



NOVEMBER 15 & 16 2017



**SCHEDULE OF
APPOINTMENTS
FOR A DELEGATION
FROM AFRICA NATIONS**



Media Release 11/30/2017
November 15 & 16, 2017
USDA/FAS/ARS Briefings and Tour at the
Beltsville Agriculture Research Center (BARC)



BRIEFING SERIES / Washington, DC



SCHEDULE OF

DELEGATION FROM AFRICA



APPOINTMENTS

Opening Remarks: *H.E. Barfuor Adjei-Barwua, Ph.D.* Ambassador of Ghana.

Overview of National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Its Role and Engagement with Land Grant Institutions: *Otto Gonzalez, Ph.D.*, Director, Center for International Programs, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Overview of Borlaug and Cochran Fellowship Programs: *Karen Uetrecht*, International Affairs Specialist, Scientific Exchanges Branch Trade and Scientific Exchanges Division, Office of Capacity Building and Development, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Will L'Estrange and Brittany Mabra, International Program Specialist, Cochran Fellowship Program Branch, Trade and Scientific Exchanges Division, Office of Capacity Building and Development, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Closing Remarks: *Minister Bayo Idowu*, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs, Embassy of Nigeria.

GROTTO delegates were briefed on USDA's FAS programs. In attendance were representatives from the Embassies of: Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Mali, Zambia, and representatives from the United Nations Association, National Capitol Area. In follow-up to the initial 2017 USDA GROTTO briefings for the African Nations, preparation for the next stage of the programming for policy, scientific research, educational exchange and business development forums are planned to convene in an April/May timeframe of 2018.





Cochran Fellowship Program

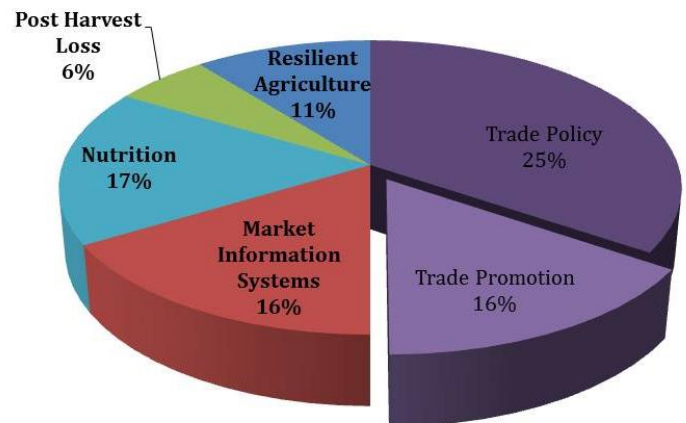
Office of Capacity Building and Development



Will L'Estrange
International Program Specialist
Cochran Fellowship Program
Foreign Agricultural Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of Capacity Building and Development (OCBD) Thematic Areas

2017 Cochran Programs



Number of Programs: 103

The aforementioned are the principle components to the briefings for Capacity Building and Development to include; Research, Education and Extension Services. A segue of elements focused on; Modernization of agriculture sectors, Development of watering mechanisms for livestock, Development of a multiple planting cycle for each year, and Empowerment of women through vegetable and herb cultivation were the initial dialogues, which will be refined based upon the Nation's specific requirements and current capacity.

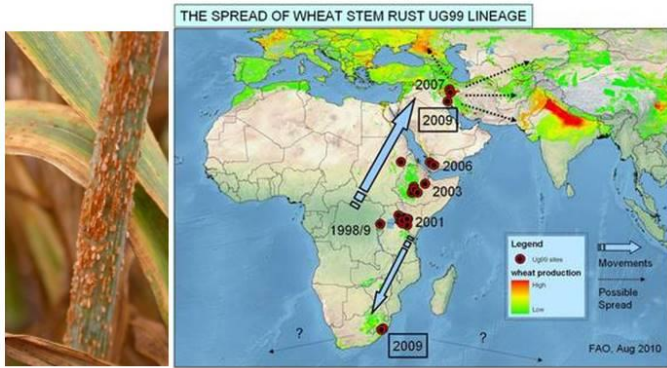


Overview of Agricultural Research Service, (A.R.S.) Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) Facilities Tour Conducted by: Jay Green: Technical Information Specialist, Office of the Director, A.R.S., U.S. Department of Agriculture's Chief Scientific Research Agency.

The facilities are located on a 2670 hectares or equivalent to 6,600 acres of land in Beltsville, Maryland. Initially established in 1910, a wide range of agriculture research is conducted, such as soil, water, and air conservation; plant sciences; animal sciences; food safety; human nutrition; and integrated farming systems. Within the facilities are more than 800 buildings (laboratories, greenhouses, barns, office buildings, and some residences), but agricultural fields, livestock grazing areas, orchards, and forests cover the majority of the site.



Research to improve wheat resistance to disease



Overview of ARS and its role in international collaboration with a focus on precision agriculture, animal production and health, and soil management:
Charles Onwulata, Ph. D., Associate Director, ARS Northeast Area, U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Ug99 Wheat Stem Rust

Example of NIFA-funded research the University of California, Davis

Overview of international research exchange programs:
Irlene Santos., International Affairs Specialist, ARS Office of International Research Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture



California 4-H- afterschool STEM



Texas 4-H – livestock competition



Alabama 4-H Summer Camp



With the advent of Murphy's Law, a logistical quirk, combined with the massive A.R.S. grounds would limit the numbers of delegates in attendance. However, the intimate setting allowed for the Nations of Nigeria and Zambia along with the United Nations Association Representative to engage in frank, and in-depth conversations during A.R.S. briefings before the "Rambo Tour."





In 2011, the GROTTO delegation to the BARC facilities was comprised of Nations from South America, Europe and the Middle East. They were the last delegation to visit USDA's International Visitor Center. It is with all due respect that we have coined the 2017 African Nations as the (Vital Research and Development) "VRD Rambo Tour." We look forward to the next stage of discussions from the respective nations to formulate a matrix for the roundtable discussions on sustainable agriculture and developing resilience from the effects of climate change on agro development. In addition, opportunities for International Trade and Economic Development are being cultivated for April/May 2018, with a select group of nations.

ARS BRAC facilities:
Photo Credit Mr. Jay Green