

Serve as Co-Director of new International Food Technology Center

Issue:

Creating a center with a focus on linking farmers to markets and reducing food losses in developing countries became an idea after a colleague, Dr. Phil Nelson, won the World Food Prize. Leadership for such a center was needed. Dr. Bruce Hamaker and I both had work experience in developing countries, and have a passion in this area. We became Co-Directors to establish this new center, with the need for the following: 1) hire a managing director, 2) clarify center's vision, mission, and goals, 3) develop promotional materials, 4) build partnerships, and 5) obtain funds to support the center.

What has been done:

- Initiated center in October 2010
- Developed center vision and mission statements, overall and specific goals, and strategic plan
- Developed promotional materials (See: www.purdue.edu/iftc)
- Established liaison with corporations, foundations, government groups, and international bodies
- Established formal partnerships with private and public organizations, domestically and internationally to develop programs and solutions to address food security issues (e.g., Dept. Food Science & Nutrition at Univ. of Pretoria in South Africa; Kilimo Trust, an independent organization based in Kampala, Uganda, and working on agriculture development in the East Africa Community; Institute de Technologie Alimentaire, ITA, in Dakar, Senegal)
- Strengthened existing partnerships (e.g. National de Recherche Agronomique du Niger, INRAN, in Niamey, Niger; and Institut d'Economie Rurale du Mali, IER, in Bamako, Mali)
- Center promotion activities on- and off-campus (e.g. food security forums in Washington, DC, Brazil, Morocco; World Food Prize, and Institute of Food Technologists)
- Center funding:
 - o Identified and strategized on funding sources (approaching select foundations; preparing proposals to USAID and USAID missions, USDA)
 - o Obtained funding: Global Policy and Research Institute at Purdue; Kilimo Trust; USDA; USAID- Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program
 - o Prepared and submitted a \$5 M proposal to a foundation; Continuing to seek financial support
- Technology adoption activities: launched a food processing Incubation Center in Bamako, Mali
- Education activities
 - o Taught service-learning course for Food Science seniors linked to center goals (Mango processing in Haiti)
 - o First Center intern (undergraduate student) currently in Dakar, Senegal
- Organized and participated in symposia related to center mission

Impacts/New Partnerships:

- See above for examples of partnerships
- Obtained initial funds that support center activities

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

- Too early in life of Center to achieve societal impact and increase quality of life, but potential for this is great in developing countries
- Initial efforts with incubation center in African countries show great promise for strong outcomes

How has your project been aided by your FSLI experience?

- Training in personal leadership skills - - helped in working with other co-Director and supervising Managing Director, and in communicating with other organizations
- Training in understanding integrated food systems - - helped keep in mind how the focus of this center fit with rest of food system

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