

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Global Livestock Collaborative Research Support Program (GL-CRSP) has expanded its research to address important topics in the international livestock development sector. The program, comprised of broad-based interdisciplinary projects, focuses on human nutrition, economic growth, environment, zoonotic diseases and policy linked by a global theme of agriculture at risk in a changing environment. The projects involve researchers from 12 U.S. universities, eight host country universities, eight international research organizations, 54 foreign institutions, and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). The program is currently active in three regions of the world: West Africa, East Africa and Central Asia.

HISTORY

Established in 1978 as the Small Ruminant CRSP (SR-CRSP), the Global Livestock CRSP is one of nine CRSP programs developed under Title XII of the International Development and Food Assistance Act of 1975. The CRSP model, pioneered by the SR-CRSP, was built on the structural strengths of U.S. land-grant universities and collaborative partnerships with international organizations. Four characteristics ensure the effectiveness of this model: 1) Collaboration with U.S. land-grant universities; 2) International training; 3) Long-term scientific relationships; and 4) Program cost-effectiveness.

REENGINEERED

In 1995, the CRSP began a major restructuring of the program in response to USAID's own reengineering efforts and the changing needs of the international development community. The process, a comprehensive planning and assessment procedure, was initiated with priority-setting workshops in the three regions. As forums for client input, the workshops were intended to maximize the opportunity of regional professionals to present their views on the development issues confronting them. The problem models they developed established the scope for activities within the region. Assessment teams, selected in an initial competition, developed projects that addressed the top priorities within the regions. The problem model was the central component of the assessment process. Each team was charged with refining its problem model through in-field explorations. To ensure grassroots input, over 20 regional workshops involving 35 countries were conducted during the assessment period. The teams submitted final proposals, competing to be in GL-CRSP's current grant, and winners were selected. The process was designed to be problem-driven and has produced results-oriented projects.

PROGRAM GOALS

The goal of the GL-CRSP is to increase food security and improve the quality of life of people in developing countries while bringing an international focus to the research, teaching, and extension efforts of U.S. institutions. This goal is to be achieved through collaboration between U.S. universities and other institutions, and national and regional institutions abroad that are active in livestock research and development.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

To achieve this goal, the following objectives have been identified:

- Improve the interaction between livestock production and natural resource use and conservation, and more effectively integrate livestock production systems with the rational use of natural resources.
- Decrease poverty and increase the security of people whose livelihoods depend on livestock by providing mechanisms to manage risk.
- Enhance the nutritional status - and decrease morbidity and mortality - of targeted populations, particularly children and women, through increased availability and utilization of animal source products, thereby increasing human capacity.
- Strengthen the ability of institutions in developing countries to identify problems in livestock production and develop appropriate solutions.
- Provide support to decision makers in developing policies that will promote: a) livestock production, marketing, and trade; b) human nutrition and child physical and cognitive development; and c) natural resource conservation and management.
- Develop and strengthen communication systems (including, but not limited to, extension) among livestock producers, policy makers, businesses, researchers, and consumers that promote greater market participation, increase human and institutional capacity, and improve policy.

GLOBAL PLAN

Centered on a theme of managing risk in our unpredictable world, the GL-CRSP is developing the capacity to predict risk so it can be better managed, improve the tools to cope with risk, and contribute to the mediation of risk. By focusing on human nutrition, economic growth, environment and policy related to animal agriculture and linked by a global theme of managing risk in a changing environment, the GL-CRSP has chosen to work in ecosystems and regions where human populations and natural resources are most vulnerable, and in most cases, where biodiversity is most valuable.

TRAINING PLAN

The Global Plan has always recognized human capacity building as a fundamental component of research and development. Thus, the GL-CRSP design provides for a wide range of training possibilities and employs both traditional and innovative strategies to achieve its training goals.

Degree Training. The GL-CRSP provides funding for operational and research costs to both U.S. and host-country graduate students. Projects are encouraged to leverage funds to support tuition.

Non-Degree Training. Short-term training provides a cost effective means to build capacity. Training workshops and courses build capacity for not only students, but also host country community members, professors, researchers and other development professionals.

The Jim Ellis Mentorship Program. Named in honor and memory of Dr. Jim Ellis, a renowned scientist, mentor and GL-CRSP principal investigator, these awards provide partial support to students in order to improve the overall quality of their research. The Program provides funds to conduct research in specialized facilities or field settings away from their home campuses and to provide opportunities for greater diversity in collecting data and more creativity in its analysis than would otherwise be possible. The awards are intended to provide supplemental funds for students already working on GL-CRSP projects.

Travel Grants for Students. To encourage student participation at the GL-CRSP conferences, a select number of travel grants are awarded to students for presentation of their findings at the conferences. The awards permit students to inform others about their research and bring them in contact with researchers from other disciplines and projects.

Build Capacity of Institutional Partners. The GL-CRSP goal is to build both human and institutional capacity simultaneously within host-country partner institutions. Selective targeting of funds through project funding and program enhancement address key deficiencies within these partner institutions.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GL-CRSP PROJECTS

The Global Livestock CRSP incorporates a broad and complex perspective on international development based on the following principles:

- Research should be demand-driven and problem-oriented with considerable resources invested in problem assessment at the grass roots level.
- Impact should emphasize human outcomes, involvement of local communities, facilitation of research-extension links, and the building of partnerships with other stakeholders.
- Identification and communication of relevant policy issues should be a critical component of project planning and implementation.
- Integration of gender concerns and appropriate gender analysis should be an integral part of project research and results.

GLOBAL LIVESTOCK CRSP PROJECTS

The Global Livestock CRSP program is not a static set of activities but a constantly evolving and dynamic array of problem-focused projects. The iterative process that developed the original core of projects in 1997 continues as new research findings guide the GL-CRSP portfolio. In addition to the core portfolio of projects, the GL-CRSP also funds assessment team projects and a limited number of small grant projects on topics of special interest.

Assessment Team Projects. Before a project begins its research program, it completes a short assessment phase, usually three to nine months. During this phase, teams are given modest resources to conduct in-country workshops, planning and assessment. This process allows the teams to refine the problem model iteratively, determine and adjust team composition to fit the evolving problem model and ensure that colleagues are compatible and the team is functional. These teams then produce a research proposal for a final competition.



GL-CRSP ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Global Livestock CRSP is administered as a grant to the University of California, Davis, which, as the Management Entity, administers subgrants to participating U.S. institutions and maintains fiscal responsibility.

The *GL-CRSP Program Director* is responsible for program development, coordinating activities of the projects across and within regions, and overseeing the daily operations of the GL-CRSP.

The *External Program Administrative Council* provides advice and guidance on the scientific management of the Global Livestock CRSP.

The *Technical Coordinating Committee* provides intellectual exchange and input on programmatic planning for the CRSP to the Program Director and the Program Administrative Council.

The *Pool for External Evaluation of Research* provides objective evaluations of the CRSP programmatic process on an as-needed basis.

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