Campus Wide Seminar

innoVATE
Innovation for Agricultural Training and Education

Lila B Karki, Ntam Baharanyi
InnovATE: Initiative

- Presidential initiative (2009)
  - Feed the future
    - agricultural development
  - Achieve 20% reduction in poverty prevalence

“To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds.”

— President Barack Obama
What is InnovATE?

- InnovATE is a demand-driven program
  - Supports AET capacity building
  - Improves the quality of the agricultural labor force
  - Improves the performance of the agricultural sector
  - Facilitates to produce enough food for the projected people
InnovATE Terminology: AET/ATE

• AET as agriculture education & training
• AET is same definition as ATE
• Formal & informal
• Involved at all levels
Need for Agricultural Education & Training?

DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 8 people in the world are chronically hungry.

1 in 3 people in the world work in agriculture.

The world will need to feed 9 billion people by 2050.

70% That is how much global agricultural production must increase to feed everyone.

Statistics from FAO.org and Worldbank.org 12/2013
Need for Agricultural Education & Training?

Global food production must increase 70% by 2050 to meet our needs. Annual cereal production must rise by 42%.
Program purpose for innovATE:

Strengthening training & education systems to improve the performance of the agricultural sector
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Who is innovATE?

The program is implemented by a consortium of US universities:

Virginia Tech

Tuskegee University

Penn State

University of Florida
The Challenges

Human capacity

Agriculture sector in less developed & emerging economies, including public & private institutions, need skilled employees
  e.g. appropriate skillsets for research, extension & training

Institutional capacity

Public institutions with agricultural programming are weak
  e.g. curricula, infrastructure, logistics
Meeting AET Capacity Gaps

Out of School Youth

Primary School

Secondary School

University

Vocational/Technical School

Skills and Jobs

Gap

Agricultural Value Chain

Inputs
Production
Harvesting
Processing
Distribution

Workforce Development
Integrated program approach centers on student-focused outcomes which meet demand for professional skills.
InnovATE ... Mission

- ... cultivate the human & institutional capacity
- ... promote rural innovation needed
- ... achieve sustainable food security
- ... reduce poverty
- ... conserve natural resources
- ... empower countries
AET Components

How?

LEARN

DESIGN

TRAIN
AET: Areas of Intervention

• Curriculum development
• Gender balance & equity
• Agricultural value chains
• Skills best suited to the vocational educational setting
• Modernizing extension & advisory services
• Meet the needs of producers & workers for entrepreneurship
• Good practices/strategies/approaches
Program activities include:

• Research on AET capacity building
• Organizing conferences on AET
• Raising awareness about AET capacity
• Needs assessments (scoping)
• Projects to improve AET
• Developing AET community of practice
LEARN

Consolidates information and lessons learned from past experiences

- Gathering information
- Creating a vibrant AET/AKIS to facilitate capacity building
- Making information accessible to global audience
- Fostering the global online Community of Practice (CoP)
- Facilitates capacity building
• Gathering information & creating AET knowledge
  – Online AET Bibliography
    • DRC, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Uganda
  – Topical fact sheets
  – AET assessment reports
  – Thematic studies
  – Develop/refine analytical tools

Dr. Maria Elisa Christie discusses gender issues during her research with women farmers in Uganda
• Making AET information accessible to a global audience
  – Develop/expand InnovATE’s presence in social media platforms
  – InnovATE website
  – Poster
InnovATE is improving the resilience of the agricultural workforce through strengthened Human & Institutional capacity at all levels.
• Fostering the development of the AET Community of Practice (CoP)
  – Online knowledge sharing platform for AET stakeholders
    • 215 people joined the CoP
    • 46% (Africa), 45% (US), 5% (Asia), 4% (Europe/Middle East...)
  – Discussions: Curriculum development; Education; Food security; Workforce development
  – Resources: E-Learning modules; Training events; Funding opportunities; Human & institutional capacity development
  – Community
    • Partners, Blog, Directory, Groups
The innovATE AET Community of Practice

- Online network of agricultural development professionals
- Collaborative discussion spaces for AET & agriculture
- Resource sharing & project development
- Global training events database
- French & Spanish discussion pages
The innovATE AET Community of Practice

- Networking
  - Conferences
  - Webinars
  - Peer to Peer
- Study Hubs
  - Regional Networks
  - Deeper Learning
- Research
  - New Info
  - New Audiences
- Technical Assistance
  - Strengthen Food Hubs
In Armenia our scoping team interviewed food processors to determine ways USAID and our partner the ATC can best meet the needs for trained manpower.

- Applies assessment tools
- Methods that adapt good practices
- Designs projects
- Supplies technical assistance
- Leads strategic planning design
- Scales AET interventions up
- Makes policy recommendations to improve the effectiveness of AET
The **DESIGN** component undertakes country scoping assessments that lead to program design recommendations to improve the effectiveness of agricultural training and education.
• Builds projects design capacity
  – Scooping visits (Jordan, Uganda, Cambodia, Nicaragua, DRC)
  – Statement of work (DRC, Jordan, Uganda, Cambodia, Mali, Nicaragua, Tajikistan, Honduras)
  – Technical assistance (Senegal, Armenia)
  – Model Community Participatory Curriculum Development
TRAIN

- Extends learning opportunities through the AET, CoP, Scholarly contribution, good practices
- Supplies technical assistance to undertake subject matter/curricula revision
- Introduces new learning technologies
- Provides training materials
- Conducts: training/workshops/symposia/short courses

During Year Two, farmers in Mali discussed water use and other inputs with the innovATE research team
• Country specific administrative support

• Disseminate USAID training modules
  – University & extension models
  – Youth engagement
  – Workforce development
  – Gender inclusiveness
  – Technical & vocational education & training
  – Post-conflict environments

During the past year innovATE has developed AET capacity recommendations to meet the needs of the agriculture sector in post-conflict Mali
• Produce a database of agricultural training opportunities
  – Operationalize training database & test with stakeholders
  – Collect & catalog training opportunities
• To date information on 157 trainings have been added to the training events page in the CoP. The training events page has garnered 2,500 page views.
• Publish & disseminate results of studies
• Networking with AET practitioners

The scoping team in Nicaragua interviewed field technicians to determine their training needs
InnovATE Flow Chart

USAID Mission

Dialogue

Scooping Activities/Country Assessments

Rapid Assessment of AET factors

AET Capacity Development: Design Activity; training ...

In-Depth Analysis of AET Factors

AET Capacity Projects/Activities

2/11/2015
When

• Current

• Future
InnovATE works in Feed the Future priority countries

- Africa: 12
- Asia: 4
- Latin America & the Caribbean: 3

2/11/2015
Our findings include:

• System approach needed - a “pipeline” (youth, high school, then college)
• Agricultural careers have become less desirable
• Skills ≠ jobs
• Direct links between food supplies, environmental stewardship and AET
• Need curricula that include newest technologies
• AET needs to be demand driven
Scaling up & building capacity in AET:

- Extension of research results
- Incorporating key practices in curriculums
- Promote sharing of good practices
- Examine training & education needs all along (full) value chain
- Share best practices & examine emerging issues
  - Little if any mention of education in development activities
- Get out the message - the importance of AET (across USAID)
Contact information @ Tuskegee

Ntam Baharanyi, PhD
baharany@mytu.tuskegee.edu

Lila B Karki, PhD
lkarki@mytu.tuskegee.edu

www.tuskegee.edu

InnovATE
http://www.oired.vt.edu/innovate/

Community of Practice
www.innovate-community.oired.vt.edu
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