






## Core Traits and Comparative Strengths of Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs)

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## CRSPs are NOT cast in the same mold!




- CRSP Guidelines abandoned
- New CRSPs awarded
- CRSPs have different missions
- CRSPs have evolved





## The CRSP Model- What is it?

- A “mechanism” for USAID engagement of U.S. universities?
- An “administrative structure”?
- A “programmatic approach” for research and institutional capacity building?
- A “model” for international collaboration?



## *CRSP Guidelines*- Identified Principle Characteristics of CRSPs

- 2000 version—  
15 Principle  
Characteristics
- 2005 version-  
7 Characteristics

## Focus of Presentation

1. Core Traits of CRSPs
2. Comparative Strengths of CRSPs



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## Core Traits of CRSPs

1. Predominant technical leadership\*
2. Global Technical Vision and Strategic Plan
3. Competitive awarding of component projects
4. Long-term commitment to priority objectives\*
5. Investments in partner national institutions
6. Commitment to institutional capacity building
7. Accountability for performance and impact\*



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## Predominant Technical Leadership

### ME University

- Predominant institutional capacity and demonstrated leadership in research and international engagement
- Scholarship of ME faculty bring distinction to program

### Program Director

- Key personnel
- Scientific and international development expertise
- Ability to work with diverse partners and across disciplines
- Leadership in defining technical vision and research priorities
- Relationship with CGIAR, foundations, private sector, NGOs.



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## Long-term Commitment to Priority Objectives

- Continuity necessary to achieve research objectives
- Sustained effort essential for higher risk research with high pay-off potential
- Long-term relationships build institutional trust and effective collaboration
- Long-term investments required to develop human resources and build sustainable institutional capacity



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## Accountability for Performance

- External assessment of technical performance
- Annual review of project workplans and technical reports
- Annual reporting of “Performance Indicators”
- Impact pathways established for projects
- Ex-post impacts assessed



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## Comparative Strengths of CRSPs

1. Internationally recognized “institutions”
2. “Platforms” to exercise global technical leadership
3. Mechanism which affords “access” to U.S. university research and education capacities
4. “Partnerships” with national institutions
5. “Administrative commitments” by U.S. universities



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## CRSPs as “Institutions”



- Internationally respected organizations
- Defined mission and purpose
- Community of institutions and scientists
- Recognized for outputs (technologies, CRSP alumni)
- International voice on agriculture research and development



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## CRSPs provide “Platforms”

- to exercise international leadership
- to network diverse partners with common interests
- to define agriculture sector research priorities
- to leverage international research investments
- to increase awareness regarding global food and nutritional security issues



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## CRSPs afford “Access” to US Universities

- Access by national institutions to modern science and internationally recognized scientists
- Access by USAID Missions to CRSP technologies to achieve FTF country strategies
- Access by USAID Missions to academic programs
- Access by CGIAR centers and CRPs to research capacity and expertise
- Access by donors to agriculture sector research partners



## CRSPs promote “Partnerships”

- Valued by national agriculture research institutions (NARS, universities)
- CRSP scientists respected as “peers” and collaborators
- Commitment to institutional capacity building in mutually beneficial ways
- Shared responsibility for outputs and impacts



## U.S. University “Commitment” to CRSPs

- 25% cost share on U.S. university costs
- Cost share on MO costs (e.g., director’s salary, international meetings)
- Faculty appointments
- University engagement of Focus Countries and institutions



## The Wisdom of Collaboration

*“If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.”*

Sir Isaac Newton

*“Collaboration accelerates the evolution of ideas, because it nurtures cross pollination.”*

David Hodgson





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