Minority-Serving Institutions in the Work of USAID*.

<https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1867/working-group-minority-serving-institutions-expanding-role-minority-serving>

BIFAD's Priorities in Fiscal Years 2022–2024

The Board is committed to providing evidence-based recommendations to USAID and the broader development community and amplifying this evidence to inform strategy, policy, and programming that builds resilient and sustainable food and nutrition systems to reduce extreme poverty and malnutrition in a changing climate. BIFAD's priorities in the coming years, though remaining nimble to respond to emerging needs, include: 1) strengthening agricultural, nutrition, and food systems to respond to global food security crises and to mitigate the impacts of shocks such as conflict, pandemics, climate change, and emerging agricultural pests and diseases; 2) improving the affordability of safe and nutritious food, particularly for infants and women by broadening the focus on crop yields to include nutrition; and 3) adapting to and mitigating climate change in agricultural, nutrition, and food systems (e.g., adopting management practices to increase soil organic carbon sequestration). BIFAD will ensure it addresses these focal areas in an inclusive way by engaging diverse research and development groups and MSIs, local perspectives, and the private sector, and by elevating the importance and role of gender across its work. BIFAD looks forward to supporting and informing implementation of the recently refreshed GFSS and the forthcoming U.S. Government Global Food Security Research Strategy through these priority focal areas.

In summary, although the Title XII drafters may not have anticipated that grave challenges in food security would persist into the next century, their foresight positions U.S. HEIs to advise in any eventuality, strengthening the overall U.S. response toward the shared goals of zero malnutrition, zero poverty, and equality. In the year ahead, BIFAD looks forward to advancing meaningful contributions across these institutions and with partners around the world.

Laurence B. Alexander, BIFAD Chair, Chancellor, University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff

Pamela K. Anderson, Director General Emerita, International Potato Center

Marie Boyd, Associate Professor, University of South Carolina School of Law

Rattan Lal, Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and Director of the CFAES Rattan Lal Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration, The Ohio State University

Saweda Liverpool-Tasie, MSU Foundation Professor of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University

Henri Moore, Vice President/Head of Responsible Business, Haleon

Kathy Spahn, President and CEO of Helen Keller International

V. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: U.S. Higher-Educational Partners⁷ of the Feed the Future Innovation Labs during Fiscal Year 2021

SUMMARY

- Total of 85 partners from 40 states and the District of Columbia
- 14 universities **lead** 21 Feed the Future Innovation Labs and partner with 72 other colleges and universities of which 21 are **Minority-Serving Institutions**

<p>Alcorn University (MS) Arizona State University Arkansas State University Auburn University (AL) Boston University (MA) Catholic University of America (DC) Clemson University (SC) Colorado State University Columbia University (NY) Cornell University (NY) Duke University (NC) Emory University (GA) Florida A&M University George Mason University (VA) Georgia State University Hamilton College (NY) Harvard University (MA) Iowa State University John Hopkins University (MD) Kansas State University Lincoln University (MO) Louisiana State University Massachusetts Institute of Technology Michigan State University Middlebury College (VT) Mississippi State University Montana State University New York University North Carolina A&T State University</p>	<p>North Carolina State University North Dakota State University Northwestern University (IL) Oakland University (MI) Ohio State University Oklahoma State University Pennsylvania State University Purdue University (IN) Rutgers University (NJ) San Diego State University South Carolina State University Stanford University (CA) Tennessee State University Texas A&M University Texas State University Texas Tech University Tufts University (MA) Tuskegee University (AL) University of Alabama University of Alaska, Fairbanks University of Arkansas University of Arizona University of California, Berkeley University of California, Davis University of California, Riverside University of California, Santa Barbara</p>	<p>University of Chicago University of Colorado University of Connecticut University of Delaware University of Florida University of Georgia University of Illinois University of Kentucky University of Maine University of Maryland, College Park University of Maryland, Eastern Shore University of Michigan University of Minnesota, Twin Cities University of Missouri University of Nebraska University of Pennsylvania University of Rhode Island University of San Diego University of Tennessee University of Virginia University of Washington University of Wisconsin Virginia Tech University Virginia State University Washington State University Washington University in St. Louis (MO) West Texas A&M University Williams College (MA)</p>
---	--	--

⁷ A “partner” is an institution that is either (1) a recipient of a prime [lead] award or a subaward, (2) a collaborator on a subaward and/or a lead award, (3) a provider of training, and/or (4) a member of an advisory committee. Institutions can serve in multiple partner capacities.

	University of California, Santa Cruz	Yeshiva University (NY)
--	--------------------------------------	-------------------------

Appendix 2: U.S. Universities with Direct Awards from the U.S. Agency for International Development in Fiscal Year 2021

State	Institution	Activity Locations
AZ	Arizona State University	Morocco, Vietnam, Worldwide
AZ	University of Arizona	Worldwide

CA	Stanford University	Latin America and Caribbean Regional
CA	University of California System	Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, The Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, Worldwide
CA	University of California, Berkeley	Cambodia, Worldwide
CA	University of California, Los Angeles	Democratic Republic of Congo
CO	University of Colorado at Boulder	Rwanda, Worldwide
CT	Yale University	Uganda, Worldwide
D.C.	Gallaudet University	Nigeria
D.C.	Georgetown University	Worldwide
D.C.	George Washington University	Laos
FL	University of Florida	Worldwide

GA	Emory University	Worldwide
GA	University of Georgia	Worldwide
IL	University of Chicago	Egypt
IL	University of Illinois	Worldwide
IN	Indiana University	Vietnam
IN	Purdue University	South Sudan, Tanzania, South Africa Regional, Worldwide
IN	University of Notre Dame	Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Latin America and Caribbean Regional, Worldwide
KS	Kansas State University	Cambodia, Haiti, Sahel Regional, Worldwide
LA	Tulane University	South Africa
MA	Harvard University	Indonesia, Kenya, East Africa Regional
MA	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Near East Regional, Worldwide
MA	Northeastern University	Caribbean Regional

MA	Tufts University	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Vietnam, Worldwide
MD	Johns Hopkins University	Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, The Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Africa Regional, Asia Regional, Latin America and Caribbean Regional, Sahel Regional, West Africa Regional, Worldwide
MD	University of Maryland	Worldwide
MI	Michigan State University	Afghanistan, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Africa Regional, Worldwide
MS	Mississippi State University	Worldwide
NC	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Armenia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Africa Regional,

		Eastern European Regional, Worldwide
NC	Wake Forest University	Peru
NJ	Princeton University	Near East Regional
NV	University of Nevada	Asia Regional
NY	City University of New York	Central American Regional
NY	Columbia University	Indonesia
NY	Cornell University	Worldwide
OH	Ohio State University	India
PA	Pennsylvania State University	Worldwide
RI	University of Rhode Island	The Philippines, Africa Regional, South Pacific Regional
TN	Vanderbilt University	Latin America and Caribbean Regional
TX	Baylor University	Malawi
TX	Texas A&M	Mali, Mexico, Worldwide

UT	University of Utah	Pakistan
VA	College of William and Mary	Eastern European Regional
VA	Eastern Virginia Medical School	Worldwide
VA	Virginia Tech	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Senegal
WA	Washington State University	Kenya, Peru, Senegal, Thailand, Vietnam, Worldwide
WI	University of Wisconsin	Worldwide