innovATE
Innovation for Agricultural Training and Education

Lila B Karki
Ntam Baharanyi, Conrad Bonsi
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
  – Building human & institutional capacity
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
Assessments & Scope

Supply
- Primary & Secondary Schools
- Vocational & Technical Schools
- Universities
- Institutions for Higher Education

Demand
- Agricultural Value Chain
- Out of School Youth
- Academic Institutions
- Extension & Research Professionals

Gap
- Strategic Planning; AET

2/11/2015
Lila B Karki, Ntam Baharanyi, Conrad Bonsi
InnovATE … Mission

• ... cultivate the human & institutional capacity
• ... promote rural innovation needed
• ... achieve sustainable food security
• ... reduce poverty
• ... conserve natural resources
• ... empower countries
How?

AET Components
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
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
LEARN - 1

• 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
LEARN - 2

- Making AET information accessible to a global audience
  - Develop/expand InnovATE's presence in social media platforms
  - InnovATE website
  - Poster

Number of people following Twitter & Facebook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEARN - 3

• 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
DESIGN

• 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
• 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
• 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
When

Current

Future
Where?

InnovATE works in Feed the Future priority countries

- **Africa**: 12
- **Asia**: 4
- **Latin America & the Caribbean**: 3
Who
Contact information @ Tuskegee

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

Ntam Baharanyi, PhD
baharany@mytu.tuskegee.edu

www.tuskegee.edu

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

Community of Practice
www.innovate-community.oired.vt.edu
• InnovATE is supported by a grant from USAID and managed by:

• Virginia Tech’s Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED). This project was made possible by the United States Agency for International Development and the generous support of the American people through USAID Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-L-12-00002