

InnovATE Partners Meeting @UF  
Mid-point assessment

This document captures key points from the presentations and conversations that occurred during the InnovATE Year 3 Annual Partners meeting held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the University of Florida. Objectives of the meeting were to take stock of the activities and progress of the project as a mid-point assessment and to set priorities and direction for the remaining life of project.

**Participants:**

Keith Moore	Becky Williams	Rick Rudd
Kurt Richter	Nargiza Ludgate	Donna Westfall-Rudd
Emily Van Houweling	Grady Roberts	Tiffany Drape
Laina Schneider	Kumudu Perera	Martin Sebit
Johanna Cricenti	Lila Karki	Clara Cohen
Sandra Russo	Tom Gill	Karen Duca
Nikki Kernaghan	Kristal Jones	
Jessica Childers	Ed Rajotte	

3/23/15

**Keith Opening:**

- In the context of complex changes in climate and markets:
  - o What skills are necessary for adaptive management?
  - o How does this change AET?
- We need to transition from NARS/AKIS mindset to AIS
- Where does innovation occur?
- Who is the audience in trying to change institutional cultures?
- How can we assess capacity development for AIS?

**Presentations:**

Sandra/Tom Training

- InnovATE TOC allows for adaptive management
- Assumptions > Needs Assessment > Strategy > Activities > Impact
- Need to reassess whether our strategy is directing our activities
- Also need to look at the initial assumptions, how they are different than we anticipated, and what are the implications for action
- Need to shift from reactionary to proactive
- Clara: LWA core funding should be used to build the knowledge base of what's important even w/o Associate Awards. We should be highlighting good examples and building an analytical agenda for setting priorities
- Challenge is that missions are held accountable for short term deliverables, and can't always commit to long term investments

Donna CoP

- Need a strategy to maximize use of the CoP
- Each good practice should have a discussion around it
- New round of invitations going out to update on new features
- Focus on content not events
- Need to make a plan for sustainability, what will happen in the next few years?

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#### Emily Research

- Review of thematic studies current status
- Need a product specific dissemination plan
- Thematic briefs for each paper can be circulated
- How to capture journal publications that are InnovATE-funded?
- Tom drafting a paper on AET in Cambodia, peer-reviewed from OSU presentation

#### Tiffany/Kurt GPP and Training Modules

- Priority setting/topic approval should be added to the GPP process
- Good practices should be coming out of the symposium
- Need dissemination plan, target audience and a way to track success
- Training modules need review team, including USAID
- Need to decide on messages before development
- Possibility to share on USAID University, need to follow up with Clara on this
- How will this process change in the coming months/year?

#### Nikki Scoping

- Background studies have proved useful to mission, helpful to start conversations and raise awareness of AET issues
- Background studies respond to specific mission foci, how does this fit to our strategy?
- Where will all the information go? Need to break down country silos to synthesize – possible book? More thematic studies?
- Value chain skill needs assessment would be an option
- Need to develop a menu for other missions, also possible to revisit missions we had spoken with before: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Rwanda
- Reports will be distilled into assessment briefs for Honduras and Tajikistan

### **Small group break out:**

#### What went well

##### Group 1

- Scoping – missions are using us for research and strategic planning for future investment
- CoP – growing and doing well seek feedback design with input from team
  - Useful tool for people
- Thematic Studies – completed target
- Good practice identified and process pilot
- Training tutorials
- Great team and working together – ability to come together
- Website, newsletter and CoP, facebook and twitter all interconnect

##### Group 2

- RUFORUM – facilitation activities, workshops learning events
- Website – flow and information
- Quality of scoping missions – good process timely manner
  - Country studies
- Training opportunities for graduate students domestic and int'l
- Generation of papers, modules, other deliverables,
- Consortium relationships

##### Group 3

- Initial priority setting process at symposium
- High quality scoping assessments

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- Gender research in higher education
- Positive mission reactions to scoping activities
- Engagement within consortium
- Enhanced academic underpinnings in AET
- Development of:
  - Community of practice
  - Advisory committee
  - Standardized scoping methodology
  - InnovATE brand
  - Core products/outputs

### What did not go well

#### Group 1

- Communication – internal and external; with missions directly not clear if we should talk directly and are we meeting their goals.
- Roles and Responsibilities not defined well initially or consistent
- Flawed assumptions
- How to define topics of studies, modules and how/if to revisit
- Reactionary activities and tasks – not discussion and definition of what was needed at the start
- Lack of sharing information
- Decisions on budget slow, partners should be informed in a timely manner
- Transparency to informing all interested parties
- Missions not aligned with USAID Washington.
- RFA process – changed without consultation; review processes and decision making
- Without transparency – lack of credibility -leads to lack of confidence
- Low participation – specifically TU
- Expectation and goals changed slowed down process (modules)
- University working relationship with USAID -procurement mismatch different nature of consultants vs. university. Different mission/contract

#### Group 2

- Lack of vision to formulate goals
- Communication
  - Multiple interpretation of vision leads to poor communication with stakeholders
  - Missions
  - Stakeholders
  - Dissemination
- Lack of innovation

#### Group 3

- Envisioning of deliverable audience, format
- External communications – dissemination
- Determining appropriate scope within AET sector
- Adapting to service culture, demand-driven work
- Too focused on activities, not impact
- Need more regional level engagement
- Not enough tools for ag educators
- Too focused on Associate Awards
- Need to reset priorities on innovative ideas, involve the PAC and a wider audience

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#### Lessons Learned

##### Group 1

- Training module – need to have structure and define process
- Weekly communication – revised frequency as needed
- Process of discovery – needs of missions?
- Awareness of possibilities come through the process
- Flexibility during the scoping/activities to change to demands
- Listening to feedback from internal/external stakeholders
- Organize and group resources, index (bibliographies)
- Deliberate effort to keep faculty engaged and reach out to those who aren't participating
- Change agreement with justification – change indicators? USAID
- Different audiences need different dissemination strategies

##### Group 2

- Vision matters
- Never too late to hit “refresh” for adaptive management
- Better understanding of the context particularly with missions
- Misalignment of goals with USAID and Universities
- Clear understanding of project outputs – type of product and audience

##### Group 3

- Theme-based synthesis, cross-cutting not country based
- Repackaging info to engage more audiences in different ways
- Identify dissemination gaps and create specific tasks to communicate
- Follow up survey with missions after scoping
- Subject expertise and integrated teams work best for scoping
- Opportunity to refocus budget/personnel on goals
- Break out of land-grant model, explore innovative ideas
- Archiving materials

3/24/15

#### Laina Recap

##### **Clara : Ideas for moving forward and legacy of project**

- Resource sharing developmentcapacity.org and Food Security Innovation Center
- Still lots to take out of HICD AgExchange and HICD BIFAD report
- This year performance evaluations of BHEARD and InnovATE will reveal ways to improve, can also learn from MEAS evaluation last year
- Ideas: Survey missions to influence future linking of all levels of education, and looks at skill needs along the mission-specific value chains
- Also wants us to engage at the regional level with other players like World Bank, ACE
- Wants to find models for PPP's and sustainable financing
- Create global AET synthesis and SWOT, publish assessment methodology framework and series of technical notes on models for strengthening AET
- Look up Thomas Dichter, release of paper June 30, local solutions approach
- Need creative thinking to economically sustain impact, because investments are limited we need to build human capacity

**Specifics from the Tuesday morning framing session:**

- Three main themes were identified and responsibilities assigned to focus innovATE work
- Point person(s) will prepare an outline of what needs to be accomplished for each theme and submit to Keith by **Friday April 3.**

Pedagogy/Curriculum – Rick/Grady  
 Gender – Emily/Sandra  
 Rural WFD/Youth – Kurt/Sandra

- Cross-cutting assessment approaches and materials for all three themes – Nikki

**InnovATE Framing for Years 4 & 5**

Lit Review	Pedagogy/Curriculum Educating Educators  Curric Dev't CRSP/IL CPCD –in progress Prof. Dev't – in progress Curr & WFD – in progress	Gender  Gender Higher Ed and AET Muslim Women RoadmapPipeline Citizens Security	Rural WFD/Youth Education for Value Chain Support Citizens Security Post Conflict
Framework	Professional Identity Graphic	Pipeline study –roadmap Educational Linkages	Value chain & Skills
Focus	Educator/Administrator Professional Development	TVET & HE access & perception	Perception Educating for VC Support
Data	Scoping – qualitative Pull out Themes Senegal Gender Ag Nut Student Focus Groups	Focus Groups Scoping data Background study Mozambique RUFORUM	Scoping data & stories
Stories	GPP	GPP in progress	GPP Projects: ERA, iAgri?
Assessment Tools			
Training Materials	Training Tutorial Course Design & Teaching Strategies – in progress CPCD Handbook	Training Tutorial Gender & Hort Value Chain in concept	FHI360 Workshop
Synthesis Analysis Recommendations including policy			

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**Action items from general meeting notes:**

- ME will crosswalk deliverables to the priorities identified from Year 1 Symposium to check progress
- ME will investigate working with Agrilinks to hold webinars
- The assessment sub-team will move forward with a brief mission level survey
- Year 4 workplan will include PMP revision of indicators for better reporting
- All partners will review Year 3 workplan activities to identify any to be dropped in order to reprogram their budgets
- Keith will review the overall project budget in relation of our revised focus and follow up with partners