

Dry Grain Pulses Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP)
Global Meeting

April 7 – 11, 2010
Hilton Colon Hotel, Quito, Ecuador

INTRODUCTION

By Dr. Irvin Widders

On behalf of the Management Office, I would like to extend a most cordial welcome to all participants in the 2010 Global Meeting of the Dry Grain Pulses Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) and to the scenic Andean country of Ecuador.

The theme of this meeting is “Contributing to sustainable growth and competitiveness of pulse value chains.” This theme is one of five Global Program Visions of the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP.

“The Dry Grain Pulses CRSP seeks to contribute to:

- 1. Economic growth and food and nutritional security through knowledge and technology generation,*
- 2. Sustainable growth and competitiveness of pulse value chains utilizing socially and environmentally compatible approaches,*
- 3. Empowerment and strengthened capacity of agriculture research institutions in USAID priority countries.*
- 4. USAID’s development objectives as defined in the Policy Framework for Bilateral Foreign Aid, and*
- 5. Achievement of Title XII legislation objectives including the provision for dual benefits to developing country and U.S. agriculture.”*

The Management Office considered the theme of sustainability and growth of value chains to be appropriate for the 2010 meeting in light of a strategic principle established at the L’Aquila G8 Summit which is currently guiding USAID’s strategy to address global hunger and food insecurity (see Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative doc in this notebook).

The principle promotes the “*adoption of a comprehensive approach to food security that focuses on agriculture-led growth and reducing under-nutrition.*” As interpreted by USAID in the “Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative Consultation Document”, approaches are needed (p 4) that (1) *increase sustainable market-led growth across the entire food production and market chain- from the lab to the farm to the market and to the table* and which (2) *prevent and treat under-nutrition* (p4).

The Dry Grain Pulses CRSP is well positioned in 2010 to assume the challenge and meaningfully contribute to USAID’s Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative objectives through the diverse multifaceted collaborative Phase I, II and III projects aligned with the program’s Global Themes.

- *To reduce bean and cowpea production costs and risks for enhance profitability and competitiveness,*
- *To increase the utilization of bean and cowpea grain, food products, and ingredients so as to expand market opportunities and improve community health and nutrition,*
- *To improve the performance and sustainability for bean and cowpea value chains, especially for the benefit of women, and*
- *To increase the capacity, effectiveness and sustainability of agriculture research institutions which serve the bean and cowpea sectors and developing country agricultural in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.*

As participants in this Global Meeting and leaders in your respective fields of science and outreach, I want to challenge you to consider value of your CRPS project's outputs in making a meaning difference and in positively strengthening pulse value chains in your respective countries and regions. To the extent that individual CRSP projects generate knowledge and technologies that contribute to increases in the productivity and profitability of small-holder resource-poor pulse farmer systems, the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP will have been successful. To the extent that individual CRSP projects generate knowledge on the health value of pulses which lead to increased pulse consumption, policy changes and ultimately greater nutritional security, the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP will have been successful. To the extent that individual CRSP projects expand market information for pulse producers and traders, improve post-harvest pulse grain infrastructure, and create an enabling policy environment for domestic and regional pulse trade, the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP will have been successful.

The Management Office has sought to prepare a program for the Global Pulse CRSP Meeting that provides opportunities for the international community of pulse scientists to learn of new scientific advances in the distinct disciplines represented at the meeting, to exchange information and technologies, and most importantly to expand collaborations and networking so as to increase the effectiveness of your research and outreach activities related to pulses. This is an exciting time in the life of the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP as we seek to build on the achievements of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP, coordinate efforts around persistent challenges (e.g., drought, degraded soils, information dissemination to low education learners, etc.), and take advantage of emerging opportunities afforded by scientific advances (e.g., IPM-omics, etc.). For this purpose, "Thematic", "Regional" and "Emerging Issues" sessions have been planned for this Global Meeting.

Unfortunately, as in all programs, time and effort must be dedicated to the routine tasks that ultimately contribute to making the program productive and effectual. To that end, the Management Office encourages U.S. and Host Country PIs to invest in team building, and in strategic planning for the future through the preparation of Phase II and III project workplans and budgets for Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012. Although these workplans and associated documents are not due into the Management Office until May 7, 2010, we hope that you will take full advantage of being together with a majority of your project team to make substantial progress in the planning of research, outreach and training activities for the future.

As Director, my hope is that all participants in this Global Meeting of the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP will have an intellectually stimulating, enjoyable and truly memorable experience in Quito, Ecuador, during the week of April 7 – 11, 2010. The Management Office staff, including Dr. Johan Brink (Deputy Director), Ben Hassankhani (Administrative Officer) and Sarah Kittle (Office Assistant) will be available

at all times throughout the five days to assist you in any way we can. Thank you for the sacrifices that each of you made in traveling far distances to attend this Global Meeting. We look forward to interacting and getting to know you better during the Global Meeting.

Welcome to Ecuador!

Irvin E. Widders
Director of the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP