

Building a Global Food Security Strategy:

The Role of Higher Education in US International Development

A Report on the BIFAD Conference of Deans II

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Background

- First Conference of Deans - April 2008 - **The Rationale**
 - “Higher Education: A Critical Partner in Global Agricultural Development”



- Conference of Deans II - June 2009 - **The Approach**
 - “Building a Global Food Security Strategy: The Role of Higher Education in US International Development”



Global Challenges

- Food Price and Financial Crisis
- Rising numbers of hungry, poor, and malnourished
- Conditions of climate & water variability
- Establishing the priorities for the renewed USG focus on AGR and Food Security, e.g.,:
 - Investment in AGR R&D to solve key problems
 - Refine S&T policies
 - Support education in agricultural & NRM sciences



USG Actions:

Food Security as National Security

- US commitment to G8 pledge of \$US 20 billion for AGR:
 - Developing country research, international collaboration, and dissemination of results
- USAID/USG development of a new agriculture and food security initiative
- Lugar-Casey Bill's proposal of Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension (HECTARE)



Conference Purpose

Collect Agricultural Deans' Input into:

- Planning a roadmap for partnering with USAID to implement USG food security strategy
- and
- Designing new university-based programs to build agricultural science capacity in [the US and] developing countries



Higher Education Contribution

- Long-term perspectives on development and sustainability of short-term programs
- Trans-disciplinary, science-based knowledge capabilities
- Extensive network of global alumni
- Existing partnerships world-wide
- Bridging institutions with links to foundations, private sector, and civil society
- Advocacy for food security as national security

From CoD Report 2008



Reinvigorate US Intellectual Leadership

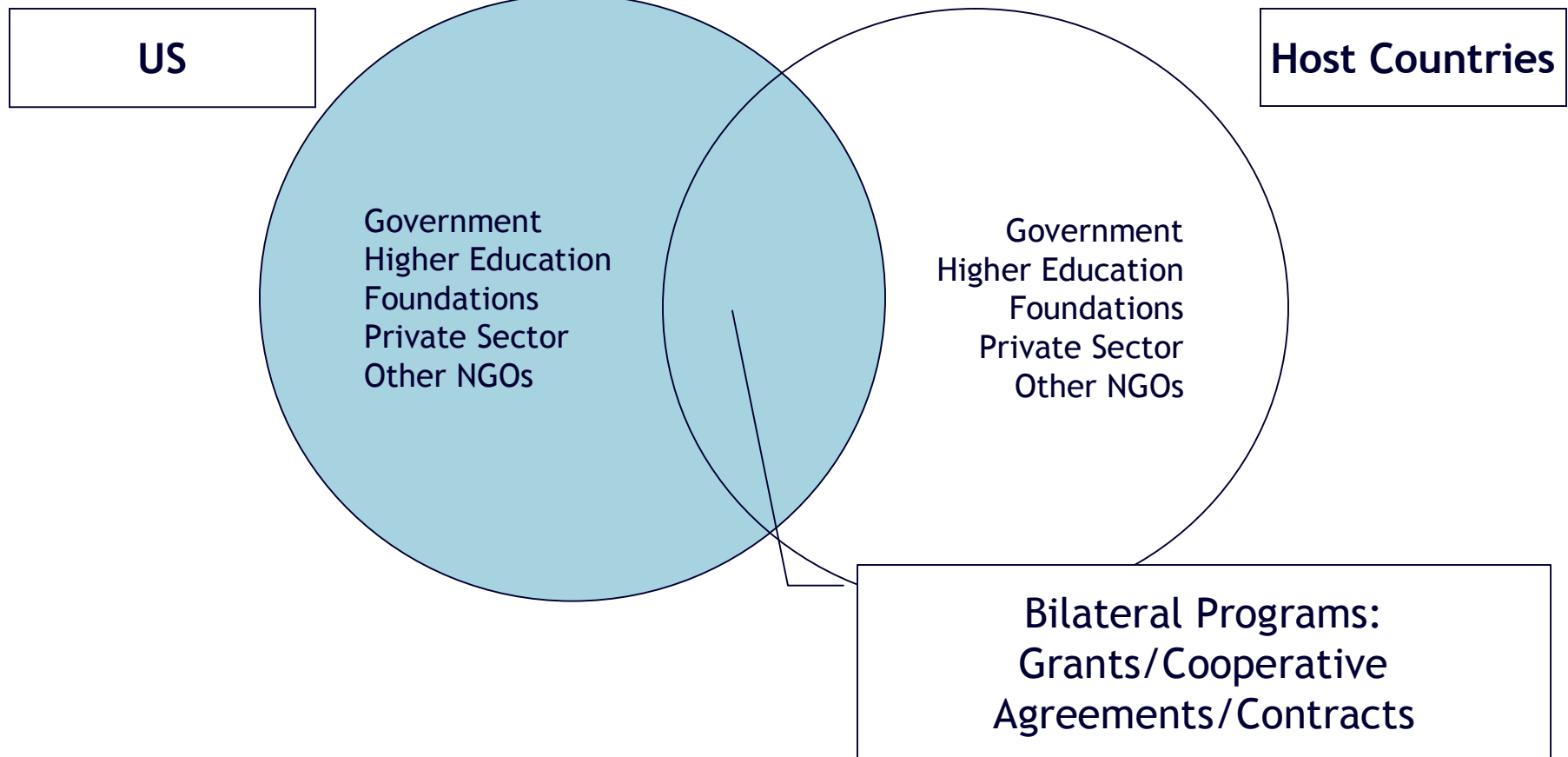
- Assemble the US University “Brain Trust”
- Support Systems Thinking and Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Conduct targeted research on adaptation and mitigation
- Push the envelope on sustainable agriculture
- Promote pro-poor value chain development



Forge Strategic, Creative, and Sustainable Partnerships

- Across government
 - Between government and the US higher education community
 - Among government, US higher education, foundations, and the private sector
-
- Link US and developing country institutions at all of the above levels

....at home and abroad





Engage the Next Generation

- Reverse the decline of agriculturally-oriented students and young professionals (grad and u'grad)
- Mobilize university and other institution-based networks of alumni world-wide
- Improve the synergy between Study Abroad, International Service Learning, and Foreign Student programs in AGR



Reintegrate Teaching, Research, and Action

- Invest in trans-disciplinary, science-based knowledge transfer and application
- Support faculty and professional exchanges
- Create centers of excellence for food security education and experimentation
- Establish Food Security Universit(ies)



Recommendations

1. Adopt Overall Goal:

To support and advance agricultural science and technology development and agricultural education to ensure a safe, secure, and sustainable food supply in 2030 under conditions of global climate change.



Recommendations

2. The Roadmap

...by mobilizing a US university ‘brain trust’ for technical and intellectual leadership, working in strategic partnerships to set program priorities; and

3. New Programs

...by investing in collaborative US and host country education and research programs (e.g., HECTARE) to engage the next generation of students and create sustainable solutions to known and emerging problems



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