What is innovATE?

• InnovATE directly supports agricultural education and training (AET) capacity building efforts by conducting country assessments, undertaking program design and making reform recommendations to improve the effectiveness of AET institutions. The flow chart on the opposite side of this handout illustrates how innovATE’s capacity-building efforts typically progress.

• InnovATE carries out analytical work to provide development practitioners with recommendations on good practices and tools to facilitate AET system development.

• InnovATE is a Leader With Associates (LWA) cooperative agreement supporting AET capacity building through September 2017.

• InnovATE works at all levels of education, including primary and secondary schools, vocational and technical schools, universities, and institutions for higher education.

• The program is implemented by a consortium of U.S. universities: Virginia Tech (lead institution), Tuskegee University, the Pennsylvania State University, and University of Florida.

Opportunities for mission access to InnovATE services:

The program is designed to be responsive to Mission and Bureau needs. Such assistance may be used to support strategy implementation and local institutional capacity development.

• Core Program Support: Core program resources target definition and dissemination of good practices for improving agricultural training and education systems. Missions and bureaus may draw on project analytical work and training materials. Limited centrally funded support is available for country scoping assessments, training, case studies and project design.

• Associate Awards: Engage innovATE through Associate Awards for technical assistance, training, and implementation of activities for capacity building, reform and development of agricultural training and education systems. Associate Awards are procured and managed by missions. InnovATE will help design projects.

• Buy-ins to the Leader Award: Country Missions or Bureaus may buy-in to the Leader Award for in-depth assessments of needs/capabilities, training, design work, evaluations, or pilot projects. For such buy-ins, Missions develop scopes of work in conjunction with InnovATE. Core program funding may be available to co-finance with Missions or Bureaus these types of activities.
Program Purpose: Strengthening training and education systems to improve the performance of the agricultural sector and providing leadership in identifying, prioritizing, and addressing key AET development issues.

Areas of intervention:
- Curriculum development
- Faculty capacity
- Pedagogy and teaching excellence
- Gender balance and equity
- Administration and management
- Outreach
- Student services (recruitment, retention, mentoring)
- Education policy

InnovATE is supported by a grant from USAID and managed by Virginia Tech’s Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED). This project was made possible by the United States Agency for International Development and the generous support of the American people through USAID Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-L-12-00002