“Normal science” Extraordinary Results: A look at the Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs)

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Collaborative Research Support Program

• The CRSPs originated with the Title XII legislation of 1975
• They are consortia, led by U.S. universities, partnering with overseas universities, research institutions, NGOs, and private sector firms
• They seek scientific solutions to developing sustainable agricultural and food systems (including livestock & fisheries)
• They were designed to achieve two goals through research, training, and outreach:
  ▪ To bring the best of U.S. university science to solving hunger and poverty in the developing world, and
  ▪ To benefit U.S. agricultural productivity
Key Facts

• 24 past CRSPs and Innovation Labs for Collaborative Research since 1978
• 10 current Feed the Future Innovation Labs for Collaborative Research
• 4,324 degrees granted (1978-2014)  
  50% Masters ◆ 30% Ph.D.s ◆ 20% Bachelors
• Students from 130 countries in 200 institutions (1978-2014)
• 75 U.S. university partners (2012-2014)
• Have worked in all 19 FTF countries since 2008
Selected Impacts

• **BASIS AMA** works with partners to provide and measure insurance programs for livestock herders (I4 project), helping them to cope with drought and other shocks.
• **INTSOR MIL**’s germplasm work contributed to $680 million worth of grain production in the U.S. in 2005. In Niger, it has helped increase sorghum yields to over 2 t/ha.
• Bagging and closed drum storage developed by Dry Grain Pulses stores about 30% of grains harvests in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.
• **IPM CRSP** released a parasitoid for papaya mealybug mulberry, papaya, and cassava growers in India that increased profits by $104 million in its the first year.
• **Peanut CRSP** research helped to reverse a 5-year (18%) decline in consumption of U.S. peanut products, at an estimated value of $500 million annually to the peanut industry.
• **AquaFish** established a training center in Nicaragua that provides producers with best practices for handling cockles, helping to increase incomes and improve the food safety.
• **Horticulture CRSP** helped to build a viable market structure for production, processing, and sale of orange sweet potato in Ghana to increase food security, nutrition, and incomes.
• **Global Livestock** established a nutrition clinic in Ghana and supported University of Ghana, Legon faculty to develop a nutrition extension course.
Ahead of their time

• Collaboration: Building partnerships and global networks in agricultural sciences
• Linking biophysical and social scientists
• Linking agricultural and nutrition
• Using new technologies
• Investigating new topics: gender, sustainable agriculture, NRM, markets
CRSP Grads: Achieving Excellence, Having Influence
Lessons

- Cross-Agency support
- Structure cooperation not conflict
- Create and maintain partnerships
- Flexibility in structure
- Freedom to innovate
- Follow up and outreach
- Funding
Project Activities

- Consolidated Website: crsps.net

- Creating and maintaining data bases
  - Training and alumni
  - Publications
  - Photos, Videos, other media
  - Activities and locations
  - Partners
  - Calendar
  - Presentations
  - Funding levels
  - Mailing list

- Outreach and communication
  - Events
  - Support requests for information by USAID, Universities, APLU, other donors
  - Flyers, Newsletter, Publications, Feed the Future Country Profiles
  - Thematic reports reviewing the achievements across programs
Over 35 years of USAID and University partnering to train the next generation of agricultural scientists and to apply agricultural science to development challenges

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