

Dear Colleague:

We are seeking your support for an important project to help the next generation of agriculture leaders who are currently completing degrees at land grant and other U.S. universities. The Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD) is launching an “AIARD Scholarship Fund” which will support annual scholarships to the top “AIARD Future Leaders” selected from a pool of talented undergraduate and graduate students in a field related to international agriculture. If you are not familiar with AIARD or the Future Leaders Forum, please see the enclosed brochure.

**Our Goal:** Our ambition is to **raise \$100,000 by May 2019** in order to have a sustainable funding source for current and future scholarship recipients. The good news is that we have **already received pledges of over \$38,000**, leaving under **\$62,000 to reach our target**.

**Our Request to You:** Please help us by making a tax-deductible contribution to demonstrate your support of this worthy cause. Pledge categories are as follows:

Organization		Individuals	
Basic Level	\$500	Regular Member	\$75
Bronze Level	\$1,000	Silver Sustaining Member	\$100-249
Silver Level	\$2,500	Gold Sustaining Member	\$250-499
Gold Level	\$5,000	Platinum Sustaining member	\$500-999
Platinum Level	\$10,000	Life Sustaining membership	\$1000 or greater

Sponsors, and their logo, will be listed in all publications and communications and on the AIARD website (www.aiard.org). There are also speaking opportunities for sponsors at the annual AIARD conference in Washington, DC each spring when the scholarships are awarded and the Future Leaders are introduced to the membership.

**How this is different from other scholarship funds:** Although many universities provide scholarships, the AIARD Scholarship Fund is a collective effort from universities, the private sector, non-government organizations, and individuals, to acknowledge leadership and academic excellence. Recipients will be the future leaders in agricultural development, tackling some of the priority needs of the next generation. *The scholarship fund will also help AIARD to leverage U.S. government sponsorship of our annual conference and future leader’s forum in Washington, DC each year.*

**Scholarship Selection Process:** Scholarships are awarded to up to 3 top student(s) from the 12 Future Leaders selected competitively from a pool of around 200 applicants annually from land grant and other U.S. universities associated with AIARD. A team of 3-4 senior members within the AIARD Executive Board will select the recipient based on a list of criteria related to leadership skills, academic excellence and field of interest.

**Next Steps:** Donations can be made by check and submitted to the AIARD Secretary at the following address:

Christy Copeland  
 AIARD Treasurer  
 213 D Mumford Hall  
 Columbia, MO 65211

Upon receipt of your donation, AIARD, a 501C3 organization, will send you a letter of appreciation for your records. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Neisler,

AIARD President