Achieving synergies among USAID investments in grain legume research

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Program for Research on Legume Productivity

- Innovation Labs:
  - Grain Legumes
  - Climate Resilient Beans
  - Climate Resilient Cowpea
  - Climate Resilient Chickpea
  - Peanut Productivity and Mycotoxin Control
  - Soybean Value Chain Research
- Bt Cowpea
- Grain Legumes CRP3.5
- Norman Borlaug Comemorative Research Initiative (NBCRI) – Pulse Productivity Project (USDA-NIFA/ARS)
- Mixed maize/legume systems (Sustainable Intensification)

Achieving Synergies

- Minimize redundancy across the portfolio
- Foster interdisciplinary linkages, leverage scientific advances across broad range of projects
  - SO1.A3: participatory evaluation of fast-cooking, nutritious varieties identified by NBCRI/ARS project
  - SO1.A5: background selection for Bt cowpea
Common Bean Research under Feed the Future

The portfolio at a glance...

Facilitate Scaling

- Streamline engagement between research & development partners across thematically related programs
- Broker linkages along impact pathways
  - Sustainable Intensification program area
  - Mission programming (through Assoc. Award, or informally)
  - Scaling Seeds & Technologies Partnership (SSTP)
  - Identify, promote, and exploit enabling policies (i.e. seed harmonization)

Practical Synergies

- Leverage funding across programs to achieve mutual technical objectives
  - Coordinated global network of bean field trials
  - Equipment
  - Cross-training for students
  - Market studies across crops (e.g. soy, bean)
- Management & operational efficiencies achieved by coordinating across programs
  - Environmental compliance
- Knowledge management: Better access/utilization of field trial, genomic, market, other data?
How can USAID maximize synergy?

- Community self-organization vs. active management?
- What’s working? What opportunities are we missing?
- What kind of tools would facilitate coordination? What information do you need?
- How best to support host-country partners on an institutional level?
- Any enabling policy priorities bubbling up across projects?
- Other comments?

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