



International Engagement for Land Grant Universities in the 21st Century Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer

Issue: What is the appropriate international engagement role for Land Grant Universities (LGU) in the 21st Century? LGUs played a key role in bringing the Green Revolution to Asia and Latin America in the 1960 and 1970s. They helped develop agricultural research and education in Africa in the 1980s and 1990s. With renewed awareness of food insecurity, a better understanding of the link between hunger, rural development and political instability, and the growing agricultural research and education capacity in some developing countries (e.g. China, Brazil, India), how should we structure Purdue Agriculture international engagement.

What has been done: A review was done of international engagement activities by LGUs reported on their websites. International engagement was placed on the agenda for Purdue strategic planning and with stakeholder groups. I served on the “Tiger Team” for global issues in the Purdue University strategic plan. I am on the steering committee for the Purdue College of Agriculture strategic plan. I also serve on the American Council on Education (ACE) Internationalization Taskforce that is leading Purdue University implementation of the commitment to globalization.

Impacts:

- a. International engagement is a key element in the new strategic plans for both the university (http://www.purdue.edu/strategic_plan/) and the college.
- b. Purdue Cooperative Extension Service (CES) is increasingly engaged internationally. For example, five CES staff just returned from two weeks in northern Nigeria where they participated in training about 1000 field technicians for a project being implemented with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- c. Business services identified as a key constraint to international engagement. A sub-committee of the ACE Internationalization Taskforce addressing these issues.

Funding Sources, Cooperators, Partners, Mentors etc.:

Mentor: Dr. S.K. De Datta

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