AIARD CONFERENCE 2008
SYMPOSIUM ON
PUBLIC –PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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GLOBAL PROGRAMS

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY
OUTLINE

1. Quick Background Information on Alcorn State University


3. Alcorn’s Role and Approach in Project Implementation

4. Alcorn’s Initial Fact-Finding Trip to Ghana

5. Brandon Harness’ Personal Experience on his 1st Trip Abroad
Alcorn State University

- HBCU Land Grant
- Created in 1872
- Located in Southwest Mississippi Between Natchez and Vicksburg
- Current Student Population is about 3,100
- Three campus
ASU

• Student Population has seen more diversity in the past 10 years
• Current mix is about 88% to 90% African American and the remaining are other races and international students
• International Student: Russia, India, Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Columbia, Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, Guyana and others
ASU

• Diverse faculty and staff

• International faculty from Latin America, Asia and several African Countries, including Ghana and Togo
ASU Teaching, Research, Extension and Outreach Programs

• Agriculture Production (Crops and Livestock)
• Post harvest handling of crops
• Bio-Technology
• Rural Finance
• Agribusiness Economics and Rural Development
• Natural Resources, Water Quality and Ecology
• Rural development; Human Sciences; Nutrition
• Youth Programs (4H; BART, TNT )
• Other Programs (Ltd. Resource clientele)
The university’s international experience in Agriculture and Rural development has been in the areas listed, in the form of training, research, outreach and in one case, market development and support for non-traditional alternative crops from Africa in the U.S market.
ASU – MARS, Inc. Partnership Initiative

“African Technical Training/Exchange”
GOALS

• Goal 1 (Farm Management Component): To support the development of a farm management curricula for cocoa farmers.

• Goal 2: (Youth Leadership Component): To support the growth of effective youth leadership programs through supporting training materials for teachers and extension agents.
Alcorn’s Role

• Work with the IITTA STCP and other partners in Ghana and West Africa to achieve curricula that are relevant and acceptable.

• Extend its expertise and U.S. experience in Youth leadership development to the cocoa farming communities, (in collaboration with local universities, and NGOs).
APPROACH IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
FARM MANAGEMENT

• Principal collaborator in Ghana: IITA STCP
• Other Potential users of the training materials: SOCODEVI, ACDI VOCA
• Farm management modules will complement the Farmer’s School administered by IITA STCP
• Initial curricula and materials are developed by Alcorn in collaboration with IITA
• Workshop with all players in Ghana (Fall 08)
FARM MANAGEMENT

• Introductory farm management concepts

• Farm record keeping

• Financial Statements

• Farm Plan
YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

• Ghanaian University partner
• Outline and framework for youth clubs in the cocoa farming communities
• Entrepreneurship
• Farm management and record keeping
• Alternative crops
EXPECTED IMPACT

• Cocoa farmers will receive business training through the STCP farmers’ school and other programs
• New youth clubs in the cocoa farming communities
• The youth will engage in positive after school activities
• The youth will have better appreciation of Ag.
FACT-FINDING TRIP (March ‘08)

• Met with IITA STCP (Ghana)

• Met with Ghanaian University Professors and Selected officials (KNUST, UGL, UCC)

• Met with farmers and conducted situation assessment through Interviews (three farming communities)
FACT-FINDING TRIP (March ’08)

Alcorn Participants

• Four Students (two undergraduate and two graduate students)

• Three Professors
NEXT STEPS

• Completion of initial draft of training materials
• Exchange with African partners throughout the summer months
• Workshop in late summer or early fall in Ghana
• Pilot test youth leadership curricula in collaboration with UCC or KNUST in late summer or early fall
THANK YOU

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