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USAID  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



March  
2015

Over the past two months the Office of International Programs in Agriculture, the OSU Management Entity, and the Project Management Unit in Morogoro iAGRI have continued to support implementation of the iAGRI Program consistent with its Annual Work Plan. This has included support for the iAGRI degree training program which has or continues to provide training to over 125 future Tanzania agricultural researchers and educators, support for the iAGRI collaborative research program which focuses on applied research addressing food security constraints, and support for creating an enabling environment at SUA for its staff to effectively contribute to development of the Tanzanian agricultural sector and to alleviate persistent food insecurity. Thanks to all of you who contribute to the iAGRI effort.

### Update on Activities January-February, 2015

**iAGRI Student Degree Training Update** - The OSU Management Entity and the PMU continued to monitor progress of students currently undertaking degree training programs under iAGRI. Ph.D. students placed under Cohort II continue to make progress with their formal classroom training, completing qualifying exams, and conduct of their dissertation research. Several were in Tanzania over the past two months working on dissertation field research together with their research supervisors. M.S. students from Cohort III have all returned to Tanzania and are currently working on their respective thesis research. We anticipate that many of them will graduate by the end of summer, 2015. Cohort IV students continue their studies in the U.S., at SUA, in India and at sub-Saharan Africa RUFORUM member institutions. Cohort IV student placements are summarized below:

OSUC Member Institutions ( U.S.)	23
Sokoine University of Agriculture	11
RUFORUM Member Institutions	10
Punjab Agricultural University	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

We are in the process of placing 12 additional students under Cohort V. Several deferred admission as members of Cohort IV. Through these additional placements iAGRI will meet its gender parity goal of 50% female placements under the program. These students will be placed at OSUC and sub-Saharan institutions. We project a total of 138 long-term degree recipients under the program, thus contributing to the manpower development for the agricultural sector of Tanzania. Thus far, 35 students from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives have been trained as have students from Sokoine University of Agriculture.

**Student Award:** Congratulations to Frida Nyamete, iAGRI student trained at Michigan State, for having received an AWARD fellowship!

**iAGRI Collaborative Research Program** – Both phases of the iAGRI Collaborative Research Program received considerable attention during the past two months. PI's for Phase I projects participated in a workshop on the SUA campus in mid-January. They presented preliminary results from their research, discussed activities to be undertaken during the next six months, and discussed how they will disseminate the findings of their research. The workshop was well attended by researchers from SUA, MAFC and OSU partner institutions. Seven Co-PI's from OSUC partner institutions were in attendance. Together with their MAFC and SUA counterparts they used this opportunity to chart out additional collaborative activities to be undertaken in 2015. Presentations were made on the following projects:

**Nyambiblia Amuri**, SUA: "Improving Agricultural Productivity and Crop Nutritive Quality through a Gender Sensitive Approach to Cereal and Vegetable Production in Tanzania"

**Carlene Chase**, OSUC: "Improvement of Tomato Productivity and Quality in Tanzania through Reduction of Adverse Effects of Biotic and Abiotic Stresses"

**Sophia Kashenge-Killenga**, MAFC: "Integrated Salt Affected Soil Management Options for Sustainable Rice Productivity in Irrigation Schemes of Tanzania"

**Didas Kimaro**, SUA: "Agricultural Innovation for Smallholder Farmers through Locally Adapted Conservation Agriculture for Improved Food Security in the Context of Climate Change"

**Joyce Kinabo**, SUA: "From Soil Elements to Food Nutrients: Improving the Nutrient Content of Foods for Human Consumption through Agriculture"

**Sally Miller**, OSUC: "Improved Soil Health and Germplasm to Advance Tomato Production in Tanzania"

**Andrew Tarimo**, SUA: "Promotion of Low-Cost Drip Irrigation Technology for Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Livelihoods of Small-Scale Farmers in Semi-Arid Areas of Tanzania"

**Rafael Wambura**, SUA: "Assessment of Extension Service Delivery for Maize Production in Morogoro and Dodoma Regions Using an Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) Approach"

**Student Award:** Congratulations to Anna Testen, OSU graduate student who participated in the Tomato Production project led by Sally Miller. She won 1<sup>st</sup> Place for her oral presentation at the OSU Hayes Research Forum. Anna was a recipient of a Borlaug fellowship for her research.

Progress was also made on Phase II of this program.

**Maize Production:** Research focusing on maize lethal necrosis, striga, and drought resistance was initiated by the Michocheni Research Institute and Iowa State University. Subcontracts have been established with each of them to facilitate disbursement of funds.

**Agricultural Risk Management and Climate Change:** This project, evaluating weather indexing and crop insurance, will involve Syngenta through its ACRE program and the World Bank, in addition to Ohio State and SUA researchers.

**Climate Change and Watershed Management:** Negotiations proceed on a proposal received from SUA and Virginia Tech that would develop models designed to evaluate the impacts of long-term climate change on hydrology and soil quality in the Wami/Ruvu watershed.

**Rice Marketing Policy:** Discussion continues with SERA, an FtF agricultural policy project in Tanzania, and Ohio State and SUA researchers on development of further rice marketing policy research.

**Capacity Building** – The PMU continued to mobilize resources to support undertaking of 21 organizational experiments designed to strengthen the capacity of SUA to position itself as a lead African university of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Significant activity during the past two months included:

**Kenya Resource Mobilization Study Tour** – A SUA delegation, led by the new Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, visited three universities in Kenya in January to study how they are addressing changing needs for resource mobilization beyond those provided by their government. Many innovative ways to generate resources were evaluated and the team, consisting of six SUA leaders and several PMU staff, will continue to work on implementation of similar innovations at SUA.

**Innovation Portfolio** – A contract was signed between MEDA and SUA to produce more drought tolerant varieties of cassava. Several related projects with MEDA are being negotiated. Substantial interest in the innovation portfolio is evidenced by other expressions of interest in project opportunities found on the iAGRI website and the number of visits made to the portfolio.

**Website consultants** – The PMU undertook a search for a consultant to work with SUA to upgrade its website. This person has been identified and a contract prepared for his services. A consultant has also been identified to work with iAGRI on revamping its website.

**Leadership Training** – Several additional leadership webinars for iAGRI students were initiated during this period. They include a repeat of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People to which 30 students have subscribed, and the initiation of a new series based on The leadership Challenge by Kouzes and Posner. Twenty-five students are taking the latter course. These webinars have been produced by the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education and Leadership at Ohio State. The PMU continues to hold mini-workshops on leadership for mid-level leaders at SUA, including deans and directors of centers and institutes. These workshops focus on organizational management and change.

**Quality Management Training Program** – iAGRI has sub-contracted with Kilimanjaro International (KI) through the ME to undertake a training program designed to address management concerns raised by Deloitte during an audit of SUA sponsored by USAID. An inception, held in February, was well received by SUA leaders. KI has placed a long-term person at SUA to manage the training activities which are to ensue, activities that will include implementation of alternative practices.

**Horticulture Demonstration Facility** – The demonstration facility resulted from an agreement signed by the Tanzanian Horticulture Association, TAPP, and SUA, to provide training to horticulture producers. This facility includes a variety of commonly grown crops under drip irrigation. TAPP and USAID officials visited the facility to discuss how to amplify its utilization as a training mechanism.

**Climate Change Conferences** – Progress continues to be made in preparing for a second major conference on climate change titled, “Climate Change and Multi-Dimensional Sustainability in African Agriculture.” It will be held in June 2015 at SUA under the auspices of iAGRI, with participation by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and FAO/Rome. A book resulting from the previous conference and released by Springer-Netherlands, Sustainable Intensification to Advance Food Security and Enhance Climate Resilience in Africa, is being shared with major libraries throughout sub-Saharan Africa.