**OVERVIEW**

The Center for International Programs (CIP) enhances the effectiveness of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the U.S. institutions it supports in research, education, and extension to engage globally and advance U.S. agriculture. CIP provides information on NIFA opportunities for global engagement so universities and colleges may expand their international involvement in agriculture. CIP promotes partnerships between NIFA-supported researchers at U.S. colleges and universities and international collaborators to achieve greater global impact in areas such as food production, food safety, climate and environment, youth development, and agricultural extension. CIP leads NIFA’s international collaboration with USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Department of State, international organizations, and foreign governments where the expertise of NIFA and its stakeholders can help improve global food security and trade and address other issues of concern to the United States.

**ENHANCING NIFA’S GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

Solutions we develop for problems in the United States could benefit other parts of the world. But in an increasingly interconnected world to efficiently solve many problems here we need information and cooperation from beyond our borders. CIP provides advice within NIFA on including opportunities for global engagement in NIFA’s grant programs for U.S. institutions. CIP establishes linkages between NIFA staff and USAID, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, World Bank, and others to advance globally the results and experience of NIFA and its stakeholders, and to keep NIFA informed of emerging agricultural issues of potential concern to the United States. CIP also engages partners through briefings and webinars.

**DEVELOPING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS**

NIFA increasingly turns to partnerships with other countries and organizations to derive mutual agricultural benefits through international cooperation. CIP facilitates linkages between NIFA-funded programs and international collaborators to achieve greater global impact. These include participation in the Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research program that pairs developing country and U.S. scientists; cooperation with Israel on water, food security, and climate-smart agriculture through the Binational Agricultural Research and Development program; participation in the International Wheat Yield Partnership; and collaboration with Ireland and the United Kingdom in such areas as animal health and plant protection.

**BUILDING CAPACITY AT HOME AND ABROAD**

Many domestic advances in the agricultural sector rely upon international cooperation. CIP consults with university faculty who strive to produce more internationally skilled graduates. CIP promotes NIFA’s science around the world by briefing visiting foreign agricultural officials. With USAID funding, NIFA supports research on the common bean, helping smallholder producers in Africa improve their food security. CIP collaborates with U.S. universities to strengthen agricultural extension services overseas, most recently in Afghanistan. NIFA is partnering with FAS to assist Haiti in vocational agricultural education. U.S. extension personnel use cross-cultural lessons learned in CIP’s international projects to better address the needs of a diverse U.S. clientele and help Americans succeed in a global economy.

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*According to data from USDA’s Economic Research Service. | NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and seeks to make transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer | June 2016