Call for Proposals
Intersections of Policy and Practice to Strengthen Agricultural Education and Training Systems

Presenting at this symposium, Intersections of Policy and Practice to Strengthen Agricultural Education and Training Systems, is an opportunity to gain visibility, highlight expertise, and deepen learning through audience exchange.

Key Information
DATE: June 8-9, 2017
LOCATION: Kellogg Conference Center, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.
WHO CAN SUBMIT: any interested parties
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Feb. 24, 2017
INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the online submission form at:

Key Dates
Dec. 22, 2016: Call for proposals opens
Feb. 24, 2017: Deadline to submit proposals
Feb. 24, 2017-Mar. 31, 2017: Review of proposals; you may receive clarification questions during this review process. We appreciate your prompt response.
Week of Apr. 7, 2017: Notification of accepted proposals
Apr. 14, 2017: Agenda is posted online
Apr. 28, 2017: Deadline for presenters to register for the symposium
May 8, 2017-May 12, 2017: Participate in a session prep phone call
May 26, 2017: Deadline for submission of electronic session materials (powerpoint, handouts, etc.)
June 8-9, 2017: Symposium

The Innovation for Agricultural Training and Education (InnovATE) project is hosting a symposium, June 8-9, 2017 in Washington, D.C. that poses answers to the question: How do internal or external, national or institutional policies affect agricultural education and training (AET) systems in the developing world?

InnovATE, a USAID-funded Feed the Future initiative, was created to work with USAID country missions to assess and strengthen AET systems in developing countries through human and institutional capacity development. This symposium will focus on insights about policy environments for the development and strengthening of AET systems. It will bring together approximately 150 educators, international development practitioners, government representatives, private sector players and USAID officers and staff.

The symposium has four tracks: Gender Transformation, Youth Development, Private Sector Engagement and Cross-Sector Collaboration. For each track there will be a plenary session and concurrent sessions. One concurrent session in each track will be hosted by an InnovATE consortium partner. We are seeking proposals for the remaining concurrent sessions for each of the tracks.
Theme
The theme of this symposium is Intersections of Policy and Practice in Strengthening Agricultural Education and Training Systems. The symposium will explore and pose answers to the question: How do internal or external, national or institutional policies affect agricultural education and training (AET) systems?

This is an important question for sustainable development of AET systems in international development. Effective AET systems: improve organizations and institutions; develop partnerships; encourage interdisciplinary collaborations; involve the private sector; encourage and share research; strengthen curricula; improve teaching; empower women; and, advance economies. However, this work does not happen in a vacuum. Institutional and national policy environments have a large effect on the development of AET systems.

This symposium provides a space to discuss lessons learned and ways forward. We are looking for sessions that demonstrate, examine and/or explore the intersections of policy and practice in AET. Proposals should focus on international AET programs, institutions and/or systems and include a policy element.

Tracks

**Gender Transformation:** Women comprise, on average, 43 percent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries, ranging from 20 percent in Latin America to 50 percent in Eastern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Women are, therefore, critical to achieving food security. A Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) aims to move beyond access and control over resources to address the fundamental issues leading to women’s disempowerment – the structures, norms and beliefs that reinforce women’s multi-dimensional poverty. This track will highlight: approaches and interventions used in AET programs, institutions and systems to address fundamental issues of gender in AET; how policy helps or hinders in these approaches and interventions; and, suggestions for changes in policies and practices.

**Youth Development:** Youth are a key to long term food security and poverty reduction. AET has a role in addressing issues relevant to youth such as encouraging an entrepreneurial mindset, reducing youth unemployment, attracting youth to the agriculture sector, and reducing youth violence. This track will highlight youth development in AET programs, initiatives and policies and offer insights in to future work in this area.

**Private Sector Engagement:** Capacity building across the agricultural innovation system requires linkages between the public and private sectors. This track will highlight examples of strong private sector engagement by AET systems and the policies necessary to encourage private sector engagement at all levels.

**Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Long term food security is a complex issue which requires systematic capacity building across the entire agricultural innovation system. This track will
highlight examples of cross-sector collaboration (agriculture and nutrition, agriculture and economic development, e.g.) and demonstrate or explore how policies and infrastructure affect such collaborations.

Session Types
You are invited to submit a proposal to lead a concurrent session. Each concurrent session will be 60-75 minutes in length and have between 30-50 participants.

We are looking for sessions that will inform agricultural education and training programming, policymaking and/or funding strategies. An effective session will result in participants walking away with increased knowledge and an idea for how to put that knowledge to work in strengthening agricultural education and training.

Sessions should engage the audience. To support this goal, submitters are asked to select from one of the session types below or propose a new, innovative format.

- **Think Tank Session**: Real-time group problem solving and discussion around a specific problem faced by a program (e.g., going to scale, sustainability, barriers to implementation and/or reach). Presenters will have 20 – 30 minutes to 1) describe the problem and 2) describe what solutions have been tried to address the problem. The audience will be invited to generate real-time recommendations for a way forward. These sessions are designed to enable collaborative, creative group problem solving. Outcomes of the session may be shared with participants.

- **TEDx Style Session**: Each session should have no more than three presenters, and each TED Talk should last between 10-15 minutes. This requires the speaker to get very focused on the underlying message they want to convey and to deliver that message in a compelling manner. A moderator should briefly introduce an over-arching theme that will tie in the stories of all speakers. The presentation is followed by an interactive discussion, where audience members are given the opportunity to comment and ask questions. This will ensure a connection between the ideas being presented and actually learning and applying them.

  Also remember these general principles: speak of failures and successes, communicate your vision, do not sell from the stage, and do not read your speech. For more guidance, see: [http://storage.ted.com/tedx/manuals/tedxspeakerguide.pdf](http://storage.ted.com/tedx/manuals/tedxspeakerguide.pdf).

- **20 Questions**: This format is a great way to engage an audience in assessing the obstacles of a very specific topic. First, the topic is presented and should include the main objectives, components, and a review of the intervention’s results. This should take no more than 10 minutes. The audience begins with a 20 – 25 minute window to ask a variety of questions (20 max) on the topic to form a better picture of what worked and what did not. For example: “Why was XYZ not successful/effective?” and “What did you do to try to ensure the sustainability and growth of the project?” The audience is then asked to split into groups of 4-5 to discuss what they would have done differently. After 15 minutes each group reports out to the others, and all answers
are recorded by someone at the front. Presenters then wrap up the session by reviewing their thoughts on each of the audience ideas.

- **Roundtable Session:** During this type of session, presenters will have the opportunity to highlight a tool or new piece of research to a small group of participants. Presenters are encouraged to showcase their tool/research for 5-10 minutes before facilitating a 35-40 minute roundtable discussion on creative ways to implement each tool and/or research finding.

- **Paired Session:** This session pairs presenters from different angles of the same topic. It might, for example, combine a policy maker/administrator and an educator or a scientist and an extension agent. There is a 30-minute panel or presentation of policy efforts or research, followed by a roundtable discussion of the teaching or training implications of the policy or research.

- **An Innovative, Interactive Session of Your Design!**

### Overview for Proposal Submission

#### Proposal Review

You will be asked to prepare an expanded explanation of your proposal, which will be used to review the proposal and in the online program. (500-1000 words) Files should be titled: `LastName_InnovATESymposium_sessiondescription`

Proposals will be reviewed with the following criteria:

- Quality and mix of presenters
- Content of session is relevant to one of the tracks and the overall theme of the symposium, intersections of policy and practice in strengthening agricultural education and training systems in developing countries.
- Proposal includes lessons learned and transferable take-aways
- Extent to which session is participatory

Proposals must include each speaker’s bio and headshot before your proposal is considered complete. Following guidelines does not guarantee a proposal will be accepted, but following guidelines ensures your proposal will be considered.

Competitive session proposals should:

- Lead to knowledge exchange and result in participants’ ability to strengthen practice and improve policy
- Address current issues and/or controversies on the symposium’s theme and tracks, and in particular includes a policy element
- Incorporate lessons learned and transferable take-aways for participants
- Engage the audience through participation rather than lecture
- Promote open and honest dialogue that drives the conversation forward
- Reflect a diversity of perspectives and experiences.
InnovATE intends to produce a paper following the symposium that includes examples and recommendations for policymakers. Those examples and recommendations will come from the symposium presenters and InnovATE’s experiences.

Speakers
Sessions can include up to three (3) speakers. Multiple perspectives on an issue that offer rich discussion and perspectives of multiple stakeholders are highly desirable. Please consider speakers for your session that represent:

- Diverse perspectives from implementers, funders, researchers, youth, technical assistance providers, trainers, educators, policy makers and/or the private sector
- Gender balance
- More than one organization

Cost of Participation
The symposium is organized on a not-for-profit basis. Speakers are asked to “co-invest” in the event. Speakers are responsible for meals, hotel and travel expenses. We have a block of rooms reserved at the Kellogg Conference Center at Gallaudet University for $242/night. Just be sure to reserve your room early!

Responsibilities
Speakers who are selected to participate in the symposium are expected to:

- Register before the deadline of April 28, 2017
- Meet all symposium deadlines (see Key Dates)
- Participate in one phone call with symposium organizers to finalize session content

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