



Association for International Agriculture & Rural Development
AIARD Newsletter

March 2011 Edition

<http://aiard.org>

"Around the world, the food system is in crisis. Prices have rocketed; they are now higher in real terms than at any time since 1984. They could rise further still if draught lays waste to China's wheat harvest, as is role (how large is hard to tell) in the uprisings in the Middle East. High prices are adding millions to the numbers who go to bed hungry each night. This is the second price spike in less than four years. Companies are sounding the alarm and the G20 grouping of the world's largest economies has put 'food security' top of its 2011 to-do list."

-The Economist, February 26th 2011



A Note from AIARD's President...

Dear AIARD Members,

I am very pleased to share with you the second AIARD newsletter for our program year. Our members and Executive Committee have been working on your behalf during what has become a very productive and active year for our association. Sending you this newsletter is a tangible representation of the fact that we are succeeding in our objective of keeping our members involved and informed. Let me give you some of the highlights:

First, we have finalized the arrangements to hold a Capitol Hill Forum on March 15, 2011. This event is a wonderful opportunity to educate members of Congress, their staff and our colleagues in the development community on cutting-edge issues surrounding agricultural and rural development. Entitled ***Hunger Won't Wait***, the Forum features a great set of speakers and will be held in the Capitol Visitor Center for the first time. Thanks goes to our primary congressional sponsors, Rep. Jo Ann Emerson and Rep. Jim McGovern for teaming up with our association on

this significant event. Please register to attend the forum at:

<http://www.aiard.org/meetings/2011forum/index.htm>

Second, we are making progress on plans for our annual conference to be held in Washington D.C. June 5-7, 2011. The conference will focus on capacity building and innovation in agriculture, and we're confident the topics will generate lively discussion and consideration. Please be sure to join us in June.

Planning for these conferences reminds us of the importance of our work as development professionals focused on agriculture and rural development. The world is experiencing a second wave of high food prices within four years that threatens the food security and nutritional status of approximately one billion people. The causes of this crisis are multifaceted, including weather-related production shortages, man-made market distortions, inefficient market structures, and a lack of appropriate technology and knowledge by many poor rural people to improve their lives and livelihoods, as well as other factors. The effects of these high food



prices include devastating health and nutrition outcomes for children, loss of earning power and economic growth, political instability and continuation of a vicious cycle of poverty for a large segment of the world's people.

AIARD provides a space for professionals who are committed to addressing these issues to share information, analysis and propose and advance solutions that might alleviate them. Our members work in government, the private sector, civil society and academia, giving us a unique diversity of perspectives and allowing us to comprehensively explore these issues. We hope that our contribution in the analysis and exploration is a catalyst for adoption of solutions and in delivering development programs and projects.

We are acutely aware that the mechanisms put in place in response to the food-price crisis of 2007-2008 are not yet fully functional. On a multilateral level, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program has not been funded to anywhere near the extent of the financial commitments made at its inception in Pittsburg in 2009. Most donors, including the U.S., have yet to contribute the full funding they originally pledged. The U.S. response primarily has been to create a new food security bureau at USAID and it has devoted

considerable effort to develop a comprehensive strategy under the Feed The Future Initiative. While progress has been made, full implementation has not yet been achieved. Influencing all of this is the U.S. budget debate, in which House-proposed spending cuts threaten to slash funding for humanitarian assistance and development programming by 40 percent or more.

We ask you to join with us in working to better understand how we can address these issues. Agriculture, food security and rural development are at the center of the development challenges the world currently faces. By working together, we can help advance awareness and understanding of these issues and we can forge alliances that can lead to solutions that assist millions of poor and hungry people in the world. The challenges before us are daunting, but our dedication to addressing them is strong. AIARD strives to stimulate your involvement in these difficult and complex issues. Please, join with us to move the agenda forward.

Sincerely,

Rob Nooter
2010-2011 AIARD President

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2011 CAPITOL HILL FORUM

March 15, 2011

8:00-11:30 am

Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium

Washington, DC

Hunger Won't Wait

March 15, 2011

Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium

8 - 11:30 a.m.

(8:00 a.m. -- complimentary breakfast and networking in the Atrium outside the auditorium)

An Educational Forum

Sponsored by The Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development And its Partners

This year's Forum is occurring at a critical time. In a time of spiking food prices, coupled with a global economic downturn, nearly one billion people are hungry. As you will see from the program, the Forum will include an overview of the issues, as well as interactive discussion with experts. Arrive at 8:00 a.m. in case there is a crowd at the entrance to the Capitol Visitor Center. We will have breakfast and networking with colleagues for the hour preceding the Forum.

Official Sponsors

Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development

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Alliance to End Hunger

ARD

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CNFA

Congressional Hunger Center

Counterpart International

DAI

Export Trading Company

Food and Agriculture Organization

Global Cold Chain Alliance

Heifer International

Hunger Plus, Inc.

International Center for Research on Women

International Fertilizer Development Center

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Land O'Lakes International Development

Pioneer, Hi-Bred, a DuPont Subsidiary

Univ. of CA, Davis, College of Agriculture &

Environmental Sciences

Winrock International

World Cocoa Foundation

9:00 am

WELCOMING COMMENTS

Hosts:

[Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson](#)

[Congressman Jim McGovern](#)

Presiding: Rob Nooter: AIARD President 2010-2011



- 9:30 am **GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY: ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND CHALLENGE**
[Dr. Steve Radelet](#), USAID Chief Economist
- 9:55 am **COUNTRY STRATEGY AND SUCCESS - THE STORY OF TANZANIA**
[The Honorable Mwanaidi Sinare Maajar](#), Tanzanian Ambassador to the United States
- 10:20 am **THE WAY FORWARD**
[Dr. Ousmane Badiane](#), Africa Director, International Food Policy Research Institute
- 10:45 am **Questions & Summary:** Summary remarks; open discussion.

We have plenty of room in the auditorium -- encourage many of your colleagues to [register early](#).

For more information visit: <http://www.aiard.org/meetings/2011forum/index.htm>

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To learn more about our officers and executive team, visit <http://www.aiard.org/who/officers.htm>

AIARD COMMITTEES

The work of AIARD is carried out by five committees, including:

- **Education and Advocacy Committee (Chair: Susan Schram)**
- **Awards Committee (Chair: Albert Ayeni)**
- **Communications Committee (Chair: Stephanie Curs)**
- **Finance Committee (Chair: Bob Haggerty)**
- **Membership Committee (Co-Chairs: Ryan Moore & Eloise Carter)**

The committees are the lifeblood of our organization. Each AIARD member is highly encouraged to join one or more of the committees. To learn more about AIARD Committees, visit <http://aiard.org/about/committees.htm>. If you are interested in serving on one or more of the AIARD Committees, we encourage you to contact the respective chair/co-chair.

Don't Forget



*Pay Your AIARD
Membership Dues
for 2010-2011!!!*

[http://www.aiard.org/
who/application.htm](http://www.aiard.org/who/application.htm)

Committee Highlight--Education and Advocacy Update

As you have no doubt been reading, there is much activity in Washington concerning potential federal spending cuts and, unfortunately, foreign affairs spending continues to be a target. Education and advocacy groups are fighting back in support of continued US global engagement, and to keep the gains we have made in global food security in the past few years. Proposals in the House seek to take spending back to '08 levels for FY11 and, in the longer term, to '06 levels. There are also proposals to slash USAID.

Members of AIARD, who have dedicated their careers to agricultural development and food security, are key informed citizens to be providing factual information to policy makers in these contentious times. While we know many of our members are restricted by their government roles, and many must work through large institutions in order to get messages to policy makers, others who are independent consultants, retirees, etc., are free to express their opinion as constituents directly.

MANY THANKS to those of you who have reported back on your efforts in contacting members of Congress about the importance of continuing the US commitment to global food security! It means so much when these messages come from constituents in states.

We appreciate anything you can do, of course with respect for your current roles and the policies of your organizations. Please see the letter below (page 6) that was submitted by the Coalition for Agricultural Development (CFAD) to the Hill regarding critical budget implications. AIARD is a key member of CFAD, and we encourage you and your organizations to support these efforts.

Sue Schram, Chair, AIARD Education and Advocacy

The following letter was submitted to Senator Leahy, Representative Granger and Representative Lowey on behalf of the Coalition for Agricultural Development:



Coalition for Agricultural Development

January 19, 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chair
Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee
United States Senate
SD-127
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger, Chair
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Ranking Member
House Foreign Operations Subcommittee
House of Representatives
Room HB-26 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Leahy and Representatives Granger and Lowey,

The Coalition for Agricultural Development (CFAD), comprised of over 100 U.S.-based private sector companies, universities, and NGOs, is writing to reiterate its support for FY 2011 U.S investment in global food security at the level of \$2.144 billion.

During 2007 and 2008, dramatic increases in world food prices created a [global crisis](#) and led to political and economic instability, hunger, and social unrest in developing countries. But Congress responded and strong bipartisan leadership resulted in significant increases in U.S. support for agricultural development and food security. The U.S. also rallied other donors, persuading them to boost funding and better align their efforts to improve agricultural productivity, strengthen developing country markets and address malnutrition. As a result, for the first time in decades, the United States is providing critical leadership as the global community works together to address the root causes of hunger and poverty in developing countries.

Our work is just beginning, however, and will require sustained support to bring about agricultural transformation in developing countries. As Congress renews its deliberations on the FY 2011 budget request, CFAD strongly urges Congressional leaders to “stay the course” and maintain its high priority on U.S. programs to strengthen global food security.

We believe that the cost of retreating from our commitment at this time would be extremely high. In recent weeks we have again seen rising global commodity prices and increased food price volatility, bringing the potential for renewed stress for poor households and political instability. At stake are the needs and ambitions of millions of families in the developing world who depend on continued U.S. support for their efforts to improve agricultural productivity, escape grinding poverty, and feed their families. If we do not continue to invest in their agricultural development efforts now, we may well be called upon to spend even more in the future to avert continuing food crises and quell instability.

Congressional support for food security programs in FY 2009 and FY 2010 made it possible for the United States to provide strong leadership and donor coordination in the global community regarding agricultural development, food security, and nutrition:

- The USAID-coordinated *Feed the Future* initiative already has many successes to its credit and has stimulated expanded partnerships with key public, private and civil society programs in 20 focus countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This multiyear, strategic assistance is particularly critical in sub-Saharan Africa, where countries have matched Feed the Future resources with their own investments and are counting on the U.S. to keep its pledges for support to programs aligned with the region's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). Several countries have managed to sustain economic growth rates of five percent or more -- largely because of their success in investing in the agriculture sector where most people work;
- U.S. government leadership in the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), a trust fund managed by the World Bank to respond to proposals from low-income developing countries, has helped to bring other governments and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation into a unique collaboration for development; and
- Expanded U.S. government commitments to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) have enabled both organizations to step up their efforts to help countries recover from the economic downturn by getting agriculture moving again.

As noted in the attached previous correspondence (May, 2010) CFAD believes that benefits of U.S. assistance to agricultural development are critical and numerous: improved productivity, higher incomes, market development, new technologies, and better nutrition for poor families. With continued U.S. investment, we see expanded incentives for developing country partners to invest in agriculture, generate jobs and improve incomes, and sustain the cycle of global economic recovery. We request that, during the debates in the weeks and months ahead, Congress place its support for global food security as the highest priority.

Respectfully,
 The Coalition for Agricultural Development
 Contact: Dr. Susan G. Schram 202-469-6021

AIARD urges your organizations to support CFAD!

UPDATES FROM OUR MEMBERS & PARTNERS

Food Security Is National Security

James P. McGovern (MA)
 5-Minute Special Order – Morning Hour
 Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. Speaker. At the end of January, the United Nations reported that the cost of basic food commodities – basic grains, vegetable oils, sugar – were at their highest levels since the UN created this index in 1990.

Two weeks ago, World Bank President Robert Zoellick announced that the Bank's Food Price Index shows food prices are now 29% higher than they were a year ago.

Zoellick warned the G-20 to "put food first" when they next meet. The World Bank estimates that these recent food price spikes have pushed about 44 million people into extreme poverty. That's under a dollar and twenty-five cents a day. This is a global security crisis.



The lack of food security contributes to political instability – food was a primary reason people first took to the streets in Tunisia. Food and poverty were right at the top of the list in the squares of Egypt, right next to the call for political freedom. In 2007 to 2008, the last global food crisis, there were major food riots in nearly 40 countries.

In May 2008, my fellow Co-Chair of the House Hunger Caucus Congresswoman Emerson and I were briefed by the GAO about the lack of coordination and continuity in U.S. food and development programs. We started calling for a comprehensive approach to address global hunger and food insecurity.

Under the leadership of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and USAID Administrator Raj Shah, the U.S. government responded to that call – and over a two-year period of time initiated a comprehensive, government-wide approach to reduce global hunger and increase nutrition and food security. Not because it feels good. Not even because it's the right and moral thing to do. But because it's in our national security and economic interests to make countries food secure, more productive, healthier and more stable.

This strategy is known as the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative. It includes our bilateral programs and efforts with other governments and multilateral institutions. To be successful, everyone has to pitch in. Feed the Future is the signature program of the U.S. strategy. It works with small farmers and governments to increase agricultural production and strengthen local and regional markets in order to reduce hunger and grow economies.

Other key elements include the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program that brings kids to school and keeps them there by making sure they get at least one nutritious meal each day at school. This program has proven to be especially effective at convincing families to send their daughters to school.

And finally, there is our Food for Peace Program, which provides food to millions of women, children and men caught in life-threatening situations brought on by natural disasters, war and internal conflict. This program provides U.S.-grown commodities and locally purchased foods that literally keep people trying to survive the world's most dangerous situations alive.

Mr. Speaker, I have never heard anyone say that they would like to see more hunger in the world – that they would like to see children too weak from hunger to be able to learn, or young girls forced to work long hours because they are no longer being fed at school. But that's what the budget cuts that passed the House one week ago would do. The House cut \$800 million out of the food aid budget and over 40 percent from Development Assistance, which is where Feed the Future is funded.

If these short-sighted and callous cuts are allowed to stand, we would literally be taking the food out of the mouths of over 2 million children. We would be depriving over 18 million people the food that keeps them alive – in Haiti, Darfur, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Kenya and elsewhere. We would be turning our backs on countries where we made commitments to help boost the production of their own small farmers so that they could finally free themselves of having to depend on U.S. and international food aid to feed their own people.

Enough, Mr. Speaker! Enough! This isn't a question of charity. It's an issue of national security – of what happens when desperate people can't find or afford food, and the anger that comes from people who see no future for their children

except poverty and death.

I ask President Obama to stand up for his programs and fight for them. I ask the White House to hold a Summit on hunger, nutrition and food security – both here in the U.S. and globally. I ask the media to wake up and grasp the consequences of these short-sighted cuts.

I call upon my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to fund these programs so that they can be successful. It really is a matter of life and death.

Peace Corps Call for Volunteers

Submitted by Peace Corps

Peace Corps has a need for Volunteers with hands-on experience or education in agriculture. Volunteers run the gamut from recent college graduates to experienced farmers in their 80s. Peace Corps Agriculture Volunteers assist communities in dozens of countries around the world and projects range from developing community gardens, to working with local farmers to improve production and business practices, to teaching agricultural methodologies in formal training institutions. For more information please go to www.peacecorps.gov, or contact Gary Slaats (AIARD member) at gslaats@peacecorps.gov or BJ Whetstine at bwhetstine@peacecorps.gov.

Engaging Cocoa-Growing Communities to Support Women's Empowerment

From ***2011 State of the World Innovations that Nourish the Planet***

www.nourishingtheplanet.org

Submitted by World Cocoa Foundation

Community engagement is the cornerstone for any successful and sustainable program and can lead the way to women's empowerment. The nonprofit World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) works to promote social and economic development and environmental stewardship in cocoa-growing communities around the world. WCF funds two innovative programs to help women find ways to improve their livelihoods: Video Viewing Clubs and Family Support Scholarships.

In West Africa's cocoa-producing regions, farmer training activities are typically led by community-based facilitators who have learned how to educate their peers—male and female cocoa farmers—on production and post-harvest techniques. Participating farmers learn how to develop a better-quality and therefore more valuable crop. A study by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's Sustainable Tree Crops Programme (STCP) found low female involvement in the training, however, because most women were at home taking care of their children, collecting fuel and water, and growing food. In some cases, their husbands did not allow them to go to the training.

STCP worked to create a convenient and comfortable learning environment for women by using videos to provide similar training exercises. Participants in these Video Viewing Clubs are expected to share the knowledge they gain with

two other cocoa farmers, ensuring that the lessons reach a greater number of farmers in the community. Since 2006, nearly 1,600 farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana have received cocoa production training directly through the Video Viewing Clubs.

Other ways to reach women farmers go beyond agricultural training and support the community as a whole. The WCF program Empowering Cocoa Households (ECHOES), for example, strives to improve the lives and livelihoods of the next generation of farmers through vocational training, education, and leadership development. In many West African cocoa-growing regions, school-related expenses are too high for parents to pay. As a result, ECHOES developed the Family Support Scholarship program, a three-tiered program implemented through Winrock International that is designed to help mothers keep their children in school while improving their existing enterprises. The first component of funds goes directly to the school to pay the children's annual expenses. After the mother completes a business training course, she receives the remaining two thirds to invest in her business. In the following two years, the increased profits she makes are put toward the children's school-related expenses.

ECHOES fully engages communities in the development and ownership of the Family Support Scholarships by encouraging community-based selection committees, which review the applications and identify who will receive the scholarships. Since 2007, committees in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana have awarded scholarships to more than 250 households. One recipient, Sopi Akissi from Côte d'Ivoire, was able to add new products to her food-vending business and increase her monthly profit. The extra revenue enabled her to join a community savings group, where she could qualify for a loan and then purchase a freezer to further diversify the items she sells. "I have no problem taking care of the house expenses," Akissi said. "Same for the schooling of my children, including one who will start university this year."

—Catherine Alston
World Cocoa Foundation

Horticulture CRSP Awards Exploratory and Pilot Projects

submitted by Amanda Crump (UC Davis)

Fourteen New Projects! The Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP), funded by USAID, will be awarding nearly \$3.1 million to support 9 one-year and 5 three-year projects to improve horticultural crop production, marketing, and postharvest in the developing world. Eight US universities will be conducting projects across 26 developing countries ranging from Bangladesh to Zimbabwe.

The Horticulture CRSP is located at the University of California, Davis and supports US and international partners to conduct research, training, and outreach to countries with the greatest need. These projects build on the success and momentum of the 15 Immediate Impact Projects Horticulture CRSP announced in early 2010. "We believe these projects will improve food security by improving horticultural seed systems, decreasing postharvest losses, and increasing smallholders' access to markets" says Ron Voss, Director of Horticulture CRSP.

At \$500,000 each, the three-year projects add a research based approach to horticultural development. Projects include creating a self-sustaining postharvest training center, developing low-cost pest exclusion technologies, evaluating new

horticultural varieties, using participatory action research to enable vegetable farmers, and creating a niche market for vegetables while improving food safety.

The one-year projects explore novel GIS technology applications, indigenous seed systems, unique training strategies, urban gardening and market evaluations. Designed to test new technologies, create new partnerships, or do market assessments, these projects lay the ground-work for larger projects in the future. Learn about the projects at <http://hortcrsp.ucdavis.edu/main/projects.htm>.

Funding for these projects is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under Award No. EPP-A-00-09-00004.

Borlaug Institute Partnering with the UN World Food Programme

Submitted by Texas A&M University

At the initiative of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, the Borlaug Institute is working closely with WFP (World Food Programme) to improve their pilot P4P program (Purchase for Progress). The P4P is an innovative concept where WFP provides a stable market for the purchase of commodities and other NGO and agricultural development partners assist small-holder farmers increase their production to meet that market. While not a traditional role for WFP, the P4P program leverages their purchasing power and the depth of logistics expertise.

With the WFP, the Borlaug Institute is conducting farm studies in three African countries (Sierra Leone, Liberia, and South Sudan) to determine production costs of participating farmers. This information will be used to determine future P4P plans and direct partner resources appropriately. One concern is that costs to small-holder farmers are much greater than international commodity prices. In order to support farmers appropriately, a full accounting of their costs of production is necessary. This will provide WFP and development planners information to direct future interventions and make sure farmers are being compensated appropriately for their efforts.

Farm studies include gathering data on labor costs, family labor, development assistance received, trainings, costs of inputs, and any costs related to transportation and marketing. This data is aggregated in each country to develop a production model for the various commodities – mainly rice. The studies will form the core data set for an economic analysis of small-holder farm productivity.

Joseph King is the chief of staff of the Borlaug Institute | He can be followed on Twitter and Tumblr [@kingjn](#).

Chocolate Genome Mapped

Article by Larry O'Hanlon

Submitted by Penn State University

The cacao tree behind the world's finest chocolate has had its genome mapped, say a team of researchers from around the world. The genes of an ancient cocoa tree found in the mountains of Belize – specifically, the Criollo variety of



Molecular biologists identified 84 genes responsible for the creation and quality of cocoa butter.

Mark Gultinan, Penn State

Theobroma cacao – are expected to lead to new ways to protect the plants against disease and improve the productivity of cacao growers.

But chocolate lovers needn't fear: tinkering with the flavor of chocolate is not the aim of the research.

“In my opinion chocolate tastes pretty good right now,” said molecular biologist Mark Gultinan of Pennsylvania State University. “We don't want to mess it up.” Gultinan is one of the many coauthors of a paper reporting the work in the latest issue of the journal *Nature Genetics*.

Scientific tweaking of favorite food plants has resulted in some historical failures that serve as cautionary tales to Gultinan and his colleagues: such as tomatoes that look great, last long in stores, but are flavorless; and “improved” strawberries that fared no better.

“We don't want to do that to chocolate,” Gultinan told Discovery News. On the other hand, knowing what genes to breed for will likely lead to more healthy chocolate plants.

Right now the Criollo variety of *Theobroma cacao* accounts for only about five percent of the world's cacao production. Thirty to 40 percent of that cacao crop is lost every year to fungal infections, Gultinan said. “The variety that was sequenced is known for its very high quality flavor,” said Siela Maximova, another coauthor and also a researcher at Penn State. “Unfortunately that variety is very susceptible to disease.” For that reason the Criollo is commonly been crossed with the lesser prized, but more disease-resistant Forastero variety.

The new genetic analysis of Criollo has already uncovered hundreds of genes involved in resisting pathogens, said Maximova. The work has also shed light on the genetic basis of the synthesis of oil, flavonoids, antioxidants, hormones, pigments and aromas. They also identified the 84 genes responsible for the creation and quality of cocoa butter. That's big news because the butter – which conveniently melts at human body temperature – is used in foods, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. It's also what makes great chocolate and other confections melt in your mouth.

Their discoveries could lead to cocoa beans that yield more butter and even more healthful antioxidants and flavonoids. But that does not mean Dove bars will be made from GM cocoa beans, said Gultinan. “I'm not concerned that this work could be utilized for such research,” said Lyndel W. Meinhardt, research leader of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Sustainable Perennial Crops Lab. “Overall, the cocoa industry and cocoa growers are not supportive of cultivating genetically-engineered cacao. I'm more excited about the potential that this work brings to improve cacao.”

Most the cacao grown around the world has a very limited genetic background and so this work will help set the stage to make significant genetic improvements, Meinhardt told Discovery News. "Mainly we're talking about classical breeding," said Guiltinan, clarifying that direct genetic improvement can be done the old-fashioned way, but sped up with the help of molecular research that allows young plants to be analyzed for traits instead of waiting for them to mature.

Ultimately, then, the biggest winners from this research should be cocoa farmers and cocoa companies. "The cocoa genome project...is an important tool which will help researchers to identify and breed cocoa trees which are more disease and pest tolerant," said Bill Guyton of the World Cocoa Foundation, which promotes sustainable cocoa economy. "Improved productivity will ultimately result in better incomes for the millions of the small-scale farmers who grow the crop."

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/chocolate-genome-101229.html>

Farmer to Farmer Program Volunteer Opportunities

Submitted by Winrock International

On December 7, 2010, Winrock volunteers, Dr. Kathleen Colverson and Dr. Juan Guerrero, were among 18 Presidential Volunteer Service Award recipients honored at a luncheon hosted by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in recognition of their volunteer work under the John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer program.

Dr. Colverson, Associate Director for Program Development at the University of Florida International Center in Gainesville, FL, completed two volunteer assignments in 2009 and 2010 with Winrock's Partnership for Safe Poultry in Kenya (PSPK) project. She assisted the Ministry of Livestock Development by conducting a value chain analysis of the Kenya poultry sector and was instrumental in helping the Ministry to develop the Kenya National Poultry Improvement Program.

Dr. Guerrero, livestock extension advisor emeritus from the University of California, has completed 10 volunteer assignments with Winrock in six countries since 2004. In 2009, he completed an assignment in El Salvador, introducing straw ammoniation and an artisan urea-based concentrate and lick, thereby improving cattle nutrition, reducing feed cost, and increasing milk production in the northern zone of the country.

Winrock International is one of a group of organizations implementing the Farmer-to-Farmer program funded through USAID's Food for Peace program. Greg Gottlieb, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for USAID's Bureau for Food Security, handed out the awards to Colverson, Guerrero, and volunteers representing other organizations. Gottlieb states, "Last year, 522 volunteer assignments provided an estimated \$4.2 million dollars' worth of in-kind technical training and direct assistance to more than 34,000 people. Impact data from the 2003-2008 program indicate that there was a total increase of more than \$100 million in net annual income for all hosts in the Farmer-to-Farmer program." The program supports Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, by working to

improve agricultural productivity, promote market development, facilitate trade expansion, invest in global innovation and research, promote equitable rural economic growth, and address child malnutrition.



For information about how to volunteer with Winrock International, visit www.winrock.org/volunteer

You can also visit the following sites for more information on the Farmer to Farmer Program:

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr101210.html>

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/agriculture/farmer_to_farmer.htm

In Memoriam – Dr. Tom Hargrove, International Agriculturalist and Author

Submitted by Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, Texas A&M University

Written by Dr. Edwin C. Price, director of the Borlaug Institute and associate vice chancellor for international agriculture, and long-time colleague and friend of Dr. Hargrove.

Tom Hargrove, Aggie Class of '67, died on January 24 at age 66. We became friends at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines in 1975, and he is part of the reason I came to Texas A&M. A gifted writer, thinker and explorer, he was passionate about all he did. Disappointed that he couldn't major in "cotton" when he arrived at school, Tom studied journalism and agriculture, and became the best and best-known international agricultural science writer and editor, ever. His impact was immense as he tutored and led hundreds of writers, editors and illustrators, young and old, in the important task of informing the world's farmers about advanced technology and explaining agricultural science to the public. In recent years his favorite task was mentoring journalism students writing news releases each year at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Tom was an adventurer, diving for the lost city of Taal, uncovering the trail of rice from Java to Brazil by way of Texas, organizing Muster at Corregidor, restoring bean cultivars to Rwanda after the genocide, and taking new rice varieties to Vietnamese farmers during the war he fought. He relished telling stories of hometown friends and kin, and telling Aggie jokes.

No one could have a more loyal friend than Tom. He stayed in touch as he chronicled each new finding, and connected each dot. His miraculous survival of 11 months captivity by the FARC guerillas in Colombia must have called upon formidable strengths that none other of us can fathom or understand. Tom was bigger than life, and thus he remains with us.

Memorials to Dr. Hargrove can be made to the Borlaug International Scholars Fund at the Texas A&M Foundation. [Click here for more information.](#)

<http://borlaug.tamu.edu/2011/01/25/memorial-thoughts-on-the-death-of-dr-tom-hargrove-international-agriculturalist-and-author/>

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET UPDATE MARCH 4, 2011

1) President Signs Two-Week Extension of FY11 Continuing Resolution (CR); Senate Democrats Unveil Alternative CR

President Obama signed into law a two-week extension of the FY11 Continuing Resolution (CR) to avoid a government shutdown and give congressional leaders more time to work out an agreement on the level of spending cuts for the final six months of FY11. The Senate passed the extension by a vote of 91-9

<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=NWgkduhc4azuv_eC6_LUwg> following the House's 335-91

<<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=EDiD2o9H0tqVVUCYXuyO0g>>. The extension contains \$4 billion in cuts to current funding levels, although none are from the International Affairs Budget.

As negotiations on a final FY11 budget deal between House and Senate leaders and the White House got underway, Senate Democrats unveiled their alternative Continuing Resolution

<<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=9zZ82FFARkeOrUR2kYZXZw>> (CR), which reduces FY11 spending \$51 billion below the President's request level. For State-Foreign Operations, which constitutes the vast majority of the International Affairs Budget, the Senate measure provides \$50.15 b, \$500 million below current CR levels but \$4.2 billion (7.6%) below FY10 levels. The House-passed CR (H.R. 1), which reduces total spending \$102 billion below the President's request level, includes a 19% cut<<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=GdjVT8w0iEEiaOtQDmgdFQ>> to the International Affairs Budget (for State-Foreign Operations the cut is 16%).

In its summary of the State-Foreign Operations provisions, the Senate Appropriations Committee states that the Senate measure "preserves U.S. leadership in key areas such as global health and child survival, providing \$885 million more than H.R. 1 for life-saving health programs, and \$1.1 billion more to respond to humanitarian crises. The Senate CR also provides \$428 million more than H.R. 1 for clean energy technology and other global environment programs, and \$200 million for the global food security fund to offset food shortages and famine, which H.R. 1 does not fund at all." The Committee also states that its measure "responds to the significant increase in funding requirements for the civilian component of the counter-insurgency strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the transition from military to civilian presence in Iraq."

2. Secretary Clinton Testifies Before Congress on International Affairs Budget

Both the House and Senate held several hearings related to the International Affairs Budget, chief among which was Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's testimony before Senate and House authorizers and appropriators -- the Senate Foreign Relations Committee <<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=vrrTr8rHEU1pt8g6zWRjGQ..>>, the Senate State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=OrwQqkevY_6inCd50avCdQ..>, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee<<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=xX9C95ij3OufMIM0cpbrcw..>>. Secretary Clinton sounded the alarm about the devastating impacts of H.R. 1 and responded to Members' questions on several foreign policy matters -- including Libya, Iran, Afghanistan and the so-called "information war" the U.S. is up against with China and the Arab world and their strategic communications. Time and again, she told Members <<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=LAOuLEsUUV1WQvgit0g54Q..>> that the House-passed cuts for FY11 would have a destructive impact on our efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, as well global health, development assistance, and a myriad of other international affairs programs.

Secretary Clinton's warning about FY11 cuts were strongly shared by several Members, including Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry<<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=h1AoiqToPiuG82nuN5kqmA..>> (D-MA) and House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Howard Berman <<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=40hATnMjmcfHOXYQAaEtAw..>>. Senate State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Lindsey Graham (R-SC) also expressed concerns, noting that "The account we're talking about can make the difference between a safe America or an at-risk America... if you don't see it as a national security tool, then I think that we are missing the mark as a nation." House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairwoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) had a different view, stating<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=gs_-60dXAO3_cj-lvXk5qw..> "The real question is not: Is this activity useful? But rather: Is this activity so important that it justifies borrowing money to pay for it and further endangering our nation's economy."

Two other hearings of note were a Senate Foreign Relations Committee <<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=tAyGfGG4IM8htgb32YrFIA..>> hearing on the global economy and a House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee<<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=MLYVoziwzt9IKrpS4Hgp0w..>> hearing on State Department activities in Iraq. At the Senate hearing, Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner spoke of the importance of the World Bank and the multinational development banks, asserting <<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=kdwrtC07YrScE594a2eivA..>>, "our investments in institutions like the World Bank are among the most powerful and cost-effective ways we have to promote US interests -- our economic interests and our security interests. And it's worth emphasizing that if we cede influence in these institutions or if we deprive them of resources, we will cede influence to China and other countries on the global stage."

At the House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee hearing, the State Department's Undersecretary of Management Patrick Kennedy<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=KXbzJ_HIJek1i0LRo4h5Cg..> reiterated, like Secretary Clinton, that the State Department would not be able to carry out its mission in Iraq with the cuts to State and USAID passed by the House in H.R. 1. Subcommittee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) expressed skepticism about the State Department's readiness, stating "The central issue before us today is whether the State Department is ready to assume the mission in Iraq...the answer appears to be no."

Other international affairs-related hearings included a House State-Foreign Operations Appropriations

Subcommittee<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=f6VeL_sM0X-M_7itnwX9FQ..> hearing on oversight of the State Department and a House Foreign Affairs Committee<<http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=7Dsiat10-43OG9cggRvbmj..>> hearing on reforming the United Nations, at which Chairwoman Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) <http://action.usglc.org/site/R?i=XsX_VdZlopv74mtPZvTm0A..> worked to build momentum for her United Nations reform bill.

“Nearly a billion people worldwide are suffering from hunger. Three and a half million children die every year because of under nutrition. A crisis of this magnitude will be solved only through an intensive global effort that brings together governments, the private sector, NGOs, scientists, and citizens, all united to forge a comprehensive, coordinated strategy. By investing in high impact interventions, you are at the cutting edge of progress. I urge you to use your time together to find ways for all of us to do even more, more to improve agricultural productivity, more to connect farmers to markets, more to increase access to nutritious crops and healthcare, and more to support the women who are growing food and caring for children around the world.”

– Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State,
Remarks to the International Food Policy and Research Institute’s
Conference,
February 11th, 2011

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

2011 Capitol Hill Forum

Hunger Won't Wait

March 15, 2011

Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium

Washington, DC

Register at: <http://www.aiard.org/meetings/2011forum/index.htm>



47th AIARD Annual Conference

June 5-7, 2011

Washington, DC

Check our website for additional information on the Annual Conference!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AIARD MEMBERS

AIARD Members are the core strength of our organization! We welcome all of our new members and sponsors. We look forward to their participation in AIARD programs and initiatives.

AIARD members are from universities, private voluntary organizations, consulting companies, trade associations, private firms, national and international agencies and foundations in every state in the union. Our members have dedicated their careers to alleviating world hunger and advancing international agriculture and rural development.

We would like to take this time to recognize and welcome our newest members:

- Daniel Bornstein
- Sheri Cahill
- Chemonics International, Inc
- Pat Hively
- Molly McCormack
- Davida Vanderpuye Tengey
- Tara Wood
- Adam Scheinkman

We encourage our current members and partners to recruit new members!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE & SILVER SUSTAINING MEMBERS

AIARD would like to extend our deepest appreciation to our corporate members and silver & bronze sustaining members!

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For more information on special membership, please visit <http://www.aiard.org/who/application.htm>

Until Next Time.....

- Don't forget to register for the 2011 Capitol Hill Forum (March 15th)
- Don't forget to check out our new website for updates & new resources
- For those of you who haven't paid dues, please submit your check to Amanda Crump asap. Also.... Bring a friend! AIARD is looking to grow! We encourage all of our members to help us recruit new members and supporters
- Please sign up for a committee! We have an exciting year ahead of us!
- The next AIARD newsletter will be distributed in **May 2011**. All members and partners are encouraged to submit updates and articles to Stephanie Curs at s-curs@tamu.edu

For any questions regarding the newsletter, please contact Stephanie Curs at s-curs@tamu.edu.