

Human and Institutional Capacity Building: Adding Value to SANREM Outputs

Tom Hammett, Director

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innovATE

Innovation for Agricultural Training and Education

<http://www.oired.vt.edu/innovate/>



Photo credit: Gates Foundation

Some key points...



Need for agricultural education and training (AET or ATE)?

- Population expands; food production must rise
- Global food production must increase 70% by 2050 to meet our needs.
- USAID seeks to make investments in AET

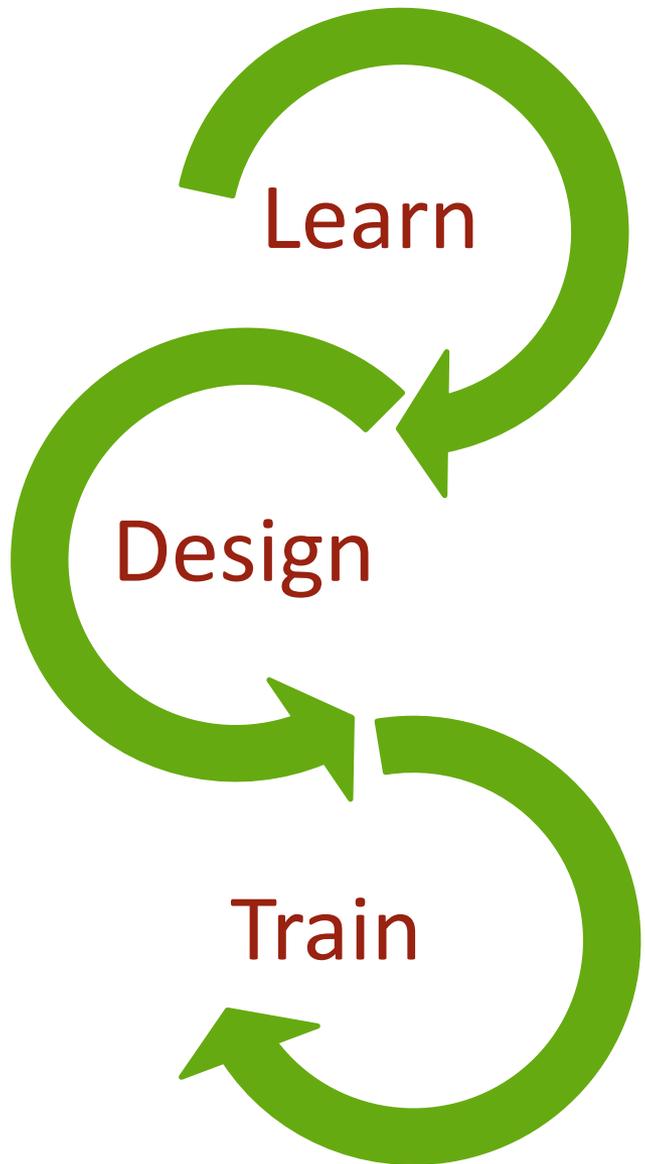
Who is innovATE?

The program is implemented by a consortium of US universities:

Virginia Tech with:

- Tuskegee University,
- Penn State University, and
- University of Florida
- Others to be added





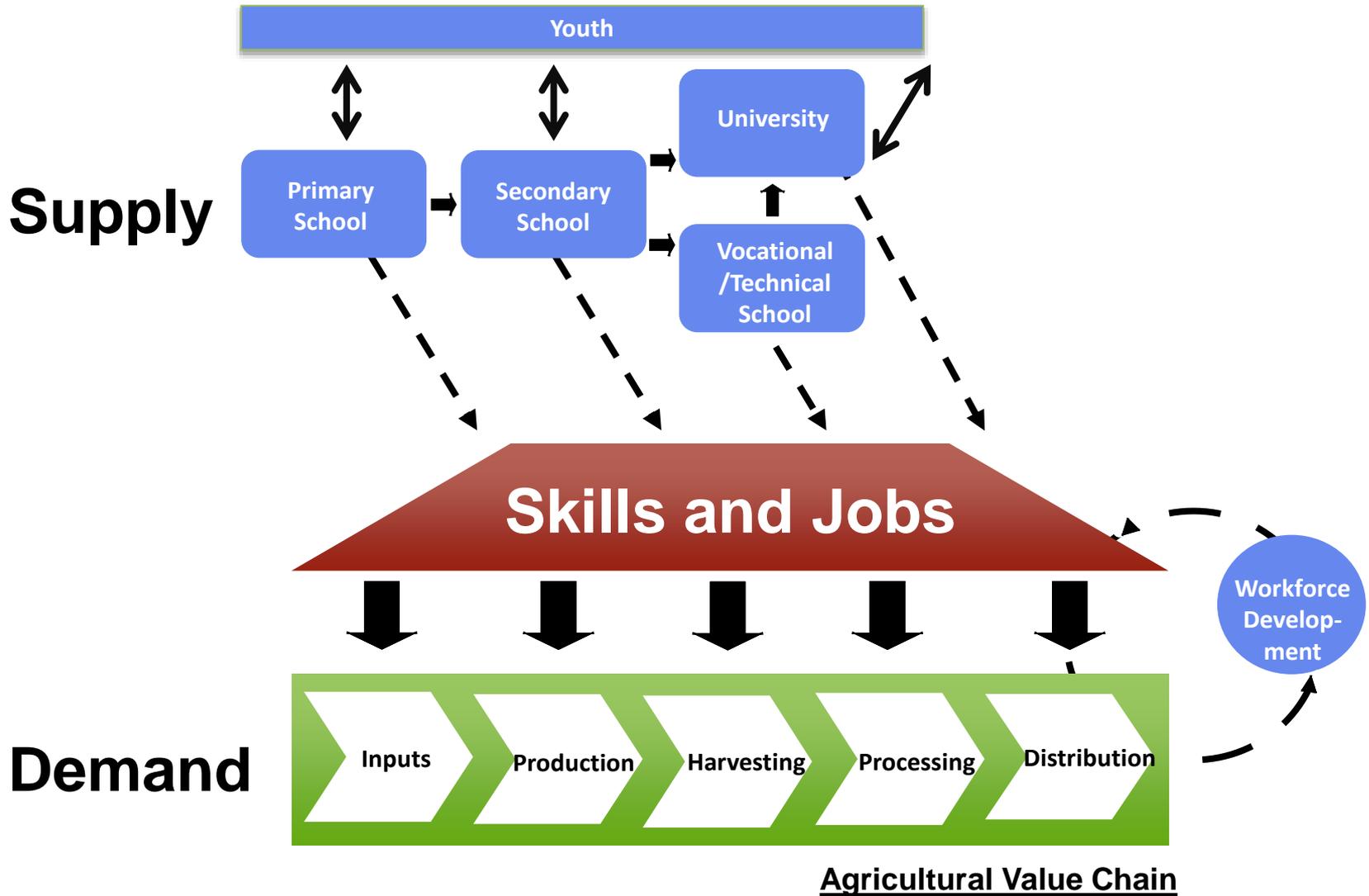
The program has three integrated components—LEARN, DESIGN, and TRAIN—that aim to strengthen the full range of institutions that train and educate agricultural professionals in:

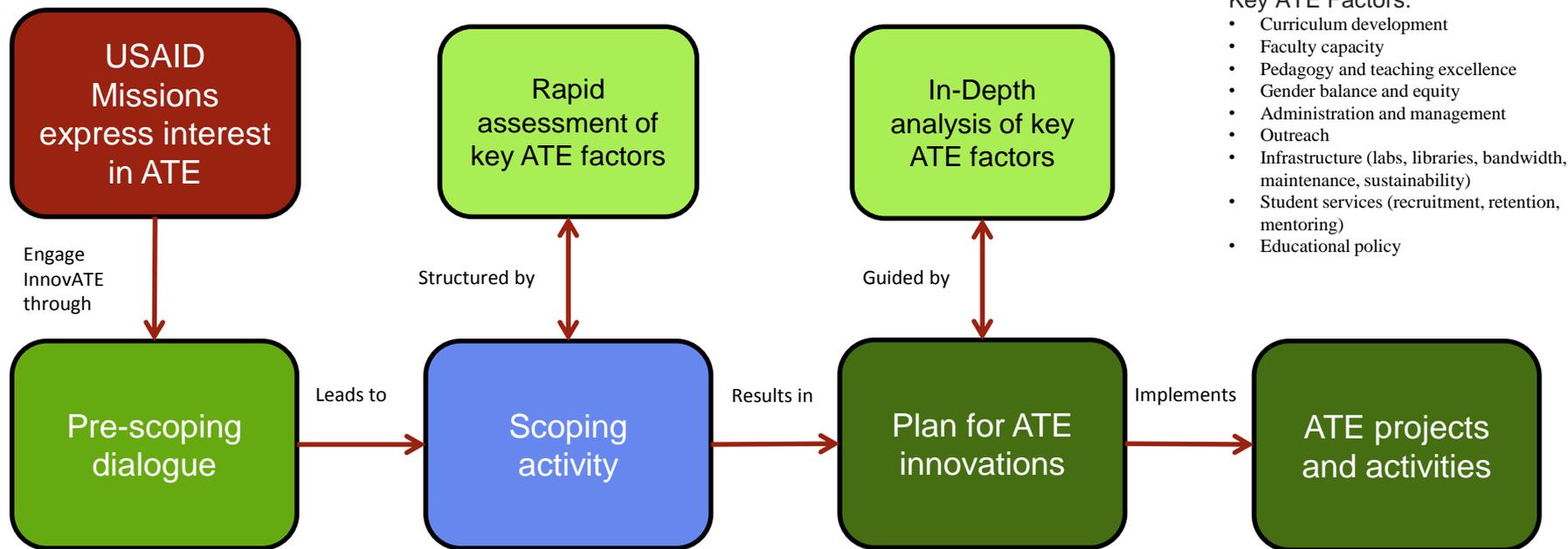
- Primary and secondary schools
- Vocational & technical schools
- Youth
- Workforce development
- Higher education institutions



Goal is more effective AET by improving alignment of professional skills with employer demand

Meeting AET Capacity Gaps





Key ATE Factors:

- Curriculum development
- Faculty capacity
- Pedagogy and teaching excellence
- Gender balance and equity
- Administration and management
- Outreach
- Infrastructure (labs, libraries, bandwidth, maintenance, sustainability)
- Student services (recruitment, retention, mentoring)
- Educational policy

Program Purpose: Strengthening agricultural training and education systems to improve the performance of the agricultural sector

Funding

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InnovATE Program:

Strengthening agricultural training and education systems to improve the performance of the agricultural sector

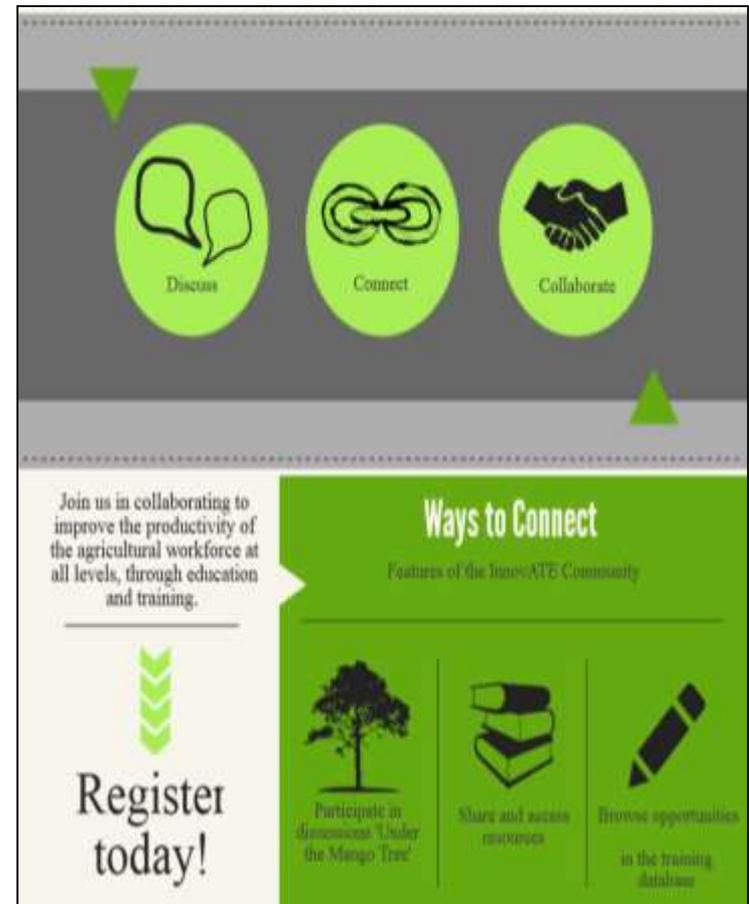
Program activities include:

- Research on AET capacity building
- Organizing conferences on AET
- Developing **AET community of practice**
- Raising awareness about AET capacity
- Needs assessments (scoping)
- Projects to improve AET



The innovATE AET Community of Practice

- Online network of agricultural development professionals
- Collaborative discussion spaces for AET and agriculture
- Resource sharing and project development
- Global training events database
- French and Spanish discussion pages



innovATEcommunity

The screenshot shows the website's layout with several key sections: a top navigation bar with a search box; a large banner for the community; a 'NAVIGATE' sidebar with tips; a 'NEWEST MEMBERS' section with member profiles; a 'DISCUSS A TOPIC' section with a question input; a 'RECENT DISCUSSIONS & RESOURCES' section with a tweet; and a 'FOLLOW US!' section with social media links. Arrows from external text point to the search bar, the newest members section, the navigate sidebar, and the recent discussions section.

Search by topic, keyword, tag or person

View newest members of the community and establish contacts

Get navigation help and quick tips

View recent discussions and resources

www.innovate-community.oired.vt.edu



Help us link training with needs in agriculture sector



Join us!

innovate





Photo credit: Gates Foundation

InnovATE is improving the resilience of the agricultural workforce through strengthened capacity of agricultural education institutions



Photo credit: Gates Foundation

New professional skills needed to take advantage of opportunities and meet new challenges, given the rapid transformational changes in the agricultural sector



Photo credit: Gates Foundation

Integrated program approach centers on student-focused outcomes which meet demand for professional skills

What we have learned? AET includes:

- Full range: recruiting, retention, mentoring (career, academic) alumni
- Developing outreach to link to real life experiences and research opportunities
- Infrastructure, management, fund raising
- Policy making and administration
- Changes happening; some quicker than expected (i.e., conflict) (response/resilience)
- Gender increasingly addressed
- Changing demographics in schools, colleges

Completed and upcoming work:

- Sustainability of agribusiness center (Armenia)
- Water Saving Agriculture (Jordan)
- Agriculture policy training (Uganda)
- Faculty training (South Sudan)
- Center of Excellence in Cambodia – Jan. 2014
- Youth, workforce development (Indonesia)
- High risk youth and workforce (Nicaragua)
- Pending work includes: D. R. of Congo, Honduras