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iAGRI is beginning to wind down its current commitments. The focus of our efforts during July and August has been on wrapping up and documenting returns on investments in our major activities. This has included special attention to completion of iAGRI fellow graduate degree training and research. In addition, we continued to support and monitor the progress of several key capacity building activities at SUA. Among them are a pilot outreach project with MATI Ilonga which is designed to improve the performance of its graduates, support for Tech Talent, a new effort to promote the translation of iAGRI-funded research into innovations, and restructuring of the Office of Administration and Finance. Attention was also given to documentation of program results, outcomes and impacts of investments made over the past five and one half years. We continue to be grateful for the important support which we have received from USAID, our partners in the U.S. and elsewhere and from individuals such as you.

Update on Activities July-August, 2016

Long Term Training – Many iAGRI fellows completed their degree programs over the past two months. The majority are members of Cohort IV who initiated studies in 2014. During the past two months 14 of them completed their M.S. programs and 2 completed their PhD programs. M.S. thesis defenses of students from OSUC partner institutions were conducted via the internet using facilities at the Project Management Unit in Morogoro. PhD dissertation defenses were all undertaken at host institutions. More students defended but require additional time to revise their documents prior to submission to their respective graduate schools.

iAGRI Student Thesis/Dissertation Defense–Completion Record to Dec 2016

	to June		July-Aug		Sept-Dec		Total	
	MS	PhD	MS	PhD	MS	PhD	MS	PhD
OSUC	42	7	10	2	1	4	53	13
SUA	7	1	1	--	11	3	19	4
RUFORUM	12	--	--	--	16	--	28	--
Punjab Ag.	2	--	3	--	1	--	6	--
Total	63	8	14	2	29	7	106	17

By the end of December of this year, we anticipate that 106 students will have completed their MS programs and that 17 students will have completed their PhD programs. Some students who completed over the past two months, were not able to graduate summer term. This was occasioned by factors, such as African host

host institution graduation policies that limit graduation to specific times of the year. Some MS programs of study have required more than the projected 24 months and some PhD programs more than the programmed 48 months. In addition, delays were also caused by national political events, campus disturbances, and delays in thesis reviews by external examiners. Abstracts for completed theses and dissertations can be found on the iAGRI website (<http://iagri.org/resources/research-abstracts/>).

iAGRI Collaborative Research Activities – Activities continued for the three major collaborative research projects funded by iAGRI. Results from the first framed field experiment on the impact of drought insured loans were analyzed. This project involves researchers from Ohio State and SUA, and is focused on predicting the impact of index insurance on farmer risk taking decisions. A second round of data collection was initiated in August. Research also continued on the maize research project involving Iowa State and Mikocheni Agriculture Research Institute. It is focused on key abiotic and biotic maize productivity constraints such as striga control, moisture stress, and Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND). Field experiments continued to be monitored, hot spots for MLND were monitored for disease incidence and symptom severity, and the presence of MLND and striga were mapped in major maize growing regions. During this period, Virginia Tech worked with counterparts at SUA and the Ruvu Water Basin to plan a November workshop on monitoring key hydrologic events in the Ruvu Water Basin. Finally, a land policy study involving Michigan State, SUA and MALF continued to make progress. A listing of all farms over 10 hectares in size was completed in eight focus districts and plans were made for the survey of 1200 farm households in these districts.

Support for SUA Restructuring – iAGRI continued to focus on supporting the organizational transformation of SUA over this period. A major activity involved working with the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. Special attention was given to five units, namely, (a) finance, (b) planning, (c) human resources, (4) student services, and (5) estates. Consultant John Massoy prepared a report which outlines a strategy to improve the performance of these units. A key university task force worked with him to develop and present to SUA's decision making bodies a comprehensive proposal for restructuring the Office. The task force will support the implementation of the approved restructuring proposal in relevant units and departments, monitor implementation of the approved proposal, and report its status to the Deputy Vice Chancellor.

Tech Talent Initiative – This new Initiative, which is affiliated with the iAGRI Innovation Portfolio, was launched on July 22 on the iAGRI grounds at SUA. The event featured an Innovation Fair and Launch Program officially opening the designated Tech Talent space designed exclusively for creative problem solving of agriculture-centered challenges. The initiative links established entrepreneurs and leaders in agricultural enterprises with students and graduates to help them shape their ideas into opportunities for commercialization that meet the needs of smallholder farmers. They are also focused on supplying the agribusiness community with innovative solutions to their problems. In doing so they tap into Tanzania's expanding agricultural industry. The launch featured an Innovation Fair where agribusiness prototypes, products, and models were exhibited and presented. Seventeen young innovators presented at the Fair that was attended by representatives of the agribusiness community, SUA staff, and students.

MATI Ilonga Pilot Project – Several faculty members from Ohio State University collaborated with members of the SUA Department of Agricultural Extension and Community Development and the MALF Division of Training in the design and implementation of a pilot project with the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATI) at Ilonga in July. Participation of the OSU members was funded through a 2016 Impact Grant received by the International Programs in Agriculture Office from OSU's Office of Outreach and Engagement, while participation of Tanzanian counterparts was funded through iAGRI. This project is designed to improve the performance of MATI Ilonga graduates and is focused on the curriculum at the training institute as well as the performance of its staff. It seeks to incorporate stakeholder suggestions into the curriculum in order to better meet actual job market needs and to identify in-service training needs for the teaching staff. The pilot project will provide valuable lessons learned which can then be scaled up into the MATI training system and out to other training institutes.

SUA Leadership Forum – A leadership forum was held in August for administrative staff at SUA. Professor Jeff King, Ohio State University, was featured in a video on team building, designed to strengthen mutual support and collaboration related to restructuring activities at SUA. Dr. King participated in a lively discussion of the contents of the video during the second half of the event.

Qualitative Research Methods Short Course – Drs. Graham Cochran and Mary Rodriguez, Ohio State’s Department of Agricultural Communication, Education and Leadership, delivered a short course on qualitative research methods to staff and students at SUA in July, as a part of the previously mentioned MATI Ilonga Pilot Project. This two day course was attended by 31 participants (12 males and 19 females).

iAGRI Student Thesis Supervisor Visits – Student advisors from OSUC member institutions traveled to SUA to support the work of their advisees during July and August. They included the following individuals:

- **David Francis**, The Ohio State University, visited Victoria Bulegeya and her local supervisor, George Typhone. They reviewed thesis conclusions and prepared for the defense. David held a seminar on plant breeding using DNA sequence data to improve vegetables for Tanzania.
- **Conrad Bonsi**, Tuskegee University, worked with Jamila Mweta and her local supervisor, Robert Mabagala, on thesis data analysis and organization of the document. They also visited Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute (MARI).
- **Ramble Ankumah**, Tuskegee University, consulted with Adelina Rwambilimbo and her local supervisor, Gilbert Fibert, on thesis materials needed for the defense. Ramble held a seminar on the use of soil enzyme assays and microbial diversity measurements as possible indicators of soil quality.