



Board for International Food & Agriculture Development (BIFAD)

Minutes of the 154th Meeting “Global Food Prices and Policy Actions”

June 17, 2008

National Press Club, 529 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (13th Floor)

WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS (ROBERT EASTER, CHAIRMAN)

BIFAD Chair Robert Easter opened the 154th BIFAD meeting by emphasizing a focus on the issue of world food needs and the role that universities can play in meeting those needs. He also mentioned the success of Conference of Deans held in April, to be discussed later in the meeting. Board members were introduced; those present included:

Board members:

Robert (Bob) Easter
H.H. Barlow
Allen Christensen
Timothy (Tim) Rabon
Keith W. Eckel
William (Bill) DeLauder

Others present who were introduced:

Kerry Bolognese, NASULGC
John Thomas, USAID/EGAT
Ron Senykoff, USAID & BIFAD secretary

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

BIFAD Title XII Study--Status Report (Deborah Rubin, Director, Cultural Practice, LLC)

Bob Easter introduced Deborah Rubin and thanked her for her work in conducting an in-depth analysis of Title XII and providing perspective on where BIFAD ought to be going.

Presentation

Deborah Rubin explained that her task was to undertake a study and analysis of what constitutes a Title XII activity, and what is BIFAD's roles in arbitrating any uncertainties, and make a report to BIFAD with recommendations. This was done through:

- Conducting interviews with ~ 50 current and former USAID staff, BIFAD members, SPARE members, and university representatives.
- Reviewing documentary and historical record (these findings are new from the last meeting)

- Preparation of report

Historically, Title XII was an amendment of the Foreign Assistance Act that originally passed in 1975; this amendment formalized work that had been going on prior to 1975. A significant revision passed in 2000 that offered a broader definition of agriculture, a wider set of eligible universities, and the inclusion of “partners”.

In her research, Deborah Rubin found a lot of contradictions, misinformation about what Title XII is all about; this confusion is not only among university partners but also in USAID. She also found that there are several categories of Title XII activities:

- Global research such as IARCs, CRSPs, and others (currently most of current Title XI work);
- A wide range of country level programs (previously the bulk of Title XII work); and
- Training programs, other institutional and human capacity building activities.

There is also argument over the scope of BIFAD’s role and its structural position, and some anger about the contents of the Title XII report – what is included, what is represented. She also found that Agency guidance on implementing Title XII (ADS 2.16.3.9) is outdated and incomplete.

In examining the legislation, Deborah Rubin found it included the following:

- Its goal is to defeat global hunger through a coordinated development program of research, extension, and education harnessing US university expertise. (A semantic point – not mobilizing (universities are already mobilized), but how to harness.)
- It establishes BIFAD as a presidentially-appointed Board to advise on and assist a coordinated USAID agriculture program composed of multiple components.
- The legislation also asks that there be maintained a roster of eligible universities to match university expertise with development needs. (Discussions of this roster have ignored the idea that this list is to better marry AID and universities.)
- An annual report is to be submitted to Congress on Title XII activities with comment by BIFAD, for the purpose of accountability.

She also found that the legislation did not include mention of several things:

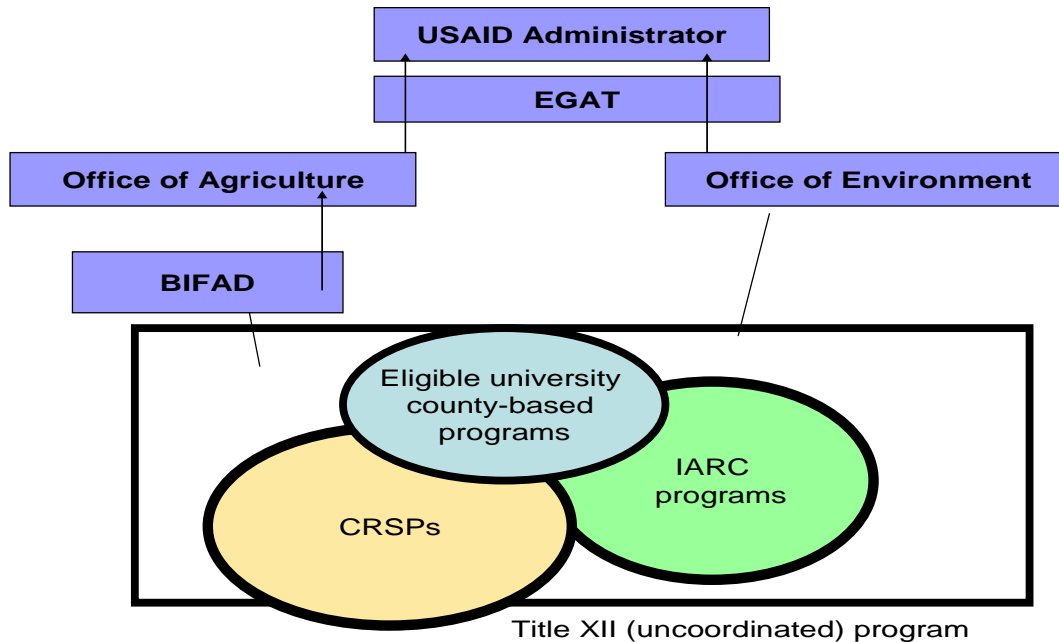
- There are no established funding levels nor an earmark; the legislation simply says that money would be allocated from the Section 103 account.
- There is no specific definition of “Title XII activities” or a process for identifying and selecting them; it suggests a range of players and categories of action.
- It does not say to establish a staff to support BIFAD’s work.

She then commented on implications of these findings, notably, that BIFAD, in its advisory role, and USAID, in partnership, would decide on:

- Agricultural development priorities, especially (but not only) in areas of research, education, and capacity-building
- Funding
- Identification of activities
- Identification of eligible universities

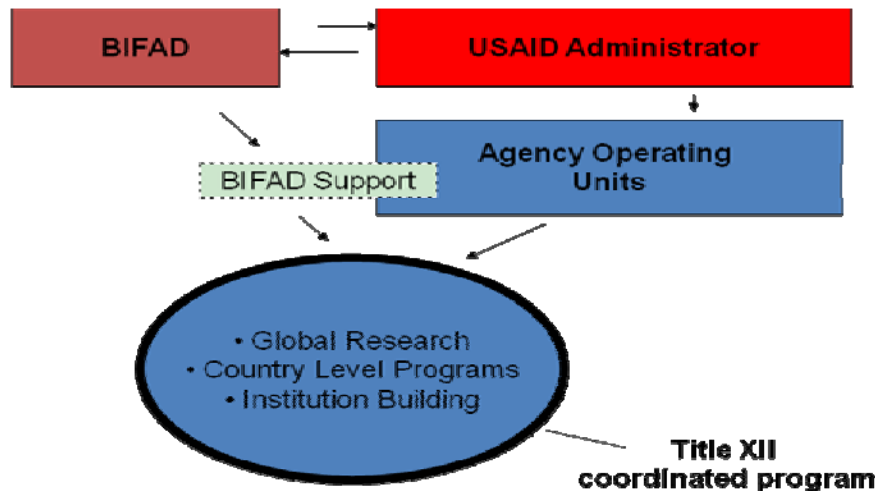
- Content of the annual Title XII report

She displayed the following diagram of how BIFAD has been structured in recent years, noting how the component parts of Title XII have been isolated from each other.



[Description of image: A box representing the USAID Administrator is at the top. Under the Administrator is a box representing EGAT. Directly under EGAT are two boxes: the Office of Agriculture on the left and the Office of Environment on the right; both have vertical arrows leading up through EGAT to the Administrator. Under the Office of Agriculture is a slightly smaller box representing BIFAD, with a vertical arrow from that box going to the Office of Agriculture. At the bottom of the picture (below BIFAD and the Office of Environment) is a large box entitled “Title 12 (uncoordinated) program”. Straight lines connect this box to BIFAD and to Office of Environment. Inside the Title 12 box are 3 overlapping ovals: At the top and forefront is a smaller blue oval labeled “Eligible university country-based programs”. On the bottom left and slightly behind that oval is a slightly larger beige oval labeled “CRSPs”, and on the right and slightly behind the other two is a equally large green oval labeled “IARC programs”.]

She then displayed the following image of the organizational structure described in the 2000 legislation as the ideal of a coordinated program, where the country-based programs are again at the center of Title XII efforts, with research activities (whether under the CRSPs or the IARCs) all part of an integrated effort.



[Description of image: At the top are two boxes: a smaller maroon box representing BIFAD on the left, and a longer red box representing the USAID Administrator on the right. Between these two boxes are two horizontal arrows: the one on top points right to the Administrator, and the one underneath points left to BIFAD. Under the Administrator, in the center right of the diagram, is a blue box representing “Agency Operating Units”, with a short vertical arrow leading down to it from the Administrator. Overlapping the left side of this blue box is a smaller green box with dotted outline, labeled “BIFAD Support; there is a diagonal arrow point from the BIFAD box down to the right, to this Support box. Both the BIFAD Support box and the Agency Operating Units box have diagonal arrows pointing down to a large blue oval in the bottom center of the page; this oval is labeled “Title 12 coordinated program” and has included inside of it three bullet points: Global Research, Country Level Programs, and Institution Building.]

Regarding the Title XII coordinated program, section 296 (b) states that “the following components must be brought together in a coordinated program” including contract research, collaborative research support programs, other research collaboration led by US universities, international agriculture research centers, education exchanges, dissemination, and grants programs.

BIFAD’s role is to advise and assist in the development and monitoring of Title XII’s coordinated program.

Types of Title XII activities

Deborah Rubin explained that in this coordinated program, there were three or four categories of activities:

- Support to global research programs:
 - International Agricultural Research Centers (e.g., CGIAR organizations)
 - Collaborative Research and Support Programs (e.g., CRSPs) with US universities and their partners
 - Other centrally funded (Office of Agriculture and Regional Bureau) programs
- Training, Capacity, and Institution-building Programs
 - E.g., developing and transition country development and Long-term training
- Country-level Programs

- Identified in process through missions and other operating units
- A fourth category that has been mentioned several times but is not active now is US university advisory services to developing and transition governments and institutions

The criteria for Title XII activities are as follows:

- Activities are identified with BIFAD as part of the “coordinated program” – in advance of implementation (emphasizing that BIFAD members do not need to be actively involved in the activity; involvement could include through BIFAD support staff);
- Activities are primarily led by eligible US universities (some exceptions have been agreed to); this is key;
- Activities meet the goals of the Title;
- By definition, Title XII activities include:
 - Globally-funded agriculture/NRM research programs that currently include the work of the IARCs and the CRSPs
- **With BIFAD concurrence**, Title XII activities include eligible **university-led programs** in:
 - conducting research (*e.g., PFID, MSU Food Security programs*);
 - developing country capacity for research, education, and/or extension (*e.g., HED, long-term training programs*) (there is a lot of agreement on this one)
 - participant training
 - building or strengthening of related institutional infrastructure; (If BIFAD were to take a stand on doing this, the research supported that stand)
 - providing university advisors to development projects (currently small, but in the context of the current food crisis this could be revisited)

Deborah Rubin emphasized that the key to labeling something as a Title XII activity is that there is BIFAD concurrence and the activity is led by US universities. At the core are “Eligible Universities”. These are

- listed in the First (1862) Morrill Act
- listed in the Second (1890) Morrill Act
- listed in the Sea Grant College and Program Act (1966)
- listed in the “Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994”
- Other U.S. colleges and universities which:
 - (1) have demonstrable capacity in teaching, research, and extension (including outreach) activities in the agricultural sciences; and
 - (2) can contribute effectively to the attainment of the objective of this title.

A different question is what are the “Eligible and Qualified Universities”; this requires a process by which universities are put on the list. Title XII tasks BIFAD with maintaining a roster of eligible universities. To better match university expertise with USAID needs, **it is recommended BIFAD re-establish this roster, and, in discussion with the universities and USAID, for BIFAD to establish both**

- a **process** for applying to be on the roster (or removed from it) and
- a **set of criteria** to measure “demonstrable capacity” in teaching, research, and extension (including outreach) activities in the agricultural sciences

Recommendations

In accordance with Title XII and the findings of this report, Deborah Rubin recommended that BIFAD

- seek to reestablish its role as advisor to the USAID administrator on the Agency's coordinated agriculture program
- build on opportunities for university input on USAID's agricultural priorities (e.g., Conference of Deans)
- insist on the updating and revision of Agency guidance 2.16.3.9 on Title XII implementation (Even though it is a bureaucratic matter, it is important to be able to refer people to these standards!)
- clarify the criteria and process for identifying the Title XII universities
- issue a statement of agreement on key Title XII activities or categories of activities
- identify a process for BIFAD involvement (in this review and vetting process) in shaping Agency programs that is in compliance with current Agency procurement procedures; and
- specify the scope of the required annual Title XII report.

She concluded by emphasizing that a common understanding of Title XII implementation would benefit both the University Community and the USAID. She stressed the value of getting to agreement on the activities, and of creating a vibrant picture of agricultural activities.

Board Comment/Questions

Allen Christensen: 1) When we originally got into this type of work there were incentives provided, to build a cadre of individuals capable of providing this work. Those incentives have disappeared since then; so what are the incentives now?

2) Also, in terms of defining the other eligible activities, they did have to go through a process to get on the roster, whether they were part of a group or a private university. To say that we need to do that again may be met with mixed reactions. Have these things been addressed, are they part of the future, or just part of the historical past?

Deborah Rubin: 1) When people use the lack of money as an excuse of why not to do something, it assumes a very static picture of funding. Some work does need to be done in terms of thinking about incentives, in terms of what would be possible. Rethinking reporting requirements might be such an incentive for CRSPs.

2) In terms of the appropriate process for including universities, it could be complicated, or it could be as simple as a university sending an email asking to be included – this has to be decided. It could be a very simple process.

On the Title XII report, the legislation certainly allows for other agencies to be included in this work. The legislation does not specify what can be in the report, it is up to the Board and USAID to decide.

William DeLauder: Did you find instances where BIFAD was involved in the international centers?

Deborah Rubin: In talking about how can BIFAD get involved., there are linkage programs between the IARCS and Title XII.

William DeLauder: Regarding the roster of eligible universities, did you actually identify faculty involved in this roster in the past?

Deborah Rubin: There are descriptions of lists that included faculty, but I have not actually seen one.

William DeLauder: It would seem that that would be very helpful, particularly to USAID to help identify expertise to assist.

Bob Easter: Our campus has various study centers funded by the Department of Education. Your comments reminded me that our capacity has eroded over the years; if not supported, that capacity goes away. What kind of preparation do individuals have who are going into this area?

John Thomas: In your fourth slide, in the past the major part of the Title XII programs were the field Missions. For FY09 budget, the request for agriculture worldwide is \$373 million. That does not include Title XII. Most of the Title XII activities are in the central office, in EGAT. This year for the first time, we have asked the Missions when they prepare the budget, to indicate whether they have Title XII activities. The data is coming now and we have analyzed it – only two have checked that they have Title XII activities. I do not think that is true – the problem could be that people in the field are not recognizing what Title XII is.

Audience Comment/Questions

Montague Demment, UC Davis: The one thing that you did not recommend was BIFAD staff. I don't think BIFAD can take on these activities without staff, and I would like to encourage BIFAD to consider this. One more comment: We have a project called the Peace Project in Afghanistan; this is not a CRSP because we could not do it that way. BIFAD has had nothing to do with that, so in my mind it is not a Title XII activity.

Allen Christensen: I have trouble with not having BIFAD staff, and expecting the universities to help with this. There is a money issue here; you cannot push these things onto the states. Historically this has been interpreted that there should be BIFAD staff.

Kerry Bolognese: I hope that we look at not only the short- term crisis but also the long-term issues, so we are not here 20 years from now addressing similar issues.

Bob Easter: I do not want to close this important discussion. Do we want to consider introducing the resolution that is in our packets? The purpose of the resolution is to have BIFAD endorse Deborah Rubin's report and implement some of its recommendations.

Kerry Bolognese read the draft resolution:

“Whereas BIFAD authorized a study of Title XII to determine criteria for determining and Title XII activity,

Whereas the Title XII study has found that the Title XII legislation is not well understood, and there is wide disagreement over which activities it covers, which universities are covered by its mandate, the scope of BIFAD's role, and how the legislation should be implemented within the current USAID programming process, and,

Whereas it would benefit both the Agency and the university community to come to a common understanding on these and related issues of Title XII implementation,

Therefore be it resolved that BIFAD accepts the recommendations in the report for communication to the USAID Administrator and appoints a committee to build on both the findings of the report and on consultation with university and Agency representatives to provide recommendations to improve Agency guidance on Title XII (currently summarized in ADS 2.16.3.9) so that it:

- › clarifies the criteria for identifying the Title XII universities;*
- › identifies a process for identifying and selecting Title XII activities, including its research activities (including e.g., the IARCs and the CRSPs), global programs, and country programs, in missions, bureaus, and pillar levels;*
- › identifies a process for BIFAD involvement that is in compliance with current Agency procurement procedures; and,*
- › specifies the scope of the required annual Title XII report.”*

This would be communicated to the Administration and there would be a committee set up to carry this out. It would be at the discretion of the Board as to whether this is a joint committee of USAID and BIFAD.

One Board member commented that he was not sure what the Administrator is being asked to do.

Keith Eckel: Our purpose overall as part of this Board is to counter hunger. This discussion would be very discouraging to those who are actually facing this issue. We need to move quickly to where USAID and BIFAD are working to together. The simple message to the Administrator is that we are working together to practically move ahead in this.

Tim Williams, University of Georgia: I agree that that is complicated – I can boil down to a few points:

- 1) The Administrator needs to enforce ADS 216.
- 2) To address this, the Administrator has to put money in the budget for Title XII and identify it as such. That is the reality of budgets – without that, it will not happen.

Bob Easter: We have been at this for a long time now. How do we move forward?

Allen Christensen: What concerns me is whether this resolution will move us forward. Can we make this such a tone that it will be acted on? How will this be perceived differently, and how can we make it such?

Bob Easter: We will discuss the White Paper later today; that will also deliver a message.

David Atwood: As a newcomer here, I would like to comment not on the resolution, but the context. It seems to me that BIFAD has always had a schizophrenic mandate. On one hand it is like a lobbying group for universities, but on the other hand it is a high-level advisory group to the USAID Administrator. Right now, it very much values building relationships to other groups working in these areas. You want to be seen as representatives of the most committed deep expertise on international agriculture.

Allen Christensen: It important to note that fundamentally we are not a lobbying group – we are the interface between the university community and USAID. NASULGC is a lobbying group. That is fundamentally different.

Keith Eckel: I would also like to emphasize that we are not a lobbying group.

William DeLauder commented that the biggest problem is that BIFAD is not recommending specific actions. He went through each item, noting that BIFAD needs to provide specific action oriented recommendations so that she will be clear on what to do with them.

George Wilson: The resolution is important, but needs a timeframe that is in weeks if not days, so we are truly responding to the crisis.

Allen Christensen: I agree with William DeLauder and suggest that this become a responsibility of the executive committee over lunch or something similar.

Timothy Rabon concurred.

John Thomas: Regarding how the Administrator is reaching out to form different alliances: What would work with her is an emphasis on what the university community would bring in response to this food crisis. Now is the time for BIFAD to say this is what the universities can contribute to this response.

Bob Easter: What does the Agency need to do to respond to the crisis, and what are the processes by which we go about developing these recommendations?

Kerry Bolognese: NASULGC does not want to be defined as a lobbying group.

Keith Eckel: I would hope that we could do this at lunchtime today so that we could leave here committed to moving forward.

William DeLauder: I would like to commend Deborah Rubin for her work on this.

Bob Easter: The Board as a whole commends Deborah Rubin for this work.

BIFAD Conference of Deans: Universities in Partnership—Outcomes and Future, “Higher Education on a New Stage in Global Agricultural Development” (Robert Easter, Chairman, and Kerry Bolognese, Vice President, International Programs, NASULGC)

Presentation

Bob Easter provided some background to the Conference of Deans held on April 30, 2008. University representatives came together at the conference. BIFAD engaged EnCompass to carry this out, and they were very pleased with how this unfolded. The process started with a steering committee that selected as invitees institutional representatives with the expertise and involvement in international agriculture. Approximately 40 deans attended at their own universities’ expense. They shared the view that this is an urgent matter.

Those at the conference recommended pulling together a White Paper to present to the USAID Administrator and both Presidential candidates. Work on this White Paper has begun, with Deanna Bering helping to organize its development. The following is what is being considered for inclusion in that paper.

I. Introduction – Looking to the Future

1. The current food crisis has brought to the fore a widespread acknowledgement that the investments and policies in support of the development of agriculture during the last 30 years have been insufficient. Key data points:
 - At one time, USAID led the donor world on agriculture, but there has been a long slide over the last 20 years. USAID also turned away from the university community as a key partner for building capacity and the infrastructure for long-term agriculture development.
 - The wealthy countries, as a group, cut support for agriculture development roughly in half from 1980 to 2006, to \$2.8 billion per year from \$6 billion.
 - The World Bank cut its agricultural lending to \$2 billion in 2004 from \$7.7 billion in 1980

(We clearly need to focus on the food crisis, but also need to look beyond that.)

2. Even as we address the current food crisis and respond to the pressing need, it is imperative to looking forward to the next 30-40 years to better anticipate the trends, the issues, and the investments needed now to shape a more food-secure and stable future. Key issues:
 - Productivity growth declining; (gap in productivity in developed countries; growth is declining)
 - Public R&D investment in developed and developing countries low/private R&D increasing
 - Demographic changes (urbanization, developed/developing, regional, diets); Competition for land and major purchases by large, private, foreign corporations; (an integrated supply chain)
 - Rising energy costs, the switch from food to fuels, and climate change considerations;

- Trade policies which have been detrimental to developing country markets.
3. This paper argues for an integrated approach to a global agriculture development strategy with government working in partnership with the university community, as well as with non-governmental organizations and the private sector, which is playing an increasingly visible and influential role. Today's approach of responding to crisis on the one side of the spectrum and turning to the private sector for growth on the other side of the development spectrum leaves a large gap in the development process.

The university community has the knowledge, experience and the research infrastructure to be a key partner with USAID in addressing this development gap.

II. BIFAD-Serving as a Gateway to University Knowledge

(There was already an understanding of BIFAD and its role amongst university representatives at the conference.)

1. Brief description/overview of BIFAD.
2. There is a logical synergy between USAID and the university community that can be tapped to better serve agriculture development goals. The university community brings unique contributions to the table:
 - Universities can adopt long-term perspectives on development and offer an excellent mechanism to ensure sustainability of short-term programs;
 - Universities represent the only community with the diverse breadth of trans-disciplinary, science-based knowledge capabilities, coupled with the expertise and experience for effective transfer within the global agricultural domain
 - The university community, with its extensive network of global alumni, has the ability to provide domestic and international linkages with and for the US Government/USAID;
 - Universities have long-standing and ongoing partnerships with universities and institutions throughout the world, including with the IARCs, that can be brought to bear on U.S. development goals and objectives.
 - Universities can serve as advocates for USAID and long-term agricultural development strategy with Congress and grassroots influencers.

Key Development Areas for Agriculture – Shaping the Future

In order to shape a future, food-secure and stable world, USAID and the university community should work together to craft a longer-term vision of growth, with integrated investments that incorporate research, human and institutional capacity building, infrastructure, sound policy, markets and governance. Such a vision would include support for a new, second 'green revolution' via investments in science and technology; this would include the maintenance of successful varieties of strategic crops, support for traditional crop breeding programs, the development of technologies to raise yield ceilings, and the evolution of seeds more resistant to climatic stresses as well as plants that can adapt to depleted soils. Such a revolution would also

result in hunger and poverty alleviation by making food systems locally self-sustaining, encouraging small business development, and enhancing children's educational opportunities.

The vision would have three pillars:

1. Capacity Building

- developing human resources
- technology transfer/outreach to close the gap between production capacity and potential
- investing in the research infrastructure

2. Value Chain Development

- production with emphasis on strategic food crops and regional food “baskets”
- marketing and market development, particularly for local/regional markets
- post harvest loss reduction
- product development addressing nutrition, storability, affordability

3. Economic and Community Development

- youth education
- leadership
- entrepreneurship
- retention of wealth in local communities

IV. Partnerships—Bringing It All Together and Making It Work

To address poverty and hunger in an agriculture development strategy in the context of greater private sector involvement, partnerships will be key to success. USAID and the university community should explore how best to work with the private sector to foster pro-poor outcomes that also contribute to environmental goals such as biodiversity preservation, natural resources management and conservation, carbon sequestration and water and energy-saving options. Moreover, traditional bilateral partnerships may not provide the best approaches to today's complex challenges—a more regional focus or one based on agroecosystems may offer the most creative and effective solutions. Some possible approaches include:

- A Marshall Plan for Agriculture—a Global Development Alliance for Agriculture
- Regional Clusters/Centers of Excellence for Technology Adaptation

To realize the potential of these new programs, other U.S. government approaches should be considered:

- Ag Czar at USAID to oversee structural reorganization within USAID with the goal of developing functional capacity and integrated programming; *may convene, in consultation with BIFAD, a “Blue Ribbon” Committee to oversee and advise?*
- Global Agriculture Science and Technology Initiative—an OSTP-led interagency commission?

BIFAD and the university community are ready to commit to action, and the Conference of Deans will continue to serve as a “Task Force” to keep the energy and focus on the effort. The time to act is now. The projections for population growth will require a doubling of the world food supply by 2025. The productivity improvement challenge is enormous.

Kerry Bolognese added that he just wanted to recognize Bob Easter's role and leadership in this process.

Audience Comment/Questions

Joyce Turk, Office of Agriculture commented that livestock was not mentioned in Pillar 2. She expressed that given the dependence of world on livestock, this needs to be included.

John Vreyens noted that in his role at the University of Minnesota, there has been a history of USAID being able to sign off to allow a long-term strategy. He stressed how necessary this acceptance of a long-term strategy is in moving forward.

Food Prices: The What, Who, and How of Proposed Policy Actions (John Hoddinott, Deputy Division Director, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C.)

Presentation

John Hoddinott introduced the work that IFPRI has been doing on the causes of the current food crisis and the appropriate policy actions to address the crisis.

Over the last few years we've witnessed a rise in food prices. These prices are unlikely to drop much; they are here to stay. The broad trends indicate that surge in prices in world markets are being transferred to consumers in developing countries as well.

Sources and features of price increases

He reviewed the following primary sources and features of price increases:

- 1) Energy and biofuels
- 2) Income and population growth
- 3) Slow agricultural response
- 4) Market and trade policy
- 5) Speculation and market fundamentals

1) Biofuels: Fundamental change in world food price determination

- Energy prices now affect not just agric. input prices, but also output prices strongly via biofuel-land competition
- Elastic energy demand creates price bands for agricultural commodities
(Source: Schmidhuber 2007)

Increased biofuel demand in 2000-07 contributed to 30% of weighted average increase of grain prices

2) Rising consumption

- Income growth (2005-07 per annum)
 - 9% in Asia, 6% in Africa
 - 2% in industrialized countries

- Since 2000, global cereal use for:
 - Food has increased 5%, feed has increased 8%
 - Industrial purposes has increased 38%

Future grain consumption is driven by income growth, population growth, and feed for meat and dairy production.

(Sources: FAO 2003 and 2008; IMF 2008)

- 3) World cereal production is not growing enough and the rate of productivity growth is declining.
- 4) Ad hoc trade measures by countries adding up to policy failures
 - Export restrictions:
 - Reduce global market size, increase volatility, and harm import-dependent trading partners
 - Stimulate cartel formation, undermine trust, and encourage protectionism
 - Price controls:
 - Reduce farmers' incentives to produce more food
 - Divert resources away from those who need them most
- 5) Speculation is mainly a symptom, not a major source
 - 3 main categories of speculators:
 - Governments, farmers, households, small traders
 - Commercial traders
 - Non-commercial traders
 - In Q1 of 2008, volume of globally traded grain futures & options increased by 32%
(Chicago Board of Trade)
 - Low stock levels and ill-designed policies promote speculation

Consequences

1) Increased tradeoffs in food, political, and energy risks

Food security risks lead to political security risks, resulting in more food security risks.

There have been mass protests against rising prices in more than 30 countries.

While the middle class protests and lobbies, the poorest suffer silently.

2) The negative impacts on the poor are of greater concern

- Deterioration of nutritional status of women and preschool children
- Withdrawal of children esp. girls from school
- Distress sale of productive assets and decrease of purchasing power

All have irreversible consequences and compromise future ability to escape poverty.

Proposed policy actions

Given the nature of the conditions and consequences, he proposed as policy actions:

- 1) An emergency package for immediate food assistance and availability needs, that would be implemented immediately; and
- 2) A resilience package to meet ongoing and future challenges in the food system, that would be phase in now for future impact.

Emergency package

- (1) Expand emergency response and humanitarian assistance
 - Improve preparedness for food price crisis
 - -Expand food or cash transfers targeted at the poorest
 - -Focus on early childhood nutrition, distressed regions, and school feeding
- (2) Eliminate agricultural export bans
 - Urgent international attention, outside of Doha, required
 - Ad hoc forum of global players for negotiations needed
 - Reopen export trade for humanitarian aid.
- (3) Undertake fast-impact production programs in key areas
 - Carefully subsidized short-term programs for seed, fertilizers, irrigation, electricity, and water
 - Defined and communicated exit strategies
- (4) Change biofuel policies
 - Make more grains and oilseeds available for food and feed
 - Options:
 - Freeze biofuel production at current levels
 - Reduce current biofuel production
 - Moratorium for biofuels from grains and oilseeds

Resilience package

- (1) Calm markets with
 - Market-oriented regulation of speculation
 - Shared public grain stocks
 - Strengthened food import financing
 - Reliable food aid
- (2) Invest in social protection
 - *Protective* actions to mitigate short term risks
 - *Preventive* actions to preclude long term negative consequences
 - Coordinate interventions with emergency aid

Both components of these packages are needed. The core attraction is that social protection can act to compensate for (imperfect) markets.

- (3) Scale up investments for sustained agricultural growth
 - Long term investments including spending for:

- Rural infrastructure
- Services
- Agricultural research
- Science and technology
- Innovative crop insurance mechanisms

(4) Complete the WTO Doha Round

- Even more relevant with high prices to strengthen rule-based trade
- Should be easier to lower agric. tariffs when prices are high
- An opportunity to introduce major changes in agric. negotiations

Resource mobilization to mitigate impact on the poor

- Winners: share wealth with the poorest, it is a sound investment
- Wealthy donors: expand development assistance
- Affected countries: tax progressively middle- and high-income groups
- Private sector: provide finance in rural areas, supported by public finance

Implementation of actions

- Country-driven and -owned programs
- Prioritization and sequencing crucial
- An international governance architecture of agriculture, food and nutrition needed
- Engage new players (private sector, civil society, foundations, etc.) and countries with leading roles (e.g. Brazil, China, India)

Global and regional cooperation are required, but ultimate responsibility rests at the national level.

Board Comment/Questions

John Thomas: 1) One of first slides that showed the prices of basic food commodities, wheat is the only commodity that has dropped this year. What is that attributed to?
 2) And what is the cost to developing countries to respond to this crisis?

John Hoddinott: 1) Wheat is not used for fuel, and drought have affected prices. In some agro-economical regions, depending on where you are, you can switch back and forth between corn and wheat.

2) In terms of responses in developing countries, it is important to separate between what could happen and what is happening. Some countries (e.g. Thailand) in principle has the capacity to raise production. In reality, policy response has led to uncertainty, and this not happening. In other places (e.g. Africa) the inputs are not there . There is a real need for not only basic R&D but also more advanced R&D. Is there scope for increasing? Absolutely, and in some places we know what the constraints are.

H.H. Barlow asked about 1) subsidies, and 2) who is to pay for rural infrastructure, and how is that to be implemented.

John Hoddinott: 1) Regarding the issue of subsidies: History has shown that there is some difficulty with these. The reason that we believe there is a case for subsidies is, even though food prices are at historically high levels, there is no evidence that this will lead to increased production. Farmers are uncertain, not clear if they should respond. The second part is that there are higher prices for inputs. So the trick is to create mechanisms to encourage farmers to take on a risk. This needs to be done carefully, and directed to those who will make a difference – provide small-holders with vouchers for inputs like fertilizer.

2) Regarding infrastructure: Not all infrastructure is the same. Some funding will need to come from donors, but it is not unreasonable to expect countries to pay in the long term.

Keith Eckel: 1) You mentioned innovative crop insurance programs would be important; not only with weather, but with other issues as well. How do you accomplish this?

2) Regarding the freezing of biofuel production, that seems to be a very non-market-oriented approach. Some nations have been very successful with biofuels. Wouldn't we compound the problem by freezing this?

3) Fragility of lands

John Hoddinott: 1) Regarding crop insurance – we are focusing on “innovative”. There is actually a history of crop insurance in some countries, though it has not been successful everywhere. The focus here is to think of ways to develop insurance mechanisms; there are a number of ways to do that. For example, with weather insurance, you can set up different systems within different places. If rainfall falls below this level, you will receive this much. I don't think we should banish speculators – they provide liquidity to markets and we need them. What we would like to avoid is some of the welfare-reducing practices.

2) The problem with biofuels right now is that there are all sorts of restrictions. The markets don't work freely at the moment

(He also spoke on the fragility of lands.)

Allen Christensen: Given my farming background, I am almost reluctant to ask about a strategic grain reserve, to hold prices down. Thinking about the weather this year in the mid-west, I wonder where we will be by October.

John Hoddinott: There are separate issues related to US and to developing countries. US produces far more food than it consumes. We benefit from being an agriculturally diverse country. More generally, grain reserves are different from oil reserves because grain reserves deteriorate over time. Many developing countries have experimented with strategic grain reserves, and have had many issues; for example, the financial management of those stocks have been very problematic, and corruption and misuse are issues.

Kerry Bolognese: There have been articles in the Wall Street Journal on price instability. Has IFPRI looked at the Fed's policies on pricing instabilities?

John Hoddinott: No, not a lot. The relationship of US dollar to food prices is similar to that of the US dollar and oil prices.

Audience Comments/Questions

Philip Chabot, USDA Foreign Ag Development Service: What are the lead drivers giving you the estimate of 30%? This differs from other estimates.

John Hoddinott: It appears that differences in evidence are being driven by the time horizon used, and what people are putting into their food basket to compare. The IMF global food index includes a broader basket of foods. Others are based on a shorter period.

Phil Steffan, Office of Agriculture, USAID: Regarding the comments on “Resource mobilization to mitigate impact on the poor,” who are the “Winners” with the high food prices?

John Hoddinott: One group of countries are the oil-producing countries in the Middle East. An example of one of these countries is Saudi Arabia who recently provided \$500 million to World Food Program to help out in this crisis. Arguably, the US is seen as a winner in some ways, and it may be appropriate to set up an appropriate response.

Tim Williams: What happens when you disaggregate between rural and urban areas?

John Hoddinott: The important issues are wages rising, and who is experiencing price rises and who is not.

BIFAD Directions for 2008 and 09—The “White Paper” Discussion --BIFAD’s Preliminary Recommendations to USAID

Noting the plan to get the two-to-three page document to the Administrator soon, Bob Easter asked for recommendations or comments on the White Paper.

Allen Christensen: We need to move this ahead as rapidly as possible, even if it means retaining specialized help to do so.

Bob Easter: Deanna Bering has agreed to work on the short version.

Timothy Rabon: How do we propose to present this to the Administrator?

Bob Easter: There will be a face-to-face presentation to the Administrator. She has requested recommendations regarding the food crisis.

Timothy Rabon asked if they were combining the two presentations.

Bob Easter explained that there are two separate conversations to bring to the Administrator’s attention: one is regarding engaging US universities, and the other is responding to the food crisis. The question is how to keep both moving forward.

Timothy Rabon: Clearly there is a disconnect between the Board and Senior Management/the Administrator there. We did submit recommendations at the last meeting and did not receive a

response. Now we are talking about submitting other recommendations – we need to deal with getting what is sent, resolved.

John Thomas: A letter has been drafted by the Administrator. I can't tell you why it has not been delivered yet; we need to follow up and find out what has happened to that letter.

Bob Easter: Would it be possible to arrange a meeting with her within the next month? If the Board agrees, perhaps we can ask Ron Senykoff to arrange this.

John Thomas: If you do meet, it is important to have a clear concise message – you will only have a short time.

Keith Eckel: The need is critical.

Timothy Rabon moved **that BIFAD request a face-to-face meeting with the Administrator with sufficient time to cover the issues that need to be addressed including the ones that the Administrator would like to address.**

This was seconded and passed.

Ron Senykoff: I had envisioned inviting other Assistant Administrators across the bureau when we present the White Paper.

John Grayzel (now with University of Maryland but formerly with USAID) urged BIFAD to strengthen the White Paper with clear and concise active language. He offered the following statement:

1. The World faces both new short and long-term challenge of grave proportions regarding hunger and agricultural productivity.
2. One reason this problem has arisen is that so many thought it had already been solved due to the past immense achievements in increasing world food production.
3. One reason the world so successfully achieved increased food production and reduction in hunger in the past was the accomplishment of the partnership between USAID and the Title XII Universities and associated agricultural programs in from the 1960s-1980's; a partnership that was one of the most successful in the history of development.
4. BIFAD is committed to doing all it can to restore this partnership in a way appropriate to meeting the new crises in world agriculture.
5. We ask USAID to confirm its similar commitment to restoration of its full partnership with the Title XII universities so as to unleash the full potential that has unfortunately been so severely constrained in the past two decades.

6. If USAID is so committed we recommend there be established as soon as possible a USAID - BIFAD Task force to design a new program of collaboration.
7. To successfully establish such a new partnership, each party must bring to the table the maximum that it feels it can in good faith offer; and neither should get up from that table until a successful proposal for a new era of USAID-Title XII relation is mutually developed that fully reflects agreed-upon program principles and practices sufficient to meet both immediate needs, and those of the foreseeable future.
8. We look forward to a rapid, positive and powerful response in both words and actions from USAID, equal in imagination and determination to the historic challenge before us.

The Board then adjourned for a closed Executive Board meeting over lunch.

SWEARING IN NEW BIFAD MEMBER (JAMES KUNDER, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, USAID)

James Kunder, USAID Deputy Administrator thanked BIFAD for the members' time and for the work they have done, and stated that he and others at USAID were looking forward with enthusiasm to the recommendations. He then swore in Keith Eckel as the newest Board member, and presented a USAID pin and token of appreciation for joining the Board.

OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES: BIFAD COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

CRSP Funding—Update (John Thomas, EGAT/AG Director, USAID)

In regards to funding for CRSP this year, we had prepared a letter to send out to all CRSP directors this year to discuss earmarks, but it has not been sent out because EGAT funding has not been finalized. However, all the CRSP directors have been contacted about the budget plan and the allocations for their programs.

This year we have the earmark for the CRSP program which states “of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than 28 million (-1%) will be made for CRSP program”. We will stay in compliance with this earmark. This includes ongoing CRSPs, plus two new CRSPs, some work on new ones and some management costs. Our first commitment is to fund ongoing CRSPs up to their ceiling amounts. We will do whatever we can to make sure that those ceilings will be met.

The IPM and SANREM CRSPs are coming up to their first five years; they will receive funding for their full amounts. The Global Livestock CRSP is being extended for one year, with additional funds. At the last meeting, BIFAD made a recommendation that we forward fund each of the CRSPs, so we're doing that.

Forward funding is like paying the mortgage in advance. In a situation of budget volatility, it reduces some of the risk, and provides some security. It does not mean that they will not receive money next year – there will be more funds obligated next year. There are \$20.7 million dollars for the ongoing CRSPs.

The House report indicated that these should include a wider variety, so we developed two new CRSPs, one on horticulture and one on livestock. We plan to issue RFAs late summer.

So in addition to the core CRSP funding, we are going to carry out an assessment on water, to design a new CRSP on water, and look at a possible design of a new CRSP on nutrition. We will also issue Associate awards, as an opportunity to channel expertise into new emerging issues. These Associate awards will go to two ongoing CRSPs. The remaining funds available will be used to fund USAID staff who assist with CRSP implementation – that is about 4-5% of the total CRSP earmark. USAID is using our program funds to cover our staff this year because of the shortfall in funding. That is the situation for how this year's funding will be allocated towards the CRSPs.

Comments/Questions

Bob Easter asked for clarification on forward funding. John Thomas stated that every year USAID allocates new funding. That is money put into the bank for the CRSPs to use. Lynn Heron further explained forward funding as a way of having money in the bank, to cover unexpected budget changes.

Tim Williams stated that BIFAD has in the past said that the amount of money that they are putting out – \$15.4 million per year – is not enough to run effective CRSPs. In the case of his CRSP, he felt that they are being particularly badly treated, because they will run out. He explained that they are fully funded for just the first 3 years now, in part because last year they took on additional activities based on the fact that they would be receiving more money – and now they are being told that this is part of their future funding.

John Thomas stated that they will be fully funded up to their ceiling.

Timothy Rabon asked why forward fund the CRSP – where did that money come from, if the budget is insufficient already?

John Thomas explained that up until this year, there was \$23 million to go to CRSPs; now there is a \$28 million earmark. USAID has to utilize this money.

Montague Demment stated that two years ago, CRSP budgets were going to be cut from \$22 million to \$19 million, and RFAs were put out based on this. BIFAD had recommended \$3 million annual ceiling on CRSPs. But USAID stuck with a \$2 million ceiling – and yet USAID has \$28 million. He asked what is the budget for next year?

John Thomas said that they did not know. There is likely going to be continuing resolution.

Montague Demment asked why it was so hard to raise the ceiling, to fund them.

John Thomas stated that this has to be done strategically. If they get another \$28 million, then they need to decide now.

Montague Demment asked if he has discussed this with BIFAD. Noting that this forward funding is a bureaucratic maneuver, he suggested that it would be good to sit down with BIFAD about this.

John Thomas emphasized that they need to look at how this money is used strategically.

Bob Easter asked the Board if they now have a sense of this issue.

Allen Christensen asked that if something is forward funded and there is no budget next year, is this a way of trying to provide this as a hedge.

John Thomas said yes.

Allen Christensen asked that if there is money budgeted, will it be budgeted based on the current program.

Bob Easter noted that the issue is that the CRSPs have an expectation that the money could be used for additional programs.

Montague Demment agreed that that was the anticipation. The CRSPs that were funded at the low level are now stuck. He emphasized that there needs to be a partnership here.

John Thomas stated that USAID needs to know that they are still putting the money into priority research.

Montague Demment stated that if they want to engage the CRSP directors in that conversation, that they would be more than happy to do so, but they have not been engaged into this.

Bob Easter asked for the next question from the audience.

DeeVon Bailey of Utah State University expressed concern about how the assessments will be done regarding the water CRSP, stating that there should be a broader assessment done. He asked how this assessment will be done, where they were in that, and how they will ensure that there is broad based input into the assessment.

John Thomas explained that this assessment will be done through an IQC to recruit a team to carry out an assessment, which will inform the design, areas of research, and opportunities where the universities can make the greatest contribution. He noted that when the SOW is fully drafted, they will share that with BIFAD.

Tim Williams commented on the assessment for the Livestock CRSP.

At the request of David Hansen of Ohio State University, John Thomas provided an update on budget implications for other programs run out of the Agriculture office.

Allen Christensen stated he was not sure how these teams are chosen to do these assessments. One of the things he has heard repeatedly is there is not the expertise within the agency. If we choose expertise from places like Utah State USAID will have better information and acceptance of that information.

John Thomas clarified that the teams were not agency personnel.

Allen Christensen emphasized the need is for greater collaboration with the universities.

SPARE Committee Support to BIFAD—Update on SPARE Actions (Robert L. Paarlberg, Professor of Political Science, Wellesley College)

Bob Paarlberg presented six items from the SPARE meeting held on May 15th.

1. Understanding that the time is short, SPARE would like to volunteer to participate in drafting the White Paper however it can. The contact on this is Ray Miller – let him know if assistance is requested.
2. SPARE appreciated hearing Deborah Rubin present her report on Title XII at its meeting. SPARE expressed strong support of the role of BIFAD as described in report, and stands ready to form or join a committee to help carry out recommendations.
3. Harriet Paul and Sue Schram reviewed the SPARE charter. SPARE’s conclusions were that the charter is fundamentally sound. They noted two issues of representation: that SPARE needs fuller USAID representation at its meeting, and membership would be enhanced by adding a representative from the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA).
4. Ray Miller led a review of the use of the mechanism of CRSP LWA awards. They found that the data was not complete; turned up no conclusive evidence of increased buy-ins. There were some contrasting impressions, and that it was still too early to know the impact. There was some support for going back to grant structure. They recommended a more complete review.
5. John Rifembark reported on the draft CRSP guidelines. SPARE held a discussion that underscored the value of having these guidelines and reaffirmed that it would be BIFAD’s role to reaffirm the guidelines, but felt that SPARE would contribute its recommendations based on further review. SPARE will now solicit and receive further comments on the guidelines.
6. Regarding the extensions of the IPM and SANREM CRSPs, members of SPARE received the latest external evaluations of these CRSPs just before the SPARE meeting. There were different opinions about SPARE’s role in reviewing these evaluations. Several members volunteered to look more carefully at this. They have just recommended preparing the continuation paperwork.

Some members of SPARE are hoping for a larger role in considering priorities for BIFAD, and suggested that having a one-year work plan would provide clearer guidance on their role.

Bob Easter responded to each point, and requested that SPARE provide text for membership changes.

USAID’s Horticulture CRSP-Progress on Design and RFA (Jeffery Lee, EGAT/AG Chief, Agribusiness & Markets Division, USAID; and George Wilson, EGAT/AG & Horticultural Professor, North Carolina State University)

Presentation

Jeffery Lee reviewed comments on the first draft of the Horticulture CRSP concept paper that was presented at the last meeting. There were six basic issues raised in the paper:

- 1. The draft concept paper selected four of the eight constraints identified in the Global Horticulture Assessment (GHA).** The response was to suggest that CRSP plans address any

of the constraints described in the GHA that would help move program forward, and that the USAID goal for the Horticulture CRSP is to improve small farmer livelihoods.

2. The Horticulture CRSP described in the draft concept paper, although a good program, does not contain a research focus sufficient to create new knowledge. Jeffery Lee noted that they have gone to some length to define clearly how they would do that. They are also encouraging multi-disciplinary proposals that involved different departments across the university, to encourage a more holistic approach to how they respond to a particular horticulture problem. They want to expand collaboration between US universities and host country universities, and to encourage and emphasize that the universities here are involved in the exchange of information, so that anyone involved will be able to strengthen programs here as well as overseas.

3. Horticulture CRSP Management (M.E. vs. consortium, one-step vs. two-step procurement, the nature/use/flexibility of the Leader With Associates (LWA) mechanism), and cooperative agreements vs. CRSP Guidelines. Jeffery Lee addressed concerns about the management of the CRSP, noting the emphasis on having a more user-friendly management entity, and noting how management issues would be handled through the LWA mechanism.

4. The standing (Draft) CRSP Guidelines: Involvement of SPARE and BIFAD in the design, management or review committees. USAID will inform SPARE, BIFAD, and the U.S. Title XII university community of progress in elaborating the Horticulture CRSP concept and request input prior to drafting the RFA. Their guidance will complement the 2005 CRSP Guidelines. Jeffery Lee noted that as of June 6th they were still waiting for comments back from the university community. They were hopeful that those who wish to communicate with them will do so by the end of the month. While they were waiting for any further comments, they began working on the RFA. He was proposing that proposals be submitted to USAID in October. Funding for this will be for 2009, with an award probably in November.

5. Direct benefits to the U.S. and U.S. universities (per Title XII legislation). Jeffery Lee described numerous direct and indirect benefits to both the U.S. University and business communities.

6. Capacity building in host country institutions vs. capacity building of internationals on U.S. campuses. Host country horticultural capacity building is encouraged. U.S. Title XII university horticulturalists are encouraged to develop programs through the Horticulture CRSP for mentoring of colleagues in host country institutions, coupled with activities at U.S. Title XII universities such as faculty exchanges and long term (graduate degree) training. Distance learning platforms were also encouraged.

Jeffrey Lee reported that the RFA is basically done, and that they hoped that by the end of June they will have an approved USAID program.

George Wilson added that they have been very pleased with comments on this revised version. As mentioned earlier, the Global Horticultural Assessment served as an instrument that organizations are using. In July, they will be meeting at the American Society for Horticulture

Science conference. There is a half-day program on the Horticultural CRSP, and it will be an opportunity to listen to the people who will be creating the alliances to compete for this CRSP. George Wilson added that they are pleased to have created a product that has received a lot of attention. They will be careful about what they say of course, because they are in the procurement process.

Board Comments/Questions

Allen Christensen: At the meeting in February, there has been concern over Management Entities dropping organizations (subcontractors) after awarded – organizations that were key to the acceptance of the proposal.

Jeffery Lee: We wanted to address this key issues. In the RFA we have a whole section that includes selection criteria, which addresses this. After the RFA is issued, there will be a bidders' conference. We went this way because we are seeking to be open and transparent. We want the final product to be something that we all created.

Tim Williams: Regarding the issue of funding for this, what is the vision for the ceiling?

Jeffery Lee: I cannot say; this will be in the RFA.

Tim Williams: My concern is that it is at an appropriate level to avoid misunderstanding about level of activity. I would like to suggest that you go back to an old mechanism where there were three different provisional funding levels.

Jeffery Lee: There will be a figure for core funding, and a quite attractive figure for buy-ins.

Tim Williams stressed being generous in the ceiling, and avoiding fixed and limited ceilings.

DeeVon Bailey: The assessment done for the GHA was outstanding and should be used as a model; USAID should seek that kind of input.

George Wilson: We have been talking about the world food crisis – this is not the single solution but can be part of the solution.

William DeLauder: Make sure that we have sufficient funding to achieve these ambitions.

George Wilson: It is important that we have a partner coming from the CGIARs.

Bob Easter commended Jeffery Lee and George Wilson on their work on this.

Open Discussion: Topics for Next Meeting

Renewal of BIFAD Charter

Bob Easter noted that the charter for BIFAD ends September 27th. He proposed that BIFAD members review this in the next few days, interact by email, and have a conference call to finalize the charter.

John Richenbark reviewed the process for doing this. After agreement between BIFAD, it then goes to USAID and is signed by the Administrator; it then goes to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Timothy Rabon asked if there was any way to determine the time frame for the process.

Ron Senykoff noted Article 5 of the charter and commented on reporting of BIFAD. He suggested looking at that and some similar charters, and checking with general counsel, noting that it was a regular bureaucratic process.

Bob Easter asked if July 15th would work as a date by which this could be done.

Ron Senykoff outlined the steps needed.

Resolution on John Thomas

Allen Christensen noted that John Thomas has announced that he is going to retire. **The following motion was seconded and passed.**

“Whereas John Thomas is widely respected for an illustrious and dedicated career of service to the U.S. Agency for International Development and the American people,

Whereas John Thomas has served tirelessly in USAID Missions and Washington to advance the foreign assistance goals of the United States,

Whereas John Thomas in his capacity at USAID has worked faithfully to improve the lives of impoverished people around the world,

Whereas John Thomas has unflinchingly exhibited the true spirit of generosity and compassion of the American people,

Whereas the work of John Thomas has resulted in a positive image of the United States and its bedrock principles of liberty, democratic governance, free markets, and respect for the individual,

Whereas John Thomas has served BIFAD and SPARE with distinction on issues related of international food and agriculture,

Whereas John Thomas retained the trust and confidence of the university and Title XII community, and is considered a valued partner in advancing mutual development goals,

Whereas John Thomas managed the Office of Agriculture with the highest professionalism, effectiveness and success amidst difficult challenges,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that BIFAD extends to John Thomas its utmost appreciation for all the outstanding work he has done over his career on behalf of the Title XII community, and the American people.”

Other Topics

Allen Christensen suggested that, given what he has heard the last day or so, and in connection with the Administrator’s interest in feedback from BIFAD, one thing for BIFAD to do early on is to identify what BIFAD has tried to do for her and her response.

William DeLauder requested a comprehensive update on the long-term training program.

Tim Williams suggested that the CRSPs make an offer of what they can do at this time [related to the food crisis], which can go up to the Administrator. He also suggested some discussion around a new CRSP model, noting that this is actually a very effective model for how the universities can contribute – the opportunities to have national CRSPs, in response to a nation’s research requirements.

Lynn Heron: On a substantive note, one thing that is re-emerging in the Agency is the issue of impact evaluation. The F Bureau and others are talking about re-constituting an emphasis on impact evaluation, and a number of agencies are talking about not doing enough impact evaluation. It seems the university community is well positioned to help think about how to do that and help do that better.

Timothy Rabon asked if there was any chance of trying to do a meeting a day ahead of time as a work session for the Des Moines meeting. He also suggested a brief orientation on what members’ duties are and what are the expectations on them, as possibly a training session before the meeting.

H.H. Barlow stated that he would like to engage private industry in the meeting at least as an observer, to get them aware of what BIFAD is trying to do – find a way to invite those people to these meetings. Bob Easter said he would work on making that happen.

Bob Easter stated that the next meeting will be at the World Food Prize event.

There was a motion to adjourn, which was then seconded.