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RUFORUM
Capacity Building in Agriculture



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During March and April, iAGRI has continued to give special attention to documenting the impacts which it is having on food security in Tanzania. Although the major impacts of training, research and capacity building are likely to be evident over the years to come, it is possible to document initial outputs and outcomes, particularly of the investments in training and research. This edition of iAGRI News focuses on documenting this information for the readers. We are grateful to the dedicated iAGRI staff in Morogoro that continue to work with iAGRI-funded students, iAGRI-funded researchers, and with SUA administrators and staff involved in the critical transformation of their institution designed to increase its relevance to stakeholders in the agricultural sector and ultimately to improve food security in Tanzania. We are also grateful for the continued support given to iAGRI by USAID/Tanzania and by the Bureau for Food Security in Washington, D.C.

March-April, 2016 Update

Long Term Training – By April 30, 52 iAGRI-funded students had completed their degree training. The breakdown of this training is found in the following table.

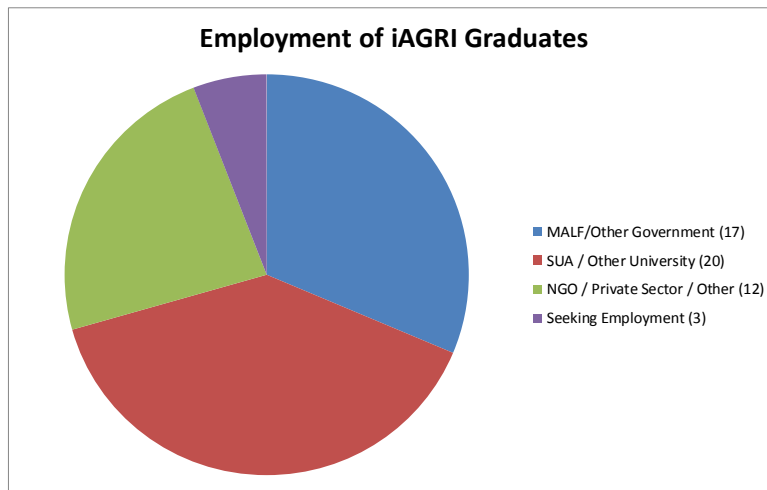
Training Placement and Completions				
	Placed		Completed	
	MS	PhD	MS	PhD
OSUC	55	16	30	2
SUA	27	4	7	-
RUFORUM	30	1	11	-
Punjab Ag	6	-	2	-
Total	118	21	50	2

All completed students are back in Tanzania. We anticipate that all but two of the PhD students placed at Ohio State University Consortium (OSUC) member institutions as part of Cohort II will complete their degree programs by the end of the summer. The two remaining students will complete their programs by the end of the year. They extended their programs with additional funding from their host institutions. We also anticipate that all MS students placed at OSUC member institutions under Cohort IV will complete their programs by the end of the summer as will students placed at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU). Student completions at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and RUFORUM member institutions have been delayed by processes internal to their graduate degree programs, principally the delayed inputs by external examiners.

As illustrated in the pie chart on the following page, most of the students who have completed their degrees are employed, primarily by institutions of higher agricultural education or by the Tanzanian government at the national, regional, and local levels.



Eleven of them are employed at the Sokoine University of Agriculture and seventeen of them hold government positions, mostly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Those currently seeking employment were recent university graduates or had to leave private sector or NGO employment to pursue their studies.



iAGRI has sponsored a LinkedIn group through which iAGRI alumni and current fellows communicate with one another about their current employment activities and about additional opportunities. The impact of student training has been increased through the iAGRI Innovation Portfolio activity and through direct outreach by students as part of their field experiences in Tanzania. Documentation of these activities are found in success stories posted on the iAGRI website (see <http://iagri.org>).

iAGRI Research Program – Two major research workshops were recently held at SUA. They were designed to document the initial outputs of research supported by iAGRI under its Collaborative Research program and through its support of graduate student research that involved scientists from host institutions and SUA as well as graduate students. The first workshop involved PIs from Tanzania for the eight funded research projects as well as representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (MALF), local government organizations and SUA. They presented findings from their research and documentation of research outputs and outcomes as well as initial impact. These findings will be published in a proceedings document which is currently being prepared by iAGRI PMU staff. The papers will also be published in a special edition of the *Tanzania Journal of Agricultural Sciences*. The second workshop involved iAGRI students who have completed their degree programs. Thirty-nine iAGRI graduate student alumni presented findings from their research at this event. These findings will also be published in a second proceedings document that is being prepared by PMU staff. PMU staff members responsible for the Innovation Portfolio were involved in this exercise and intend to follow up with presenters who worked on technologies that have the potential to be extended to private sector, NGOs, and other SUA stakeholders.

iAGRI Capacity Building – With iAGRI’s assistance, SUA has launched the Tractor Training and Research Program (TTARP), to provide training for SUA students, graduates, farmers, and agribusiness. TTARP is a public-private partnership between John Deere, LonAgro and SUA focusing on targeted skills and knowledge transfer related to agricultural mechanization in order to increase farmer productivity, provide entrepreneurship opportunities, and increase incomes. TTARP was launched at SUA on April 1, 2016 with nearly 300 participants attending the event and the official handing over of a fully equipped tractor to SUA. Agricultural mechanization is an important element in the strategy to improve food security in Tanzania. TTARP aims to enhance the ability of youth to pursue opportunities harnessing the potential of technology, skills, and knowledge and combine these with business skills such as marketing, accounting, and sales.

iAGRI provided an experienced consultant in April to assist the College of Agriculture at SUA to develop its component of the university’s new strategic plan, translating inputs from a stakeholders workshop into concrete plans for the activities of the College over the period 2016-2025. Also in April, fourteen iAGRI students completed an online introductory leadership course taught by PMU staff. An additional 22 iAGRI students are enrolled in an advanced online leadership course taught by faculty from Ohio State’s Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership (ACEL). That course will be completed in May.