

CHARTER

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (SPARE)

Preamble

The Board on International Food and Agricultural Development ("BIFAD"), as reappointed in 1996 to advise the United States Agency for International Development ("USAID" or the "Agency") under the Title XII program, is in need of several strategic and operational functions to be carried out in its support. In particular, there is a need for the creation of a mechanism for identifying long term research and development priorities in addition to overseeing ongoing collaborative work. The purpose of the initiative proposed with this Charter is to create an institutional arrangement that will meet those needs.

In support of USAID Automated Directives System Chapter 216, BIFAD and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges ("NASULGC") will be drawn into partnership with USAID in establishing the new arrangement and in sustaining it after its establishment. Membership of the new partnership will include staff from USAID and the university community.

Article I. Partnership's Official Designation

The new partnership is designated the Strategic Partnership for Agricultural Research and Education ("SPARE" or "the Partnership"). SPARE will function as a sub-committee of BIFAD and NASULGC'S Board on Agriculture ("BOA"). It will respond to requests of BIFAD and BOA, and report its deliberations and recommendations to BIFAD and the BOA. Only BIFAD will convey, as it deems appropriate, recommendations of SPARE to the Agency for review and action.

Article II. Objectives and Scope of Activities

The prime objectives of SPARE are to improve communications and broaden the basis for involvement of the U.S. university community in the activities of USAID, through BIFAD. More specifically, SPARE will collaborate with USAID staff and BIFAD to recommend priorities for BIFAD and USAID, review ongoing Collaborative Research Support Programs ("CRSPs") and other activities, and provide reports to USAID and BIFAD on those reviews. The scope of the Partnership's activities include food security, agricultural modernization, nutrition, rural development, natural resources, food systems, agribusiness, agricultural trade, intellectual property rights and sustainability.

Article III. Duties and Functions.

The duties and functions of SPARE include:

- A. Identifying emerging priority issues for Agency and university action in the Partnership's area of purview.
- B. Reviewing the performance of the on-going CRSPs and other Agency science and technology activities under the Partnership's purview and report the results of these reviews.
- C. Making recommendations on funding levels based on past performance and on the priorities attached to work objectives.
- D. Providing information to BIFAD and NASULGC's BOA on the objectives and results of the university-USAID partnership.

In all cases, the duties and functions of SPARE shall be limited to responding to requests of BIFAD and the BOA and reporting deliberations and recommendations to BIFAD and the BOA in accordance with Article I.

Article IV. Organization and Operation

The USAID Administrator, the Chair of the NASULGC Board on Agriculture, and the Chair of BIFAD will jointly select a chair and a vice chair (from within the six selected to be members of SPARE) for one year terms. One will be from the university community and one from the Agency. The vice chair generally will move to the chair the following year (or earlier if the chair is vacated).

The universities and the Agency will each pay the costs of their own members associated with attending meetings (i.e, travel, per diem and salary). For the Agency, and subject to the availability of funds for this purpose, the total annual estimated cost of SPARE is .5 staff workyear and \$25,000.

The location for meetings will rotate among the committee membership with the hosting institution bearing meeting costs (other than those costs described immediately above). One of the Agency members will function as the secretariat for SPARE.

The Chair of BIFAD will nominate from among its membership an observer. The observer will attend the meetings of SPARE and will keep the members of BIFAD apprised of SPARE activities. Minutes for each SPARE meeting will be broadly disseminated within one month of each meeting.

Article V. Membership

SPARE will consist of six members, three chosen from the universities and three chosen from the Agency.

As for the members chosen from the universities, the Chairman of the NASULGC Board on Agriculture will recommend two members from the Land Grant System (at least one of which will have ties to a CRSP), and the Chair of BIFAD will recommend a member from the university community but outside the Land Grant System.

As for the members chosen from the Agency, the Administrator of the Agency will recommend two members from USAID staff, and the Chair of BIFAD, in consultation with USAID, will recommend one member from USAID staff, provided, however, that of such three Agency members two will be from the Global Bureau's Office of Agriculture and Food Security, and one will be from a regional bureau.

Recommendations for membership will be presented for consideration to the Administrator of USAID, who will appoint all members. The term of membership will not exceed three years. Terms will be staggered so that one-third of the membership changes each year. Members are serving in a representative capacity and, therefore, are not subject to conflict of interest and financial disclosure statutes and regulations.

Article VI. Period of Operation

Indefinite

Article VII. To Whom the Partnership Reports

The Board on International Food and Agricultural Development, and the Board on Agriculture of NASULGC.

Article VIII. Subordinate Units

The Partnership is authorized to create such subordinate units as may be necessary for the performance of its duties and the discharge of its responsibilities. These units will be for specific functions and will expire after specific time periods.

Article IX. Estimated Frequency of Meetings

SPARE will meet quarterly.

Article X. Charter Amendments

The Charter of the Partnership may be amended after review by BIFAD and with the approval of the Administrator of USAID and the Chair of the NASULGC Board on Agriculture.