

Quarterly Report for AID-OAA-A-14-00031

Quarter 1, FY'18

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) convened one meeting in association with the World Food Prize during this quarter. The convened session was open to the public and was entitled "Building an Evidence Base for Resilience Programming under the USG Global Food Security Strategy: Bridging the Gap Between Humanitarian and Development Assistance." BIFAD members Brady Deaton, Gebisa Ejeta, and Pamela Anderson attended the meeting in person. Dr. Beth Dunford gave an update on USAID programs. A highlight of meeting was the announcement of the winners for the BIFAD Award for Scientific Excellence in a Feed-the-Future Innovation Lab. The recipients named are Drs. J. Beaver from the University of Puerto Rico and J. Rosas in Honduras for the senior researcher award, and Mr. L. Amadou who is associated with Kansas State University and Virginia Tech University. The recipients will make brief presentations after receiving their awards at the next public BIFAD meeting during Q3 of FY'18.

The key portion of the meeting was a presentation by Dr. Greg Collins of USAID concerning the evidence base for resilience programming by USAID. He then led a panel who discussed key areas in depth. The panel members were Tim Frankenberger, President and Co-Founder, TANGO International; Nancy Mock, Associate Professor, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Tulane University; Jon Kurtz, Senior Director of Research and Learning, Mercy Corps and Greg Collins. The BIFAD convened session was streamed live on the Internet. There was a robust discussion between BIFAD, the panel and the in-person and online audiences.

Monthly conference calls for BIFAD members were hosted by APLU, and a key topic was the approval of the work plan for BIFAD for 2018. Bi-weekly conference calls were hosted by APLU for the BIFAD support team. APLU organized calls for BIFAD and the conference panel to discuss key points prior to the meeting in Des Moines.

The Senior Counselor made a presentation to the APLU Commission for International Initiatives concerning BIFAD activities over the previous year. APLU sent numerous communications to the US higher education community. The Senior Counselor directly supported the Awards working group by working with the institutions of the participants to develop press releases.