

IPM Innovation Lab Trip Reports

Country Visited: Senegal

Dates of Travel:

February 6-10, 2017.

Travelers Names and Affiliations: Fayad (IPM IL ME, Virginia Tech).

Purpose of Trip: attend the Feed the Future Innovation Labs West Africa Regional Partners Meeting: “**Identifying agricultural priorities and strengthening partnerships**”.

Sites Visited: Dakar, Thies

Description of Activities/Observations:

February 4: Fayad traveled from Nepal to Senegal

February 5: Fayad reached Dakar, Senegal.

February 6:

Meeting Objectives

- Identify key agriculture and nutrition research priorities and needs
- Examine human and Institutional capacity needs and successful models
- Map current research and development programs against needs and priorities to identify synergies and gaps
- Identify opportunities for collaboration within and between the Innovation Labs, Missions, and other research and development programs in the region

The meeting started with an opening session followed by short plenary presentations that covered an overview of the research development programs in West Africa. This was followed by themed panel discussions to explore in more depth the ongoing activities and needs for West African projects.

The opening session including remarks by

- Innovation Lab Council Director, Timothy J. Dalton
- USAID Senegal Mission Director, Lisa Franchett
- ISRA Director General, Alioune Fall
- ITA Director General, Mamadou A. Seck

Rob Bertram, Chief Scientist, BFS, USAID, gave an overview of Feed the Future and the Global Food Security Act and reminded attendees that Innovation Labs are specifically mentioned in this act.

The next session focused on mission priorities and needs in West Africa.

Representatives from Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, and Liberia all participated.

- Ghana, Jenna Tajchman
- Nigeria, Osagie Aimiuwu
- Senegal, Anne Williams
- Liberia, Samba Kawa

Discussions focused on climate smart agriculture, needs for better collaboration between regional players including ECOWAS, CILSS/AGRHYMET, CORAF, IFDC, and West African Seed Program. Areas of need include policy and advocacy, trade linkages, and investment hubs.

Another session focused on regional agriculture research and development priorities and needs. Speakers included representatives from USAID West Africa, USAID Sahel, and CORAF. Discussion covered regional centers of excellence. Several priorities have been identified and these are rice, livestock, dry cereals, fruit and legume, aquaculture, root and tuber. There is a need to build regional centers of specificity.

- USAID/West African Regional, Mary Hobbs
- USAID/Sahel Regional Office, Patrick Smith
- CORAF, Dr. Abdou Tenkouano

Afternoon sessions included a panel discussion on climate resilience and risk management: needs, challenges and opportunities.

- Legume IL, Irv Widders
- CSIR-CIR, James Asibuo
- IITA, Ousmane Boucar
- Syngenta Foundation, Ian Barker

Discussion revolved around crop improvement, biostimulants.

A session dedicated to food safety and nutrition: needs, challenges, and opportunities included the following speakers:

- INERA, Paco Sereme
- PHLR IL, Jagger Harvey
- Nutrition, Pr. Salimata Wade
- WAAPP/CORAF Fruits and Vegetable Center, H. Traore

Discussion focused on food processing and safety, educational needs and research capabilities in Senegal,

The final session for the day focused on animals in production systems: needs, challenges, and opportunities. Speakers included:

- AquaFish IL, Hillary Eгна
- WAAPP/CORAF Aquaculture Center, Oludare Adeogun
- Livestock Systems IL, Gbola Adesogban
- WAAPP/CORAF Livestock Center, Hassane Adakal

- Poultry, Valentine Yapi-Gnaore

Gbola mentioned that the Livestock Innovation Lab will be releasing new RFAs in the next three weeks.

February 7: the morning panel discussion focused on HICD needs, challenges and opportunities. Speakers included:

- CIRAD, Sylvie Levicki
- USAID/Senegal ERA project, Tom Archibald
- UCAD, Pr. K. Noba
- WACCI, Eric Danquah
- GCFSI, Kurt Richter

Levicki's presentations focused on research priorities of CIRAD, intensification, food security, varietal improvement, risk management. They trained 40 students in Senegal and Burkina Faso, 2 in Mali. Partners include ICRISAT, USAID, and ISRA.

Richter described MSU's Global center for Food Systems Innovation activities. He described the model for Designing, Thinking, and Collaboration. Archibald described Virginia tech's ERA activities and gave a general evaluation of HUCD programs and needs.

This session was not well received by Innovation Lab's and the concern was conveyed to Clara Cohen and USAID leadership the second day during the joint meeting.

The afternoon session had participants divide in four focus groups:

- Mapping Climate Resilience and Risk Management Activities and Needs
- Mapping Crop Improvement Systems Activities and Needs
- Mapping Food Safety and Nutrition Activities and Needs
- Mapping Livestock Production and Systems Activities and Needs

I participated with the Climate resilience and risk management activities and needs group.

We discussed priorities, needs, challenges, and collaborations. Recommendations were presented at the joint session for the four groups and results will be summarized and shared by Tim Dalton.

February 8: I attended the closed meeting for the Innovation Labs Directors. We discussed several issues including:

- External Evaluation process, TOR and SOWs for recent reviews. PEER, a company based in the UK, handled recent reviews.
- Concerns by Innovation Labs Directors regarding the HICD session.
- Training and tracking graduates of the Innovation Labs
- Budget cuts and their implications on programs
- Need for regular/ monthly conference calls

Innovation labs directors and USAID (BFS and missions) convened a joint meeting. Discussion focused on:

- HICD and concerns raised by lab directors on what it seems a misunderstanding about what the labs do in terms of building the capacity of partner institutions and assessing the needs of respective institutions/countries
- Center for excellence in Cambodia. Eгна and Fayad raised concerns regarding lack of communication regarding the CESAIN and what the expectations, needs, collaborations are.
- Budgetary issues/pipeline. USAD prohibits forward funding. Beyond 12-18 months, needs a waiver.
- All subcontracts reported as incumbent can be considered as spent and therefore not in the pipeline
- CAPS of LAC region, program can have activities only if can demonstrate they are global in benefit
- Need to show benefit to the U.S.

In the afternoon, we visited the WAAP Center of Excellence (CERAAS) in Thies. We visited the breeding, physiology, and genomics lab and listened to an overview of research activities by the scientists and the students. Students can come from several West African countries to conduct their research and this center.

February 10: Fayad traveled back to the U.S.

Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

We need to follow up on the following:

- CESAIN in Cambodia. We expect to receive an update from Vara Prasad
- Implementation guidance on ADS 252. Carol Levine will send the implementation guidelines for the Feed the Future Innovation Labs.
- Monitor the release of RFAs by the Livestock Innovation Lab.
- Monitor the release of other RFAs by USAID.

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