



BHEARD Conference- Elementaita County Lodge

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The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico, selected Michigan State University (MSU) to implement the Feed the Future Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) Program. The Feed the Future Initiative (FtF) was launched in 2010 by the United States government and the Obama Administration to address global hunger and food insecurity. The Feed the Future strategy guide includes three overarching themes throughout: gender/gender development, the environment/human ecology, and climate change. The two main objectives of the Feed the Future Initiative are: to accelerate agriculture sector growth, and to improve the nutritional status of people in the FtF focus and aligned countries. It was launched with Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Mozambique, as the first cohort and Uganda, with Malawi, Mali and South Sudan joining in the second cohort and Kenya, Liberia, and Rwanda joining in the third cohort.. The BHEARD program focuses on training a cadre of BHEARD Fellows at the MS and Ph.D. levels, which is indispensable for creating scientific capacity.

CURRENT STATUS OF PROGRAMM IN KENYA In Kenya, the programme is currently supporting trainees, all foreign students, spread across the University of Nairobi and Egerton University. These include nine (9) South Sudanese, 21 Malawians, 12 Malians, 13 Rwandese and 2 Liberians. In the academic year 2017/18 the program is processing the admission of 19 PhD trainees with 14 expected to join the University of Nairobi and 5 Egerton University.

All the field research activities are conducted in the respective home countries of the trainees. The programme facilitates the relevant logistics for the supervisor to travel to the location to evaluate the activities of the student.

Funding of the programme is channeled through the respective USAID missions in the respective Feed the Future countries. The level of funding is dependent on the priorities of the individual missions and as a result different Feed the Future Countries have different funding within the programme which in turn determines the number of beneficiaries supported from that country. Unlike other Feed the Future Countries in the programme, all the Kenyan beneficiaries travel to the United States for the training but return home for their research work.

MANAGEMENT The programme has its head office at the Michigan State University, East Lansing, United States where the codirectors sit. The regional co-ordination in Africa is run through three satellite offices in Kenya, Ghana and South Africa. Current training universities within Africa are: the University of Nairobi, Egerton University, University of Pretoria, Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique and Makerere University in Uganda.



The program was established to honor the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug, by increasing the number of agricultural scientists and strengthen scientific institutions in developing countries. Dr. Norman Borlaug was an American biologist, humanitarian and Nobel laureate who has been called “the father of the Green Revolution,” agriculture’s greatest spokesperson and “The Man Who Saved a Billion Lives.”

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