

Innovation for Agricultural Training and Education —InnovATE —

is a Leader With Associates agreement supporting capacity development in agricultural education and training. Implemented by a consortium of US universities led by Virginia Tech, InnovATE will contribute to sustainable food security, poverty reduction and workforce development through human and institutional capacity development in agricultural education and training (AET) systems.



The program's integrated Learn, Design, and Train components aim to strengthen the full range of institutions that train agricultural professionals—from primary and secondary institutions to vocational schools, technical college, and universities—in such areas as curriculum development, faculty development, pedagogy reform, gender balance and equity, administration and management, outreach, infrastructure, student services, and educational policy reform.

The leader award funding will:

- Carry out analytical work to provide development practitioners with recommendations on good practice and tools to facilitate agricultural education and training system development
- Provide training materials, training, and workshops on agricultural education and training system development;
- Provide country assessments and program design and reform recommendations to improve the effectiveness of agricultural education and training.

A student focus and gender equity and access considerations are central to the approach. Country assessments will include gap analysis of both supply and demand for skills at different levels to assist in targeting future investments.

Options for Mission Access to InnovATE Services:

- **Core Program Support:** Core program resources target definition and dissemination of good practice for improving agricultural education and training systems. Missions may draw on project analytical work and training materials.
- **Buy-ins to the Leader Award:** Country Missions 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 project funding may be available to co-finance such activities.
- **Associate Awards:** Associate Awards are cooperative agreements or grants which Missions or regional bureaus develop with the Recipient of an LWA Leader Award. Missions may fund Associate Awards for technical assistance, training, and implementation of activities for capacity building, reform and development of agricultural education and training systems.

Associate awards can support a range of potential investments, including:

- Establishment of long-term collaborative relationships between US and developing country institutions to effectively address human and institutional capacity needs
- Two to three-year projects to build technical and administrative capacity of local AET institutions to directly implement contracts or grants
- Design and development of programs suited to direct contracting with local AET institutions
- Development of institutional capacity for graduate-level training, vocational/technical training, or basic agricultural education and training in post-conflict situations
- Establishment or comprehensive reform of agricultural universities or vocational/technical training programs
- Establishment of new programs or departments for specific disciplinary training (e.g., nutrition, biotechnology, agribusiness, etc.)
- Establishment of student services—academic mentoring, career services, retention programs, alumni relations
- Establishment of in-service training capacity to complement the work of agricultural sector institutions critical to food security and sound environmental management

Since InnovATE has already secured the Leader Award Cooperative Agreement via a competitive process, Missions (or USAID Offices) can create their own Associate Award Agreements with the Leader without going through additional competitive (or sole source justification) processes. Moreover, the Mission has full control over the development and the management of the Associate Award.



The Associate Award mechanism offers the following advantages to the field Missions:

The AOTR for a Mission-awarded LWA is based in the Mission. The LWA grantee submits all program and financial reports directly to the Mission.

The Program Description (PD) for an Associate Award is developed by the Mission, and reflects Mission (rather than USAID/W) priorities and objectives.

The Associate Award (AA) has its own Mission-funded budget and its own period of performance.

The Associate Award can extend 5 years beyond the end of the Leader award and a Mission can extend an AA for more than 5 years.

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Project Director

Larry Vaughan
Virginia Tech
OIREd
526 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA 24061
larryjv@vt.edu
540-231-6338

AOR

Clara Cohen
USAID Bureau for Food Security
ccohen@usaid.gov
202-712-0119