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The past two months marked initiation of the 5<sup>th</sup> full fiscal year of iAGRI. Over this period, iAGRI continued to focus on achieving its overall project objectives. It focused on long-term degree training activities, collaborative research, and capacity building at SUA. Major attention was dedicated to helping Cohort IV students initiate their field research in Tanzania and Cohort V students initiate their programs in the U.S. and in sub-Saharan Africa. Continued support was provided to iAGRI-funded collaborative research programs. And the Project Management Unit in Morogoro continued to work closely with SUA administration and staff to build long-term institutional capacity to respond to Tanzanian food security needs. This includes support for multiple on-going organizational experiments on the SUA campus. Support received from the USAID Mission in Tanzania and from USAID/Washington for these activities is greatly appreciated.

### Update on Activities September-October, 2015

**Long Term Training** – As of October 2015, iAGRI has placed 137 students in graduate degree programs at U.S. institutions, at RUFORUM member institutions in sub-Saharan Africa, and at the Punjab Agricultural University in India. As of present, 36 MS students

	Cohort I		Cohort II		Cohort III		Cohort IV		Cohort V		Total	
	MS	PhD	MS	PhD	MS	PhD	MS	PhD	MS	PhD	MS	PhD
<b>OSUC</b>	6	---	13	15	10	---	23	---	2	2	54	17
<b>SUA</b>	---	---	8	2	4	---	8	2	5	---	25	4
<b>RUFORUM</b>	---	---	8	---	10	---	10	---	2	1	32	1
<b>Punjab Ag Un</b>	---	---	---	---	2	---	4	---	---	---	6	---
<b>Total</b>	6	---	29	17	26	---	45	2	9	3	115	22

and 1 PhD student have completed their studies. Theses of many students placed in sub-Saharan Africa are currently being reviewed by external examiners. iAGRI has placed two more students than originally called for in the project cooperative agreement. These professionals will represent a new wave of leadership for Tanzania's agricultural sector over the coming decades. Most will continue to return to SUA and to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, as well as to local government positions and to NGOs. Over 50% of those placed have been women, thus strengthening the role of women in the future of the agricultural sector. Over the coming year, up to 70 MS candidates and 17 PhD candidates are expected to complete their programs and return to Tanzania.

**Status of Cohorts II - V** – PMU staff in Morogoro and ME staff in Columbus continue to monitor the progress being made by iAGRI-funded students. They are in constant communication with RUFORUM staff members who are closely monitoring the progress being made by students placed by RUFORUM through its iAGRI sub-agreement. M.S. students from Cohort IV attended a one day workshop on field research planning and management at the PMU upon return to Tanzania and are moving forward with their field research. Ph.D. candidates are at different stages of their dissertation completion. All but two of the cohort II-IV placements are expected to graduate by the end of Summer, 2016. They continue to work closely with their advisors and co-supervisors on their research.

**iAGRI Collaborative Research Program** – Research being undertaken by PIs of Phase I projects continues to progress satisfactorily. We anticipate that most of these projects will formally come to an end at the end of this calendar year. For this reason, these participants have tended to focus their attention on preparation of manuscripts and outreach publications from the research. The latter represent attempts to disseminate research results to farmers and other potential stakeholders in Tanzania. Progress also continues to be made on research funded under Phase II of this program. This research focuses on maize production, climate change and agricultural risk management, land use and climate change impacts on sustainable agricultural intensification, food demand in Tanzania, and land access policy issues.

**Staff Changes** – A Leland Hunger Fellow recently joined the iAGRI staff in Morogoro. **Michelle Defreese** will be with the Project Management Unit for the coming 12 months after which she will spend a year with APLU in Washington, D.C. working on higher education development policy issues. She succeeds Samantha Alvis, who is currently at APLU. Welcome to Michelle! **Leah Mwainyekule**, PMU Communications Manager, has announced that she will be leaving the project at the end of November. Leah has been a very important member of the PMU, having maintained good communication with national press outlets in Tanzania, having served as an interface with USAID/Tanzania on communication matters, and having contributed to major improvements in the iAGRI website. She will be greatly missed by the iAGRI team.

**iAGRI Graduate Networking** – Wendi Howell, ME Training Coordinator, has initiated a LinkedIn group to which all past and present iAGRI-funded students have been invited to join. The purpose of this network is to facilitate continued linkages among these students as they complete their degree programs and move on to professional areas of responsibility in Tanzania. iAGRI will utilize this network to continue to provide support for its members, including updates on project activities and discussion of opportunities for continued professional growth and advancement. The group currently approximates 100 members with the goal of including all 137 students. Papias Binagwa (cohort III) and Respikius Gabagambi (cohort I) will be the first managers of the LinkedIn group through March.

**Short Courses** – A number of short courses were offered to SUA staff and graduate students during the past two months. These activities are coordinated by the iAGRI training team consisting of staff from the Project Management Unit and the Management Entity at Ohio State University.

<u>Short Course Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Facilitators</u>	<u># Participants</u>
Cohort IV Student Field Research Orientation	9/16	Emmanuel Rwambali Lucy Chove	40
Technology Field Testing	9/17-18	Luseko Chilangane	40
Agribusiness Plan Development	9/22-23	David Hahn Jeremiah Makindara	25
Broiler Production Training	9/28-30	Shahn Bisschop Tony Willis	21
Randomized Control Trials	9/28-10/1	Abdoul Sam Richard Gallenstein	23

**Sophia Kashenge-Killenga** – Dr. Sophia Kashenge-Killenga, Director of the MAFC ARI-Cholima, initiated a six week stay in the U.S. as part of her iAGRI-funded Collaborative Research Project. Initially, she is working with Warren Dick, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center on project related activities. Subsequently she will attend the Tri Society Professional Meetings in Minneapolis, Minnesota which she will report out on project activities. She will then travel to the University of Florida, Fort Pierce, to work with Brian Boman, project Co-PI on project related activities prior to returning to Tanzania. Co-PI visits with U.S. counterparts in the U.S. contribute measurably to project output and they strengthen long-term research linkages.

**Webinars** – Two leadership webinars were initiated during the past two months. Both are repeats of past efforts and are designed to meet the needs of iAGRI fellows – both past and present.

- A webinar based on 7 Habits of Highly Effective People authored by Steven Covey is being taught to 28 of these students by staff at the iAGRI Project Management Unit in Morogoro.
- And a webinar on The Leadership Challenge authored by James Kouzes and Barry Posner is being taught by members of the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education and Leadership at The Ohio State University to 27 students.

David Kraybill, iAGRI Project Director, and Laura Alexander, iAGRI Staff, recently presented a webinar on behalf of the Knowledge Center for Advancing Development through Higher Education of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities in Washington, D.C. “A Model of Change for Institutional Capacity Building: Lessons from iAGRI” focused on how to address higher education institutional capacity building and drew heavily on the iAGRI experience with the Sokoine University of Agriculture. To view the webinar, see [www.aplu.org/kclibrary](http://www.aplu.org/kclibrary).

**BIFAD Report Release** – The BIFAD report on its visit to iAGRI and SUA was recently released. It was written by the team that conducted the visit, which included Brady Deaton, BIFAD Chair, Susan Owens, BIFAD Executive Director, and Tag Demment, APLU Vice President for International Programs. Based on interactions with SUA and iAGRI staff and meetings with USAID/Tanzania Mission and Tanzanian government staff, it provides an overview of iAGRI activities and innovative iAGRI approaches to institutional capacity building. It also incorporates recommendations regarding future investments to be made through iAGRI. [See: [Report on BIFAD Visit to Sokoine University of Agriculture \(SUA\) and Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative \(iAGRI\)](https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1867/bifad-report-iagri-and-sua) - <https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1867/bifad-report-iagri-and-sua>.