Strengthening Gender Responsive Global Agricultural Education and Outreach in Higher Education: The Origins of a Community of Practice

Community of

Practice (CoP)

Defined:

"A group of

people who share

a common

interest and

interact often to

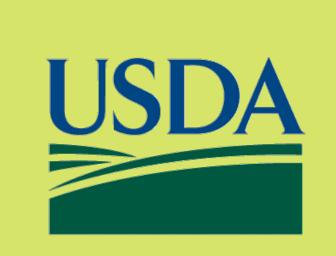
learn from each

other to advance

their work"

(USAID, 2013)

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Introduction

- Growing consensus in the global development community underscores the central importance of gender equality and women's empowerment, not only as necessary social justice objectives, but also as being essential towards the achievement of broader development outcomes in agriculture, education, health, and economic **growth** (Johnson et al., 2020).
- □ **Development** programs in the past two decades increasingly emphasize women's empowerment in agriculture (World Bank, 2011).
- U.S. universities are among organizations striving to better understand gendered aspects of agricultural research, extension, and education.
- ☐ Universities contribute through:
 - Leading collaborative international research,
 - Providing direct technical assistance in communities, and
 - Critically preparing graduates to enter careers in development (Leal Filho, 2011; National Research Council, 2006).
- ☐ Faculty must be prepared with tools, resources, and knowledge to integrate gender into their global development teaching, research, and outreach.

Results to Date

Team has 175
years
combined
experience

Hosted three dissemination meetings with 60+ attendees

3 Ready-to-use modules released for faculty testing

Website

Advisory team formed representing six organizations

ed Curricus

Regular participation from members across 6+ disciplines/ sectors

30+
individuals
joined to
receive updates

Shared 6
presentations
at national and
international
conferences

established as hub for CoP

Our Projec

recognized by individual faculty and students separately. Efforts made to bring together implementers

Need was

around issues, but

target community

did not exist.

a catalyst for the coalescing stage of CoP beginning in 2020; The advisory board was formed and consultations with community to identify objectives and focus areas.

Funding served as

together to
conceptualize and
develop a free,
easily accessible
curriculum;
Members meet
regularly to share
lessons learned,
present results,
and brainstorm.

Actively working

How it Works

Project Goal: Provide engaging, evidence-based, and practically-relevant curriculum that explores a broad range of development issues through a lens of gender equality and women's empowerment

- ☐ We created the Gendered Lens Curriculum in International Development (GLCD) project from a collective realization of these identified needs.
- ☐ Team Members:
- Texas A&M University faculty, graduate students, staff, and undergraduate students
- Volunteer Advisory Board members from six universities/organizations
- ☐ Additional Result: a new Community of Practice (CoP). CoPs:
 - Focus on a specific topic or subject matter area
 - Openly engage community members from various stakeholder groups
 - Often host a repository of materials, evidence, and publications

Stages of Community of Practice Development

STARTING UP OPERATING SHUTTING COMMITTING WINDING DOWN DOWN The CoP purpose is The CoP members Someone decides a CoP would be a good share knowledge, framed, members are The value of The purpose is solve problems, build thing to do and sets selected or recruited, membership and the fulfilled and little or out to do it. and roles are skills, and improve no value remains; the value to the negotiated. their practice. members and/or the organization diminish organization decide over time as to shut down. problems are solved and the practice improves. © Scaled Agile, Inc.

and student time. However, it was catalyzed and is rooted in the tangible products produced through funding provided by the U.S Department of Agriculture and Texas A&M University through two projects with associated budgets.

Resources Needed

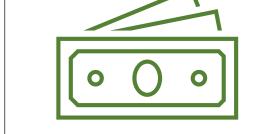
The success of the CoP was largely a result of volunteer faculty



~About 15 Student Worker Hours per Month (event planning, website content development- excludes resources for module development)



~5 hours/month per volunteer Advisory Team member; and 20 hours/month Project Director time



<\$1,000 per year for website and learning management system hosting.

Future Plans

- ☐ Momentum and interest of the project in growing!
 ☐ Partner Universities are seeking funding to continue and formalize the CoP while also expanding and diversifying the project
- The CoP will also expand the community with broader participation from the NGO and donor community.
- Plans to launch many web-based events and continue to pursue collaborative research to inform gender responsive teaching, research and outreach

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