

Education & Advocacy Committee Update

Annual Meeting Presentation

June, 2018

Chair: Susan G. Schram

Members: Margaret Zeigler, Rob Nooter, Austen Moore

Objectives of the AIARD Education and Advocacy Committee

- **Increasing** awareness of the instrumental role of agriculture in global development and its importance in the U.S foreign assistance portfolio;
- **Informing** policy makers, donors and institutions about effective strategies to advance agriculture and rural development in the global economy;
- **Improving** relationships between agriculture and rural development and other development efforts to promote a sustainable global society (e.g., natural resources, health and nutrition, child survival, HIV/AIDS, gender, democratization);
- **Fostering** interaction and cooperation among other organizations and private sector companies dedicated to expanding U.S. resources for international agriculture and rural development.

2017-2018 Activities

SMART Investments in International Agriculture and Rural Development

“Win-win” international collaboration has been a theme of AIARD’s education and advocacy work for years -- documenting how the U.S. investment in international agricultural research, extension, and education helps many needy people overseas AND brings important economic and other benefits back to the United States.

We began this work on win-win investments a number of years ago with a publication of case studies called *Food, the Whole World’s Business*, (<http://www.aiard.org/food-the-whole-worlds-business.html>). In 2017-18 AIARD members responded to unique set of opportunities to carry some of these ideas forward: 1) the Farm Bill debate; 2) a new Administration; 3) ongoing foreign operations appropriations challenges; 4) a need for educational efforts to help the American taxpayer understand the international scientific collaboration that is behind our food supply -- that international assistance is not just something that is given “to others” but how our domestic investments work hand in hand with our foreign assistance investments toward global and U.S. food security.

In response to these challenges, AIARD published *SMART Investments in International Agriculture and Rural Development* (http://www.aiard.org/uploads/1/6/9/4/16941550/smart_investments_final_1.pdf). This report provides the public, Congress, and the new administration with recommendations and the

rationale to support investment in global food and nutrition security. The **SMART** Investments report outlines how these investments will improve global **S**ecurity and **S**tability, enhance **M**arkets and **T**rade, expand **A**daptation and **C**onservation, increase **R**esearch and **I**nnovation, and strengthen **T**raining and **E**ducation.

We shared these recommendations with Capitol Hill policy makers and members of the Administration. The report received good reviews.

AIARD represented on a panel at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

One result of this report was that, on November 13, 2017, AIARD was invited to be part of a panel at CSIS: *The 2018 Farm Bill: Ensuring U.S. Leadership in Agricultural Research and Development*. The talk was picked up by POLITICO, a global news and information company at the intersection of politics and policy, based in Washington, New York and Brussels. The quote from POLITICO and the text of remarks can be found at this link: <http://www.aiard.org/news.html>.

Sue Schram represented AIARD on the panel and the core message of the talk was that international collaboration is essential for a thriving U.S. agricultural sector, and that this is how the U.S. can show its leadership, go farther faster, and leverage more research and development resources. This can be encouraged through the 2018 Farm Bill and is an excellent investment for the American taxpayer. Not all of the innovation we need in agriculture will come from our own labs. International collaboration in agricultural R&D is not an optional part of domestic policy; it is an imperative and needs more resources devoted to it.

Supporting International Agriculture Language in the Farm Bill

Another result was that, consistent with the SMART report investments, AIARD joined the Farm Journal Foundation in support of the following amended 2018 Farm Bill Language (proposed language in bold):

Section 1402 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977

SEC. 1402. ø7 U.S.C. 3101 PURPOSES OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION. The purposes of federally supported agricultural research, extension, and education are to—

- (1) enhance the competitiveness of the United States agriculture and food industry in an increasingly competitive world environment;
- (2) increase the long-term productivity of the United States agriculture and food industry while maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base on which rural America and the United States agricultural economy depend;
- (3) develop new uses and new products for agricultural commodities, such as alternative fuels, and develop new crops;
- (4) support agricultural research and extension to promote economic opportunity in rural communities and to meet the increasing demand for information and technology transfer throughout the United States agriculture industry;
- (5) improve risk management in the United States agriculture industry;

(6) improve the safe production and processing of, and adding of value to, United States food and fiber resources using methods that maintain the balance between yield and environmental soundness;

(7) support higher education in agriculture to give the next generation of Americans the knowledge, technology, and applications necessary to enhance the competitiveness of United States agriculture; and

(8) maintain an adequate, nutritious, and safe supply of food to meet human nutritional needs and requirements.

Possible amendment—

Section 1402 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101) is amended by adding a new item (5) as follows:

(5) “Support international scientific collaboration that leverages resources and advances the food and agricultural interests of the United States.”

[renumber existing paragraphs (5) through (8) as paragraphs (6) through (9)]

This language is both the House and Senate versions of the Bill. We hope that it will encourage and facilitate more collaborative science, which is mutually beneficial to both U.S. and overseas producers. It could also strengthen the collaborative relationship between USDA and USAID on agricultural research and innovation, both in terms of planning and execution. Special thanks to the support of Michigan State in tweaking the language so that it was acceptable to all.

The Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR)

The continuation of the FFAR depends on authorization of resources in the Farm Bill. The FFAR is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization established with bipartisan Congressional support in the 2014 Farm Bill. FFAR leverages both public and private resources to build partnerships to support innovative science that addresses food and agriculture challenges. The Senate Bill authorized \$200 mil. for the FFAR, the House did not. It is hoped that the provision for \$200 mil. will be included in the final bill.

Other provisions

In addition to amending Section 1402, both the House and Senate Farm bills authorize international competitive grant making in science and education. The Senate bill is especially strong in recognizing the the importance of working collaboratively with international research centers, and building the capacity of extension, resident instruction and research in low and middle income countries. All in all, the Farm Bill is a “win” for international agricultural research. The degree to which international work is promoted and advanced at USDA will depend to a great extent on the new USDA leadership.

Lawmakers, tasked with melding the House and Senate versions of the bills into one, face contentious negotiations. The main differences in the bills relate to domestic issues -- proposals for work requirements in the SNAP program, farm subsidy caps and conservation initiatives. Some speculate that there may not be a final bill to send to the President before September 30 when the current Farm Bill expires.

Reauthorization of the Global Food Security Act

Passage of the 2018 Global Food Security Reauthorization Act is critical to ensure that food security programs funded by the U.S. will continue for another five years. The bill gives the United States the opportunity to build on successes in global food security.

The Senate and House both passed their versions of the GFSA reauthorization (Senate cosponsors — Johnny Isakson and Bob Casey; House co-sponsors Chris Smith and Betty McCollum). The two bills will be conferenced in the fall and the bill is expected to pass.

Work with USDA

AIARD has collaborated with USDA on the development of a concept paper called **Stimulating Partnerships for Agricultural Research and Knowledge – SPARK**. **SPARK** is a response to a need for providing small grants to U.S.-based food and agricultural scientists who wish to initiate international partnerships through collaborative research projects, sabbaticals and other international exchange and to help lay the groundwork for longer term joint scientific collaboration. It would be a way to put “legs” under the new Farm Bill language in Section 1402.

While long-term scientific partnerships currently take place, resources for large scale international projects are limited and involve significant time investments to secure. **SPARK** is an innovative and low cost way for the U.S. to leverage its domestic R&D resources and take more rapid action to access promising technologies overseas.

Appropriations

State-Foreign Operations Appropriations

Global Food Security Funds

To assure the stability of global food security funds for FY18, both the the House and Senate issued a Congressional directive in their appropriations bills that assures the overall level of funding for global food security and the Bureau for Food Security. The words “Not less than” and “shall” means USAID must comply:

(d) Food Security And Agricultural Development.—Of the funds appropriated by title III of this Act, not less than \$1,000,600,000 shall be made available for food security and agricultural development programs to carry out the purposes of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-195), of which not less than \$315,960,000 shall be made available for the Bureau for Food Security, USAID... *Provided*, That funds may be made available for a contribution as authorized by section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), as amended by section 3206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).

The appropriations bill also provides not less than \$235 mil. for Higher Education. Of that, not less than \$35 mil. is designated for human and institutional capacity building partnerships between U.S. universities and developing country higher education institutions of which not less than \$15,000,000 shall be for new partnerships. \$55 mil. is directed to the Innovation Labs.