

Purpose: The Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI) aims to strengthen training and research capacities of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Cooperatives.

Goal: To achieve food security in Tanzania by preparing the next generation of agricultural scientists, leaders, entrepreneurs, and knowledge-generating institutions.

The project purpose is aligned with themes of USAID *Feed the Future (FtF)* and the Government of Tanzania (GoT) *Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme Compact (CAADP)* and *Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP)*.

Objectives:

- Provide advanced-degree training in agriculture and nutrition for 135 Tanzanian graduate students;
- Establish a program of collaborative research on agriculture and nutrition;
- Strengthen capacity of SUA to develop and implement instructional, internship, and outreach programs;
- Promote cooperation between SUA, U.S. universities, and Global South universities.

Long-Term Graduate Degree Training: The goal of iAGRI's long-term training component is to equip the next generation of Tanzanian researchers and managers with skills and knowledge for achieving food security throughout the country. As of October 2014, iAGRI had 131 trainees (20 PhD, 108 MSc, and 3 BSc.) either enrolled in degree programs or graduated.

Collaborative Research: Institutional collaboration under iAGRI is fostered through the following elements:

- Shared setting of priority research topics;
- Tanzanian and foreign advisors jointly guiding the research of each Masters and PhD trainee;
- Research grants for teams of SUA, MAFC, and OSUC researchers working collaboratively.

Institutional Capacity Building at Sokoine University: iAGRI has launched a *Leadership for Change Management* initiative to transform SUA into a 21st century university where teaching, research and outreach are demand-driven. SUA's Quality Assurance and Promotion Bureau is a partner with iAGRI and the lead implementer of a University Teaching and Learning Improvement program for instructors, a pilot program to utilize postgraduate students as Teaching Assistants, equipping classrooms with audio-visual equipment, and creation of a Classroom Services Unit to monitor and maintain classroom equipment and facilities.

Other capacity-building activities iAGRI is supporting at SUA include a mentoring program for faculty and students, strategic planning for SUA's alumni association, a web portal for the Sokoine National Agricultural Library to search for and

download scientific papers, development of a statistics laboratory to advise students and academic staff on research design and analysis, curricular and equipment improvements for a remedial English language program, and short courses on various topics.



Neema Shosho (right), an iAGRI-sponsored scholar from Tuskegee University, takes a blood sample from a young boy while conducting nutrition intervention education as part of her master's research in the village of Peapea in Tanzania's Kilosa district.

Private Sector Linkages at SUA: iAGRI is helping Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs' Cooperative Organization (SUGECO) develop a strategic plan, providing a manager for SUGECO, packaging iAGRI post-graduate student theses as an "investment portfolio" to be marketed to food system firms seeking applied scientific knowledge for investment and operations, brokering public-private partnerships between SUA and agribusiness firms, and providing technical assistance to the horticulture industry in Tanzania.

SUA-U.S. University-Global South University Cooperation: iAGRI has enlisted universities in Africa and Asia to host degree trainees. Through a partnership with RUFORUM, the project is placing trainees in African universities outside Tanzania. OSUC faculty members collaborate with Tanzania counterparts in supervising trainees' research and participate in curriculum development, teaching short courses, and other capacity-building activities in Tanzania.

Institutional Partners: iAGRI is a partnership of Tanzanian institutions and The Ohio State University Consortium (OSUC) -- six U.S. land grant universities, including The Ohio State University (the lead institution), Michigan State University, Virginia Tech, University of Florida, Tuskegee University, and Iowa State University.

Collaboration with other Feed the Future Projects: iAGRI has collaborated with the Tanzania Agricultural Productivity Project (TAPP) and IITA/Africa RISING on students' MSc thesis research, with the NAFKA Maize and Rice Value Chain Project on maize research, with the SERA Policy Project on an Agricultural Policy Seminar Series, and with TAPP and the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) on creation of a commercial horticultural training facility at SUA.