



AG SECTOR COUNCIL | DISCUSSION SERIES

## BUILDING LINKAGES IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING THROUGH SYSTEMS THINKING

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WEBINAR CHAT TRANSCRIPT

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## PRESENTERS

Dr. Clara Cohen, USAID Bureau for Food Security

Dr. T. Grady Roberts, University of Florida

Dr. Wayne Ganpat, University of West Indies

Mr. Seth Heinert, Indigenous Education Foundation of Tanzania

**USAID Agrilinks:** Good morning to everyone online!

**USAID Agrilinks:** We will be getting started at 9: 30 AM EST.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Please excuse me for a minute while I check the webinar rooms.

**Anna Antwi:** good afternoon from Ghana

**USAID Agrilinks:** Good morning Anna! Thanks for joining us today!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Everyone-Please introduce yourself to everyone online! Where are you joining from?

**Regina Brown:** Hi from Dakar

**Jill Lovell:** Hi from Beira, Mozambique

**USAID Agrilinks:** Hi Regina! Hi Jill!

**Karen Rieckmann:** Hi from Hamburg : ) Germany

**USAID Agrilinks:** Welcome Karen!

**Willies Mwandira:** A very good afternoon from Galway.

**Karen Rieckmann:** hearing you

**Jill Lovell:** I can hear you no problem

**USAID Agrilinks:** Great, thank you Jill.

**Anna Antwi:** it is clear at my end here

**Regina Brown:** I can hear

**USAID Agrilinks:** Wonderful!

**Herman Sanchez:** I can hear you well. Listening from Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Jarrahi Tarek:** It is a great pleasure and honour to join you from Tunisia

**USAID Agrilinks:** Great, thank you Herman! Welcome Jarrahi!

**RAMANS KAYUMU:** Hi All, Greeting, Good afternoon.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Please take a moment to read the "User Guidance" above. If you're on Google Chrome, please switch to another browser.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Good morning/afternoon Ramans!

**Clarisse Goffard:** Hi from Hamburg!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Good morning from DC! It's not as cold as it has been the last couple of days and the snow has almost melted.

**HENRY RWAMUGEMA:** Hi guys, Henry Rwamugema joining from Innoconsult ltd, Kigali-Rwanda

**Clarisse Goffard:** I'm not hearing you but I guess that's normal.. ?

**Abhishek Taneja:** Hi this is Abhishek from India....evening to wherever the sun has set...

**Clarisse Goffard:** I'm hearing you! Thank you

**Abhishek Taneja:** great can hear...

**HENRY RWAMUGEMA:** I'm hearing you, it's well set

**USAID Agrilinks:** Great, thanks Clarisse and Henry!

**Melaniemberman:** Hello everyone, this is Melanie Berman from Winrock International. Yes, I am able to hear you.

**Susan Raitt:** I can hear you.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Welcome Melanie and thanks Susan.

**USAID Agrilinks:** I'm going to pull up some polls while we wait. Please feel free to take them.

**Andrew Bisson:** Hi everyone, like the music!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Hi Andrew! Glad that you like the music : ) And so glad that you could join today.

**Meredith Waters:** I'm Meredith Waters - working with MSI

**John Bonnell:** Hi all, I'm John Bonnell. I work at Michigan State University as a Capacity Development Specialist in the Center for Global Connections.

**Seth Heinert:** Good morning from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida USA!

**Maarten van den Dool:** Green greetings from the Low Lands (Netherlands)!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Welcome Meredith, John, Seth, and Maarten!

**Dana James:** Hello everyone -- my name is Dana James and I work as a KM Specialist on the Feed the Future Knowledge-Driven Agricultural Development project in DC.

**Zahra Patel:** Hi Everyone! This is Zahra working as a contractor for USAID Food for Peace - I'm a recent graduate with a degree in International Agriculture so I'm super interested!

**Tracy Ferrell Roberts:** Good morning from Ocala, FL

**USAID Agrilinks:** Great, thanks all and welcome!

**RONALD MARUMBI 2:** Hello everyone, I'm Ronald Marumbi from the University of Zimbabwe

**Rolf Dietrich:** Hi, Rolf Dietrich, Program manager with The MasterCard Foundation in Toronto, listening in on behalf of a fdn-wide agriculture working group

**Maria Veronica Gottret:** Good morning to all... I am Maria Veronica Gottret from Catholic Relief Services

**RAMANS KAYUMU:** Ramans Kayumu: From National University of Ireland

**Sara Duran:** Hello there, here Sara Duran, M&E for Fintrac. In El Salvador

**USAID Agrilinks:** So great to see such a global audience!

**Christian Renson:** Good morning, Christian Renson here former Urban Livelihoods PM w/ IRC in Juba, South Sudan now in Brick, NJ

**Pamela Robinson:** Good morning all, I am Pamela Robinson, Financial Voyages LLC, Atlanta, GA

**Miguel Garcia-Winder:** Good Morning...Miguel Garcia from IICA in the US

**Pamela Robinson:** Sound it good

**Abby Rubley:** Good Morning, Abby Rubley from Michigan State University's Center for Global Connections.

**Gary Burniske:** Good Morning This is Gary Burniske with the Center for Global Food Security at Purdue University

**Beau Ingle:** Good morning from The Ohio State University's Office of International Programs in Agriculture

**Carlos Solis:** Hello. This is Carlos Solís from USAID/Honduras.

**Andrea Allen:** Good morning all - Andrea Allen here from Michigan State University.

**Abhishek Taneja:** Can hear well...thank you

**Nelson Ojijo:** Hello! This is Nelson Ojijo with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, Accra, Ghana

**Nolvia Lagos:** Good morning from Honduras, ACS-USAID

**USAID Agrilinks:** Great, thank you all!

**Dana James:** I'm hoping to learn more from the presenters today on the work they've done researching and connecting the skillsets of graduates from formal ag institutions (supply) to the demands of employers

**Miguel Garcia-Winder:** sound is not coming

**Dick Tinsley:** good morning from warm and sunny Colorado

**Jennifer Snow:** This is Jen Snow from Winrock International.

**Pamela Robinson:** Will the audio for this session be available at the conclusion? Please advice.

**Dick Tinsley:** I hope you had a chance to look and my comment and we can address the issue of operational feasibility within the educational system

**HENRY RWAMUGEMA:** I am interested to hear how Building linkages agriculture can be further strengthened through strong partnership from large institutions to small organizations who are in fact very near to the needy.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Hi Pamela, yes, the webinar recording and the audio files will be available after the event. You will all receive an email with links to the files.

**Pamela Robinson:** Will attendee list be shared for further networking and potential partnerships? Please advice

**Martha Saldinger:** I am only hearing jazz music, no discussion.

**mahmuda khan:** Hi I am Mahmuda Akter Khan from IRRRI Bangladesh

**Dick Tinsley:** the jazz is nice

**Katy Heinz:** This is Katy Heinz from INGENAES/Univ. of IL. Hoping to see how communication affects ag education and training.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Unfortunately, for privacy reasons, we cannot share the attendee list but I would encourage you to private chat with anyone online who you would like to talk more with. We can also help facilitate conversations with the presenters after the event if you are interested.

**NelsonOjjo:** Please share a recorded version of the webinar afterwards for future reference

**USAID Agrilinks:** Nelson, we will be doing this....you will receive an email with links to the recordings.

**mahmuda khan:** ok

**Elizabeth Dunn:** Elizabeth Dunn of Impact LLC joining from Gainesville, Florida USA

**USAID Agrilinks:** To private chat, hover over someone's name in the "Attendees" pod above the chat pod and select private chat.

**NelsonOjjo:** Many thanks.

**Pamela Robinson:** Great, thank you!

**Suresh Babu:** I am only hearing music. Has the seminar started?

**Nirina Randriambololona 2:** Hi from Madagascar. I am Feno, Humphrey fellow based in UC Davis. I am a trainer in agriculture and am very interested in improving extension service back in my country

**Martha Saldinger:** I'm also still only hearing the music.

**Mark Varner:** Hello from DC. I had technical issues with the link in an alternate browser to Chrome.

**USAID Agrilinks:** We will be getting started in just a few minutes. The room is still filling up here in DC.

**mahmuda khan:** How agricultural system operate

**Julia Ekong:** This is Julia usually in Kenya but joining today from the UK

**Mark Varner:** Chrome seems to be working fine.

**HENRY RWAMUGEMA:** I am interested to hear how Building Linkages in Agriculture Education can be further strengthened through building strong partnership from large institutions to small organizations per country who are in fact very near to the needy.

**Mary Beggs:** Good day everyone! This is Mary Beggs from Cardno.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Laura Ostenso from Agrilinks is now speaking. Please let me know if you are not able to hear.

**Nafees Ahmed:** Hello! Nafees here in Kenya with Village Enterprise

**Shorena Dzotsenidze:** Hi, Shorena Switched from Chrome to Mozilla as jazz was playing

**Pamela Robinson:** Too loud

**USAID Agrilinks:** Great, thanks Shorena : )

**Clarisse Goffard:** the mic is too loud and sound is bad

**NelsonOjjo:** Too much echo in the background!!!!

**Abhishek Taneja:** Clara's voice is echoing...

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks all....I will let our A/V Tech know.

**Chelsea Spangler:** Can Dr. Cohen back away from the mic a little?

**Carlos Solis:** Pitch is too high. It needs modulation.

**Pamela Robinson:** still lots of static.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks all....we are working on the audio level.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Better?

**NelsonOjjo:** Getting better!!

**Clarisse Goffard:** great!! Much better

**Martha Saldinger:** much better.

**Abhishek Taneja:** yes...

**Martha Saldinger:** thanks.

**Sarah Titus:** Much better thanks!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Great!

**Jill Lovell:** that is better thanks

**Carlos Solis:** You go it! Thanks.

**Abhishek Taneja:** thanks

**Pamela Robinson:** much better

**RAMANS KAYUMU:** very Clear now, Thanks a lot.

**NelsonOjjo:** Are there some kind of like PPT slides to help us follow the talk?

**NelsonOjjo:** okay

**USAID Agrilinks:** Hi Nelson, yes, there will be PPT slides.

**Shorena Dzotsenidze:** Hi, I am Shorena from Georgia, Gender Specialist with USAID/REAP, am interested to get in touch with ppl working on inclusive AET (women and youth)

**Pamela Robinson:** can't hear

**Clarisse Goffard:** no sound for Roberts

**Carlos Solis:** No volume.

**Gary Burniske:** Sound is very low.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Our A/V Tech is working on the issue...thanks for letting us know!

**Dick Tinsley:** but not the operational feasibility as to what it will take to extent research/extension results across the smallholder community. How much labor is needed, where will that labor come from, and what are the rational compromises the farmers need to make when the labor or labor substitutes are limited?

**Carlos Solis:** Fading

**Nafees Ahmed:** better - thanks

**Christian Renson** - [www.linkedin.com/in/christianrenson](http://www.linkedin.com/in/christianrenson): clear now

**Cholani Weebadde:** Thanks!

**Carlos Solis:** ok

**USAID Agrilinks:** Great, thanks all!

**Gary Burniske:** Thanks. Much better

**WilliesMwandira:** BETTER

**Pamela Robinson:** Soreena, let's connect I am in US Georgia and have worked in Tblisi

**HENRY RWAMUGEMA:** Please send the summarized Webchat discussion/contacts to all participants at the end of webinar.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Keep that in mind, webinar participants....we will be pausing a few times throughout the presentation for questions. We will also have Q&A at the end.

**mahmuda khan:** How we can provide agriculture new information's to our farmers? Please share it

**USAID Agrilinks:** Hi Henry....we will be sharing this webinar chat after the event.

**HENRY RWAMUGEMA:** many thanks!

**Mahmuda khan:** thanks

**NelsonOjjo:** Voice is breaking sometimes...

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks for letting us know, Nelson.

**Karen Rieckmann:** Voice is breaking : (

**Pamela Robinson:** Dr. Roberts's voice is going in and out

**Clarisse Goffard:** voice breaking

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks all....we're working on the issue.

**Elizabeth Dunn:** I like the diagram on previous slide

**Pamela Robinson:** I also like the previous diagram...very useful

**Dick Tinsley:** useful but implying labor is readily available, but is this true or is it highly limited over an entire community

**Carlos Solis:** Lots of volume fading

**Rolf Dietrich:** Nice shout out to EARTH

**Nirina Randriambololona:** Extension agents in our country didn't receive formal AET, so which kind of capacity building should they receive to make them more effective?

**KDAD A/V Monitor:** Thank you for the feedback. FYI, this speaker has a wide dynamic range, meaning he goes from very soft spoken to fairly loud. That can be difficult for audio purposes for this type of event

**HENRY RWAMUGEMA:** Please circulate the Slides of this presentation and other to webinar participants. Very useful!

**Dana James:** Rolf, check out another post written by Dr. Grady on EARTH here: <http://agrilinks.org/blog/earth-university-model-agricultural-education-and-training-linkages>

**KDAD A/V Monitor:** Archived resources (including sweetened audio) will be available approximately one week after the event

**Carlos Solis:** Maybe increase mic volume a little?

**Shoran Dzotsenidze:** Might we have an audiovisual document? A problem with a voice

**USAID Agrilinks:** Hi Henry....the PPT slides are available in the "downloads" pod to the left and they will also be shared after the event.

**Carlos Solis:** Thanks.

**HENRY RWAMUGEMA:** Oh great and thanks!

**Nolvia Lagos:** yes

**USAID Agrilinks:** Sounds good Seth!

**Rolf Dietrich:** thanks Dana for the link

**Elizabeth Dunn:** yes

**Gary Burniske:** Yes

**Dana James:** You're welcome!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Please type in any questions that you may have in the chat pod!

**Clarisse Goffard:** Do we take for granted that people have prior knowledge / already come from the practice?

**USAID Agrilinks:** Clarisse, could you be a little more specific?

**Martha Saldinger:** Question: How do you ensure that the practical responds to the market as it evolves?

**USAID Agrilinks:** Any additional questions for Grady or Seth so far? We will have more opportunities for questions later on.

**Hale Tufan:** To answer to the discussion prompt: we have an example we are testing for the new project: Gender Responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation (GREAT), which is a professional development course for agricultural researchers. We have a sandwich program where a week of face to face instruction gives theory and skills, then there is a field component where participants collect data, then come back for a second week of face to face instruction to analyze the data

**HENRY RWAMUGEMA:** The only challenges is the final salary pay for different level of professionalism. Many are scared with Vocational and keep eye on theoretical education which lead them to university and of course have better pay. I think the innovative away to change this, is give more money to specialized professionals.

**Dick Tinsley:** how do you assure the practical can be fully extended across a community?

**Gitau Mbure:** Gitau Mbure from World Vision: Question for Seth - in what ways does the government curriculum incorporate feedback mechanisms so that experience guides improvements in future application? Also, how does the curriculum incorporate cross cutting issues like climate change adaptation, gender, nutrition etc?

**Lanre Rotimi:** If the 2 Tanzania examples are representative of AET in Tanzania, is it safe to assume that Tanzania is well on its way to lifting its people out of hunger and poverty?

**Clarisse Goffard:** the idea to link theory to practice depends heavily on whether the students are non-experienced students or if they are farmers that we try to train to improve effectiveness/production capacity.

**Cholani Weebadde:** Thank you for that comment

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thank you for the example, Hale!

**Willies Mwandira:** At what level should learners get knowledge on agriculture innovations to improve efficiency in agriculture production?

**Moshood Jaji:** How do you ensure that the curriculum fits into the demands of the industry especially when such curriculum is not regularly updated to accommodate the dynamics in the industry?

**Seth Heinert:** There are very few systems for curricular revision, especially agriculture curriculum, in Tanzania. No, the two examples I provided are not representative of the norm.

**NelsonOjijo:** In the supply-demand linkages, what is the role of competencies and competency-based training?

**Seth Heinert:** Also, Gitau, the curriculum does not incorporate any of the topics you listed at present.

**HENRY RWAMUGEMA:** Educational education need to create a balance between Vocational (hands on professional) and University (thinker/researcher).. AET and Industry need both professionals and salary ingredients should be modified. There is a very big gap in salary pay.

**Dick Tinsley:** is unskilled labor, a result of lack of intellect or lack of opportunity. To what degree are the unskilled will experiences in the art of farming?

**John Bonnell:** Dr. Roberts. We can't overemphasize the importance of a systems perspective. Thank you! Observation on the human systems model: it assumes the system is self-contained, whereas AET is less bounded. Any thoughts on how to understand / measure impact in relatively uncoordinated systems?

**USAID Agrilinks:** Great observation and question, John!

**Rolf Dietrich:** Hmm, struggling with the assumption that AET should meet workforce needs (employer, ministry?) versus the student needs

**Lanre Rotimi:** Thanks Seith, that's the precise point I wanted established. There is a need to move from Vision and Word without ACTION and move towards Vision and Words with ACTION. How can AET Systems that adapt to this shift and thus help DELIVER Sustainable Benefits to all Agrilinks Target Beneficiaries in specific rural and urban communities be achieved?

**mahmuda khan:** balance between vocational/university AET and industry need both professional and salary gap should be improved

**Dick Tinsley:** how much is the education system in most developing country restricted by lack of finance in overall economic environment that has very limited tax base to provide civil services?

**Hale Tufan:** On professional development: it would also make sense to revise teaching styles and training of trainers on more interactive and novel teaching methods, flipping the class room and moving away from presentation based teaching environments

**Clarisse Goffard:** the link to industry pre-supposes that there is a "real" industry in the country - however, in the development cooperation context, many farmers will be self-employed and small scale (often self-subsistence) - how do you create links with "industry" then? And how to you ensure your students can go "in the field"?

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks all for the comments and questions! We will share as many as we can.

**Dick Tinsley:** Hale, that sounds great until you look at class size and need for multiple appointments and different universities, or need for consulting

**Elsa Abort:** I totally agree with Hale comment. I believe Training of Trainers is and will be the key solution in developing countries. How are you approaching this area?

**Hale Tufan:** There is a danger in "acceptable jobs" from the gender lens. If we accept these and don challenge gender norms, we risk actually contributing to status quo!

**Dick Tinsley:** TOT still emphasized the physical potential, and does not address the operational limits that drags that down to what is the current practice

**USAID Agrilinks:** Dr. Wayne Ganpat online is now speaking.

**Herman Sanchez:** IDEA TO DEBATE: Even though education is a complex world and changes are not easy to implement..., and badly impacted by the lack of political will..., in a fast page world where new information is generated continuously..., it is better and more efficient to teach people on how to reach through the internet the best and newest information. The impression I have is that education unintentionally perpetuate poverty when the curriculum teaches obsolete concepts. A good example is yield gaps (potential yields vs actual yields) in most developing countries; Corn yields of 10TNs/ha Vs 700 kilos - 1.5 tons.... while all the knowledge

**mahmuda khan:** I am also agree with Hale comments I believe TOT will be the key solution

**Martha Saldinger:** Need to realize that maybe women are not teaching because they haven't had the chance to get the educational credentials. So they may need leadership training and peer networks to break into the field, but please don't exclude them from further training and educational opportunities because they aren't currently getting jobs!

**Hale Tufan:** Yes, thank you Martha! Totally agree, we need to understand the challenge and address them, and not supply based on what is acceptable

**Seth Heinert:** Lanre, I'll try and address your questions / comments more in my address. My humble opinion is, yes, we need action. Teachers have an opportunity to positively impact their students of agriculture. But, they need support!

**Martha Saldinger:** And girls in agriculture need female role models.

**mahmuda khan:** Women are need to access to agree information and use of ICT in agricultural activities

**Christian Renson** - [www.linkedin.com/in/christianrenson](http://www.linkedin.com/in/christianrenson): **Women's** empowerment should definitely be mainstreamed and supported to fill the gaps that exist for training and application of skills in the markets

**Lanre Rotimi:** Seith, Great. We need to move from talking and thinking to ACTION and ACCOMPLISHMENT. If this Webinar can come up with Practical Action Steps in this regard, much would have been achieved.

**mahmuda khan:** More useful of practical exercise

**mahmuda khan:** Should women leadership increase

**mahmuda khan:** I need Dr. Ganpat presentation slide

**USAID Agrilinks:** Mahmuda, the presentation is available for download in the "Downloads" pod to the left.

**mahmuda khan:** Thank you so much

**Andrew Bisson:** a lot of public sector extension systems have v limited operational funding. What role for private sector in delivering extension training and links to public sector in training methods to best reach producers?

**USAID Agrilinks:** John, what do you think about Dr. Roberts' response to your question?

**Dick Tinsley:** a quick plug please feel free to visit the [www.smallholderagriculture.com](http://www.smallholderagriculture.com) website and review issue pages as a comprehensive analysis of smallholder agriculture including the text "developing smallholder agriculture: a global perspective"

**Elsa Aburto:** Education in agriculture has the limit of impacts in the long term. While extension needs solutions now to face the complexity of climate change impacts and climate and soils variability. Training of trainers may have a very interesting role here.

**Seth Heinert:** Andrew, good point. At the Orkeeswa school, we partnered with local industry to provide field trips to students. Small, yes, but it exposed students to a different view of agriculture than they otherwise might have had.

**George Staicu:** Hi! Are we going to have today case study (ies) ?? I am particularly interested in a case study presenting SUCCESSFUL agriculture on-site/practical coaching/guidance (extension) to farmers. Thanks.

**John Bonnell:** Thank you Dr. Roberts. great thoughts. Social network analysis promises neat insights into mapping systems. Really like the project you mentioned in mapping Haiti's AET system. Please do share! Let's scale that for comparative analysis of AET systems...

**Krishan Bheenick:** AET systems help individuals acquire competencies (knowledge and skills) while problems in the field or Industry can also be formulated in terms of the competencies required to resolve them. Are the AET systems able to define such competencies such that we link AET resources, persons with related competencies with the problems that need to be resolved? This may be a new way of coding our resources to better match the supply and demand, wherever they come from...

**David Hansen:** What role do you see for internships as a mechanism to link secondary and tertiary systems with the job market, be it private sector, NGO or governmental sector?

**Martha Saldinger:** Our experience is that industry may be willing to train producers / processors to ensure quality/reliability.

**Shorena Dzotsenidze:** for gender inclusion good practices - tools for working with instructors that have problems with gender sensitivity. Also, could not hear properly - informal education -

is it assumed a person has some previous non-formal / formal training and expands her/his skills?

**mahmuda khan:** Create women role model to agri sector. How we can procedure?

**Pamela Robinson:** Shorena and Mahmuda, you are absolutely correct on gender inclusion and role models

**mahmuda khan:** Thanks

**Andrew Bisson:** Thanks Martha, we share your view that industry is willing to provide training. Public sector policy should encourage this and then focus on neglected groups/ extension messages with limited commercial return

**Pamela Robinson:** Linkages must engage private sector in the AET system

**John Dirkx:** While this is not an AET specific example, Tra Vinh University in Vietnam has been using industry placements for its instructors for many years now

**USAID Agrilinks:** Andrew, I'm going to try to ask your question that you shared earlier next.

**mahmuda khan:** Absolutely correct Pamela linkage must private sector in AET system

**mahmuda khan:** women friendly environment create in industry

**John Leary:** I have a much different micro example of linking ag training with industry from a curriculum developers perspective: In Jamaica, rather than just focusing on onion and pepper production in Farmer Field School, we brought pepper and onion buyers (to discuss quality and size, market expectations) as well as the input salesmen (how to use products properly) come participate in Farmer Field School sessions to contribute to farmer learning while making business connections.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks for the example, John!

**George Staicu:** Good example, John! Thanks!

**Pamela Robinson:** great example John

**mahmuda khan:** Thanks John

**Abdulmojeed Yakubu:** Nice one from John

**Pamela Robinson:** The linkages with institutions, industry etc. was not clearly addressed in the presentation, but emerged in the chat. I am very interested in this topic for anyone else that may want to continue the discussion.

**mahmuda khan:** In our country more female are engage in agriculture sector

**Pamela Robinson:** Throughout the international community, women are engaged in agri sector

**Miguel Garcia-Winder:** one assumption that has been constant in this conference is that all students trained in AET will work in agriculture or ag related fields, however this is not true. Therefore any formal education that we provide need first of all form citizens that are able to live and influence their society. ...One more issue to consider when we form people...

**Suresh Babu:** Private extension is gathering momentum with the value chain approach to high value agriculture. Yet, we need to prepare the agricultural student into private extension entrepreneurs who can organize the farmers and work with the local processing industries to provide farmer training. About 10 cases studies of Private extension systems are available in a recent book on: Knowledge Driven Development: global Lessons from Private extension approaches. Published by Elsevier Academic press.

**Pamela Robinson:** Suresh, thanks for sharing this resource...agreed

**mahmuda khan:** In our country so many people are engage in rice field but need to proper improve technology training.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks for sharing this resource, Suresh!

**Gitau Mbure:** To add to John's example (thanks John), in Malawi, a USAID-funded food security project worked with private sector buyers and input suppliers to recruit and train village agents who served as liaisons and also channeled knowledge and skills on production and marketing between private sector, government and NGOs and farmers. The challenge was to make this sustainable by enabling agents to generate service fees.

**Pamela Robinson:** Technology is huge for farmers. Found this to be true for addressing aflatoxin in peanut value chain

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks Gitau!

**Gitau Mbure:** Would be interested in knowing if others have experience developing village agent networks?

**Christian Renson** - [www.linkedin.com/in/christianrenson](http://www.linkedin.com/in/christianrenson): lost audio

**Martha Saldinger:** can't hear.

**Abhishek Taneja:** I have a similar interest as Gitau

**mahmuda khan:** In Bangladesh USAID-funded Rice value chain and Aggeculture project involve with private sector, NGO, Govt. and farmers also

**USAID Agrilinks:** We would be very interested in highlighting some of these great case studies on Agrilinks. If you are interested in sharing some of your experiences (as John and Gitau have recently done), please email us at [agrilinks@agrilinks.org](mailto:agrilinks@agrilinks.org).

**George Staicu:** Thanks Suresh Babu! Indeed the REAL agriculture extension case studies are what I am interested very much with they are much more RELEVANT for knowledge and training purposes. Do you have a link for the respective book?

**Abdulmojeed Yakubu:** I think the example of John is similar to the African Chicken Genetic Gains (ACGG) project being anchored by ILRI in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania. It is a sort of public-private sector partnership where rural women and youths are empowered by exposing them to improved tropical chickens to guarantee increased production and productivity. A unique aspect of the project is innovation platforms where relevant stakeholders are brought together to achieve common goals.

**Suresh Babu:** <http://store.elsevier.com/Knowledge-Driven-Development/isbn-9780128022313/> - link for he book I mentioned earlier.

**George Staicu:** Thanks a lot Suresh! (y)

**mahmuda khan:** Ok I will share the link our success and great story later.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks Mahmuda!

**Shorena Dzotsenidze:** in Georgia it was a problem for BDS providers to offer fee based services (not only in agri)

**Clarisse Goffard:** Agrilinks: please also share the examples you receive by email to us  
- these anecdotal evidences are good source of practical examples we can use in the field  
- something to return to later..

**USAID Agrilinks:** And we'd love to hear about challenges as well as successes...all are important!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Clarisse, will do!

**WilliesMwandira:** Thanks Suresh...

**Pamela Robinson:** George, I agree theory demonstrated "on-the-ground" solutions are most valuable in my world as well.

**Abhishek Taneja:** that's costly Suresh....greater than Rs.5000...

**Clarisse Goffard:** the sounds is pretty bad again.. fading

**George Staicu:** Indeed Pamela! Real case studies "speaks" 100 times more than theory (y)

**Gitau Mbure:** More info on the Malawi example can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/hkxdwpa>

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks Gitau!

**USAID Agrilinks:** We might be hitting you up for a blog post on Agrilinks ;)

**Pamela Robinson:** USAID will you provide the collective examples and links provided today?

**Suresh Babu:** check the table of contents - if needed I can send electronic versions of the case studies if you give your email id.

**Abhishek Taneja:** right thanks...

**USAID Agrilinks:** Pamela, yes we will!

**Pamela Robinson:** Thanks!

**WilliesMwandira:** Thanks Gitau for sharing the link.

**Shorena Dzotsenidze:** Thank you Gitau, we are thinking about pilot initiative - facilitating the capacity building of young professional women to offer agribusiness marketing services, but think about the sustainability

**USAID Agrilinks:** Any additional questions for the presenters?

**George Staicu:** Suresh I am interested in the pdf version of the case studies. And I am sure everybody else. Maybe you should send them to the hosts of this webinar so that they can send them to us along with all the other case studies presented in this "comments" dialogue

**John Leary:** Hi Gitau, good questions on village agent networks, at Trees for the Future, we started encouraging our agents to sell inputs (in lieu of charging a fee) to pay the bills while they promote a larger sustainable agriculture/agroforestry agenda in their community. They were already getting in front of large groups of farmers so it was a natural step. It worked for some of our agents but now we are targeting farmer groups so strategy has changed.

**Pamela Robinson:** Shorena, I would be interested in your discussion as well

**mahmuda khan:** I am also

**John Leary:** A major challenge in connecting private sector players and researchers to farmer training is that they don't always know how to communicate effectively with farmers (asking questions, use simple words, etc.). We needed to prepare them ahead of time to avoid getting too theoretical or complicated. The worst is to bring a researcher to a farmer training who simply talks over the heads of farmers.

**Lanre Rotimi:** The idea of COP was muted in the discussion last week. Today's event underline need for Agrilink to consider ways and means of design and delivery of COP for implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of good ideas and pertinent suggestions harvested from Agrilinks Discussions and Webinars.

**Pamela Robinson: John,** you are on point!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks for the suggestion, Lanre...I will bring it up with my team and we will see how we can further this discussion.

**Clarisse Goffard:** one big problem in curriculum development in agricultural sector is that through extension services you get "practicioners2 to talk (so people with agricultural background) but at educational institutions you usually have people with a didactics background but may lack the technical knowledge - this is true too when implementing development projects: we have hard time finding experts that fulfill both requirements - in that case the question is: what to emphasize, the technical part or the didactics ?(sorry for spelling mistakes, I'm typing quick)

**Gitau Mbure:** Thanks, John. It is interesting to learn how the agents themselves adopt to changing environments and farmer needs. Ability to provide solutions that enhance climate change resilience is increasingly becoming a critical sort after skill.

**Ashley Aakesson:** Sadly I have to go. Thanks so much for the presentations and to commenters for great questions and examples!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks Ashley for joining!

**Pamela Robinson:** Great session. Valuable discussion. Great job organizers!!!

**Christian Renson** - [www.linkedin.com/in/christianrenson](http://www.linkedin.com/in/christianrenson): Thank you all for your contributions, discussion and content.

**mahmuda khan:** Great job thanks

**Pamela Robinson: USAID Agrilinks** you did an outstanding job today. Thanks for the inclusion of an insightful group.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks everyone for your participation and great conversation today!

**Andrea Allen:** Thanks to all...very useful indeed!

**George Staicu:** Thanks for this VERY INTERESTING webinar! Looking forward to receive from the organizers all the case studies and other suggestions made during this chat. George Staicu , Bucharest, Romania.

**Seth Heinert:** Thanks everyone for a great discussion!

**Martha Saldinger:** Glad I participated online! Enjoyed the dialog

**USAID Agrilinks:** We will share out these case studies along with the recording from the webinar about a week from now.

**Martha Saldinger:** thanks to Agrilinks.

**Andrew Bisson:** Greta webinar and really enjoyed the online discussion

**mahmuda khan:** I want to do this again

**George Staicu:** Thanks **USAID Agrilinks!** (y)

**Clarisse Goffard:** thank you for the presentation and looking forward to receive the material per email - including the participant's case studies