

Title: Empowering Women in Smallholder Agriculture
Host: Wendy Wolford
Date: October 16

Abstract: Dorcas Robinson will lead a discussion of the work that CARE USA is doing in the area of Empowering Women in Smallholder Agriculture. We hope to engage Cornell researchers working on gender, agriculture and nutrition (as well as in other, related areas) to consider partnering with CARE fieldworkers to understand and address the problems facing poor women in smallholder farming. This conversation is part of an ongoing CARE-Cornell collaboration (see below for more information about the CARE-Cornell partnership). Dorcas will present the key elements of CARE's Pathways Program (promoting the role and status of women with a focus on governance, risk and vulnerability, empowerment and production collectives) and hold an open discussion as to potential collaborations with Cornell researchers. Anyone who is interested in developing field-based research in these areas is welcome to attend. One potential opportunity for collaboration is the CFP on Labor Saving Innovations for Women Smallholder Farmers (see below, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation).

The CARE-Cornell Cooperative Partnership:

Cornell University and CARE USA have established a strategic partnership to address major sustainable development challenges confronting the world. CARE has a distinguished history of development and humanitarian programming with a focus on identifying and addressing, through both its developing country programs and policy analysis and advocacy, the underlying causes of poverty with a focus on women. Cornell offers world-class basic and applied research capacity, student development, and the extension and outreach expertise needed to address current and future challenges facing the world. This partnership will enable collaboration on an accelerated and integrated basis around global challenges in which CARE and Cornell share mutual interests and possess strongly complementary capacities to achieve greater impact. We build on successful past collaborations that have reshaped development interventions and public policy to advance socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development to reduce hunger and poverty.

This initiative breaks new ground. No equivalent strategic partnership exists between a major university and a leading global development and humanitarian organization. The scope of the partnership includes (i) joint pilot research and outreach efforts that demonstrate a concept and advances in science to solve development issues, (ii) joint development of policy position papers to reinforce CARE's development frameworks and influence donors, policymakers and diffuse ideas, (iii) larger scale joint program implementation in areas of common interest, (iv) rigorous evaluation of CARE interventions so as to learn from field programming, (v) support for Cornell student internships and faculty sabbatical projects with CARE offices, (vi) develop case studies and innovation briefs, provide technical assistance, develop tools and drive CARE's thinking to improve program impact, (vii) and support for CARE staff sabbatical projects at Cornell and staff capacity development. We aspire to add value to and enhance capacity within each organization to facilitate the development and deployment of cutting edge science for best practice application at unprecedented scale, pace and quality to address development challenges.

*** Funding Opportunity:

Dear colleagues,

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is now accepting grant proposals for Round 10 of Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to encourage innovative and unconventional global health and development solutions. Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies.

This year, two-page grant proposals are being accepted online until November 7, 2012 on the following topic, among others:

*** Labor Saving Innovations for Women Smallholder Farmers**

This topic asks the science, education, design and creative communities to look beyond supply-sided interventions to get at the underlying reasons for low-adoption rates of improved labor-saving devices, specifically design for women. We're asking you to innovate for women farmers and in doing so to recognize the technical, economic, cultural and social constraints that inhibit the broad use of tools that could increase productivity on farm, reduce women's labor burden and contribute to household welfare.

Please read more about the topic and the global challenge: <http://www.grandchallenges.org/Explorations/Topics/Pages/WomenSmallholderFarmersRound10.aspx>

Initial grants will be US \$100,000 each, and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to US \$1 million. A full description of this and all round 10 topics and application instructions are available at: www.grandchallenges.org/gce

To learn more about the Grand Challenges Explorations program and the Grand Challenges in Global Health program:

* View our Interactive Map that gives information on 813 grants that have been awarded for projects in 49 countries: www.grandchallenges.org/Pages/GrantsMap.aspx

* Meet the Grand Challenges community through videos at www.grandchallenges.org/Pages/VideoGalleries.aspx and project slideshows at www.grandchallenges.org/Pages/PhotoGalleries.aspx

We look forward to receiving innovative ideas from around the world and from all disciplines. If you have a great idea, apply here: www.grandchallenges.org/gce. If you know someone who may have a great idea, please forward this message.

Thank you for your interest,
Haven

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