



# Impact Statement

(No more than two pages no less than 10pt.)

**Project Title:** Development of a Model Joint PhD program for Development of Future Food Science/Technology Systems Professionals

## **Issue:**

There is a need and a demand for development of scientists with understanding of global issues in food systems. This can be enhanced by having students share experience, culture, and knowledge by working at different institutions around the world. One such area is food science and technology. However, there is limited funding to sponsor future scientists for 4-5 years at an academic institution. There are also issues of academic requirements by different institutions and by their certifying bodies.

## **What has been done?**

There is very little that is being done in the USA to develop joint programs/degrees with universities abroad. However, there are programs between universities from Europe, Australia, Canada and SE Asia, including consortia that have implemented different types of programs to award joint or dual degrees. Most of these programs are tailored to the participating institutions, to the particular area of study, and to the particular student. However, the basis and MOA of understanding to award degrees has been developed and is working. The USA will have to start joining this process since it works well for our students and for those from abroad. The food science and technology graduate track is one that has many commonalities amongst institutions around the world. Thus, one could develop a working model to be used by institutions around the USA and abroad to develop scientists and future leaders in the area; they will be prepared to tackle global issues on food security, safety and sustainability, amongst others.

A preproposal has been developed to then develop the framework for the model. The preproposal is to use a university in the USA- MSU, and a university in Thailand, with food science/technology PhD programs.

## **Impacts/New Partnerships:**

The impact of this proposal can be nationwide, increasing international exchange of graduate students, increasing graduate enrollment of PhDs at joint institutions, enhancing international multidisciplinary collaboration, and creating or enhancing partnerships amongst universities worldwide. The aim is to create a consortium of institutions under an umbrella MOU that could then work details to award joint/dual degrees.

## **Outcome of Project (societal impact/ measure of increased quality of life)**

The project's outcome will be a working model, a completed joint program (at least one, subject to institutions' approval), and eventually the enrollment of students and awarding of degrees.

There is a framework between two universities to work this out and this will be used to prove the model and review it prior to releasing the final project.

**How has your project been aided by your FSLI experience?**

I have used many of my experiences, networking and leadership skills learned at FSLI, by reading and in informal conversations to develop the framework for the project. I hope to continue to learn so that the framework becomes reality and is sound and useful.

**Contact information:**

Juan L. Silva  
[Jls46@msstate.edu](mailto:Jls46@msstate.edu)

Mentor:  
Dr. Benjy Mikel  
(others may come into place as this is developed)

*\*If you have already written a report for your project and it is available on- line please include the link to the paper. If you have a pdf you can send it to us and we will include a link to that from your summary page.*