INNOVATION FOR AGRICULTURE

A chance to improve food security and livelihoods around the world

The News

For over half a century, the International Agricultural Development (IAD) graduate group has flourished at UC Davis. More than 800 IAD alumni working in prominent positions in the public and private sectors have been effecting positive change in the United States and across the developing world. UC Davis launched the IAD program in 1963 with a generous $100,000 investment from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, with the vision of producing leaders who could combine technical knowledge with policy understanding to deliver innovations benefitting agricultural development and rural life. Any calculation of the value of this investment, which has been leveraged for more than fifty years, would show an enormous impact. Today, we have another opportunity to build this program. UC Davis has entered an agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF). With your support, this collaboration has the potential to revitalize the IAD program by helping us continue to attract the best and brightest students with a passion for international development.

IAD graduate student Lauren Pincus (second from left) discusses rice production with a farmer and other participants during a field course at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.
A Renewed Investment

This year, USAID chose UC Davis for the prestigious Research and Innovation Fellowship for Agriculture (RIFA). The collaboration will last three years and offers early career professionals enrolled in development-oriented graduate programs at UC Davis the opportunity to plan and implement a two-to-six-month international project with a host institution. Hosts span a broad spectrum of development work, including NGOs, private sector companies, research centers, universities, and government ministries. Hosts can be local entities or larger, international organizations.

The Fellowship will be administered by core IAD staff and will fund 12-16 student projects each year. The host countries for 2014-2015 include Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, The Philippines, Senegal and South Africa with the potential to expand in upcoming years.

The $200,000-per-year agreement from USAID will enhance and invigorate the IAD program by helping us attract the most dedicated and driven students right now. With this vote of confidence, it is a timely moment to enhance IAD by establishing a permanent endowment.

Why Your Support Matters

An endowment-building effort galvanized by the RIFA agreement will ensure a stable funding source for IAD. Priorities for the program may change over time, but an endowment guarantees support for the most important curriculum elements including international projects for students and the delivery of core courses as well as critical lectures by respected practitioners and scholars. Furthermore, it will allow IAD students and faculty to focus on enhancing the program’s excellence in meeting the challenges of 21st-century development. If we are successful in our goals, the multiplier effect will have a lasting impact on food security and livelihood improvement around the world.

Ways to Give

Donations can be made by an individual, corporation or foundation. Cash gifts can be made in one year or spread out over time. Estate plans, charitable rollovers from IRAs, securities and real property are all welcomed. Major donors can expect to be apprised annually with an endowment stewardship report.

Please consider partnering with us to secure the future of IAD students and their global work.

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Alumni and faculty of the program know that IAD students are some of the most motivated graduate students on campus. With your help in building this endowment we will continue to attract high-caliber students in the future by investing in a program that has given so many a great start in their educations and careers.