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**September
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iAGRI has continued to pursue its priority objectives over the past two months. These include long-term degree training, collaborative research, SUA capacity building, and Global South linkages. Several highlights include graduation of the first iAGRI-sponsored Ph.D. fellow, SUA restructuring events focused on the Faculty of Agriculture, efforts to promote income generation and private sector linkages, and an annual project review and work plan preparation exercise. Oversight of collaborative research efforts was also prioritized. Several project related research publications were completed during the period. And progress continues to be made with on-going organizational experiments that represent the iAGRI organizational transformation thrust at SUA. Support received from the USAID Mission in Tanzania and from USAID/Washington for these activities continues to be critical to project success and is much appreciated.

Update on Activities July-August, 2015

Long Term Training – The rate iAGRI fellow graduations has increased substantially this summer as several holdover Cohort II students placed at SUA and at RUFORUM member institutions have completed their programs and several students from OSUC placed Cohort III also completed their programs. Of the 136 graduate degree students placed under the program, 36 (26%) have now graduated and are resident in Tanzania.

	Cohort I		Cohort II		Cohort III	
	Placed	Completed	Placed	Completed	Placed	Completed
OSUC	6	6	27	14	10	6
SUA	---	---	10	4	4	---
RUFORUM	---	---	9	5	10	---
Punjab Ag Un	---	---	---	---	2	2
Total	6	6	46	23	26	8

These figures include Dr. Boniface Massawe, who is the first iAGRI-funded Ph.D. student to complete his degree. He is back with the Soil Department at SUA. Remaining PhD. Students from Cohort II are on track to complete their degrees by August, 2016. Remaining M.Sc. students from Cohorts II, III and IV continue to pursue their thesis research in Tanzania. Four Cohort IV students placed in India have initiated their thesis research in that nation. Twelve students in Cohort V have or will soon initiate their studies. They include two new Ph.D. students placed in the U.S. and one placed in South Africa, and nine M.Sc. students, two of whom have been placed in the U.S., five at SUA and two by RUFORUM at its member institutions.

The iAGRI project was made possible by the United State Agency for International Development (USAID) with support from the American people. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government. iAGRI, a major Feed the Future initiative in Tanzania managed by The Ohio State University, seeks to prepare the next generation of agricultural scientists,

iAGRI Collaborative Research Program – Research being conducted under Phase I continues to progress satisfactorily. Although officially scheduled to terminate in June, 2015, all PI's requested extensions in order to complete their activities. Over the past two months they have focused their attention on preparation of manuscripts and outreach publications from the research. The latter will be used to disseminate research results to farmers and other potential stakeholders in Tanzania. Prosper Doamekpor, Tuskegee University, was in Morogoro during August to work with counterparts on their research of the Tanzanian agricultural extension system. Research projects under Phase II of the Collaborative Research Program also continue on track. They are summarized below.

- **Maize** – Researchers at Iowa State University and the Mikocheni Research Institute and SUA have conducted research designed to address major maize production issues, namely maize lethal necrosis, striga and moisture stress tolerance. Over the past two months they have collaborated with CIMMYT and its scientists located in Nairobi, Kenya as well as scientists working on the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project, managed by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation. Research at Iowa State has focused on development of maize varieties that are tolerant to these stresses while research at Mikocheni has also focused on field testing of different maize varieties and development of management practices that increase tolerance levels.
- **Land Use** - This project partners Virginia Tech researchers with those at SUA and The Tanzanian Ministry of Water. It focuses on the Upper Ruvu River Basin and will assess land use and climate change impacts on sustainable intensification of agricultural production in the region. The PI from Virginia Tech visited Morogoro in August to continue to develop related field studies.
- **Agricultural Risk Management** - This project focuses on agricultural risk management in the context of climate change. It is focused on how to provide crop insurance to Tanzanian smallholders through index insured group credit. This project was recently approved and is now being implemented. Plans are for several staff from Ohio State University to visit Tanzania in September to initiate the field portion of the project..
- **Rice** - A project dealing with seasonal fluctuations in rice consumption patterns and rice nutrition is being implemented with SERA and SUA utilizing SERA funding. The iAGRI team continues to discuss with SERA the implementation of a land access study involving agricultural economists at SUA and counterparts from Michigan State University.

Quality Management Training Program – A major quality management training exercise for SUA staff was completed in July. Offered by Kilimanjaro International it focused on improving accounting, asset management, auditing, human resource management, procurement, and project management functions at SUA. Participation in this exercise was high with over 80 percent of eligible SUA staff having been engaged. Attention during July was focused on how to implement recommended improved practices. Consideration is now being given to extending the program to allow Kilimanjaro International to monitor implementation of improved practices.

Visits by Student Advisors to Tanzania – Several iAGRI-sponsored graduate students, who are pursuing their degrees at OSUC member institutions, were visited by their home institution advisors during this period. In addition to working with their advisees on their respective research projects, most presented seminars to target groups on campus and one of them participated in a student thesis defense.

- **Prof. Gireesh Rajashekara**, Ohio State University, was on the SUA campus in July to work with Ph.D. student, Isaac Kashoma, who is pursuing a sandwich degree at SUA in Veterinary Medicine. Kashoma previously spent time on the OSU campus taking courses in Veterinary and Preventative Medicine and working with the Food and Animal Health Research Program at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, Ohio.

- **Prof. Kathleen Alexander**, Virginia Tech, visited SUA in June. She worked with student Kuruthumu Mwamende and co-advisor R.H. Makundi on field dissertation research. She also presented a seminar, “Drivers of Disease Emergence at the Human-Wildlife-Environmental Interface.”
- **Prof. Won Son**, Michigan State University, worked with student Saidah Bakar and co-advisor Prof. C.N.M. Nyaruhucha, Food Science & Technology, on her M.Sc. thesis research. While on campus he also presented a seminar,
- **Prof. Gale Strasburg**, Michigan State University, worked with student Juma Mmongoyo, on his Ph.D. dissertation research. He was assisted in these activities by Dr. Jovin Mugula, who is Juma’s co-supervisor. Dr. Mugula had visited Michigan State University in June to advise Mr. Mmongoyo on the dissertation.
- **Prof. Kokoasse Kpombrekou-A**, Tuskegee University, visited Tanzania to advise Ph.D. student Mawazo Shitinde and his co-advisor, Johnson Semoka, on Shitinde’s dissertation research. The majority of his in-country time was spent in Babati where the research is being conducted.
- **Prof. Parameswaran Kumar Mallikarjunan**, Virginia Tech, visited the SUA campus in August to participate in the M.Sc. thesis defense of Denis Kiobia, Agricultural Engineering.

SUA Restructuring Initiative – iAGRI continued to collaborate with SUA on implementation of its restructuring process. Following up on a visit to Makerere University to observe and discuss restructuring of its Faculty of Agriculture, iAGRI has provided additional support to the process through its Kilimanjaro International sub-agreement. This has included high level consultancy inputs from the U.S. In August, it supported an important stakeholder meeting in Dar es Salaam attended by over 70 interested alumni and other invested parties. It received important feedback from this meeting regarding the needs of private and public sectors stakeholders and how SUA can better position itself to meet them. Current plans are to create a separate School of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness independent of the Faculty of Agriculture. Consideration is also being given to creating a separate Social Sciences unit which would combine centers and institutes currently affiliated with the Faculty of Agriculture. Plans are to present a draft restructuring proposal to University Senate at its next meeting.

ME Training Coordinator Visit to PMU - Wendi Howell, visited the PMU, July 24 – 31, to interact with the iAGRI training team. While there she met with members of the PMU staff. She discussed the current status of iAGRI student programs, including proposals and research expenditures, degree completion dates, communication procedures and policies related to student training worked with Emmanuel Rwambali and Lucy Chove, PMU training coordinators. She also participated in a major PMU staff retreat.

iAGRI Project Annual Review and Annual Work Plan Preparation - ME Project Director Mark Erbaugh and Project Coordinator David Hansen visited the PMU August 16 -22 to review activities undertaken during the past year, discuss the iAGRI plan of work for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, and preparation of the next annual report. They also participated in a SUA Leadership Forum organized by the iAGRI team and a workshop presentation by consultants James Zuiches and John Massoy related to stakeholder inputs to the SUA restructuring process.

SUA Study Tours to Counterpart Institutions – iAGRI sponsored a study tour to three Kenyan Universities in August. Participants included key SUA administrators, members of the University Council and iAGRI support staff. Among the issues emphasized in this tour were alternative income generation possibilities for SUA and how to link more proactively with private sector entities as key stakeholders. The study tour resulted in a report which will guide future initiative on the SUA campus related to these key issues.

Crop Science and Production Departmental Review – **Crop Science and Production Departmental Review** – Two consultants from Ohio State University Drs. John Cardina and Matthew Kleinhenz visited SUA during this period. They worked with the leadership of this key department to provide guidance on its restructuring effort and to define issues

that need to be addressed in order for the department to establish strong and more productive ties with stakeholders and to generate additional income. A report was submitted to the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and the department and will be used as guidance by it as it refines its teaching, research and outreach activities.

Graduate Student Placement at SUA – Eric Stein, M.Sc. candidate, Soil Science at Ohio State University, initiated an internship at SUA with Prof. Didas Kimaro. Eric is the advisee of Prof. Rattan Lal and is pursuing field research for his degree while at SUA. This will include collaboration with a research project involving both Lal and Kimaro. Support for Stein’s internship is being provided by the Office of International Programs in Agriculture at OSU.