USAID Joint Meeting of the Feed the Future Innovation Labs:
Soybean Innovation Lab (SIL),
Nutrition Innovation Lab (NIL) &
Post-Harvest Loss Innovation Lab (PHLIL)

Wednesday, June 28, 2017
National Press Club (First Amendment Room), Washington, DC 20045
529 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20045

Title: “Life is Not Fair, But We Can Make it More Fair”: Assessing Gender Responsive Agricultural Development in the Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab

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Abstract (200 words)

Background: Launched in 2012, USAID’s Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy helped frame gender equity as a crosscutting theme in initiatives such as the Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab (SIL). To gauge how SIL partners consider gender in their SIL-related activities, we developed and administered the web-based Gender Responsive Agricultural Development Assessment (GRADA-Wave I) to SIL implementing partners who hail from 26 diverse organizations, including universities, Ministries of Agriculture, and non-profit international organizations across five sub-Saharan countries and are affiliated with SIL’s ten Managed Research Areas (MRAs).

Results: We found that SIL partners encounter varied gender-related barriers across their diverse agriculture-related activities and sites and that they employ a number of strategies for increasing gender equity, such as 1) allowing women farmers to set the times and locations for agronomy meetings/trainings, 2) giving priority to women’s farming plots when conducting field experiments and demonstrations, and 3) structuring food preparation demonstrations so that women have primary access while also encouraging men to participate.

Discussion/Implications: To enable us to develop tailored knowledge and training to assist SIL partners in addressing gender gaps that impact soybean sustainability, we will further analyze results to consider variation in responses across research sites and MRAs.