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USAID, NSF, and Science and Technology in Haiti

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Challenge: National vs. International

- NSF is a domestic agency, while USAID is an international agency.
- NSF awardees are already working with scientists in developing countries.
- American science and technology and NSF can and should be utilized on development issues, including applied research and capacity building.



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Part of Solution: NSF/USAID MOU

- NSF and USAID MOU promotes cutting-edge research that enhances education and builds scientific research capacity in the developing world.
- New program, Partners in Science for Development
 - A competitive grants program for scientists in the developing world
 - Expected roll-out in January 2011



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Strategy Moving Forward



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Guiding Principles for USAID in Haiti

- Rebuilding efforts must be Haitian-led and coordinated with other international donors through the IHRC.
- Work must be tracked by indicators that measure concrete outcomes and not inputs.
- The USG priority sectors align with the Government of Haiti's Action Plan for National Recovery and Development
 - Increasing agricultural productivity to strengthen food and economic security;
 - Improving infrastructure, including housing and electricity;
 - Supporting sustainable healthcare and other basic services;
 - Strategic investments in governance, rule of law, and security;
- Haiti is one of 20 focus countries in President Obama's Feed the Future initiative.



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Science, Technology, and Capacity Building in Haiti



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Haiti Pre-Earthquake Setting

- Haiti was the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, ranking 148 out of 179 on the UN Human Development Index
 - 80% of the population was under the official poverty line.
 - 1 in 4 children was chronically undernourished.
 - 66% of all employment was in agriculture, but still 23% of all imports into Haiti were food.
 - Remittances were 25% of the total GDP and were double the total of exports.
 - Only 12% of Haitians had formal access to electricity, compared to 60% in the second-least electrified country in the Western Hemisphere (Guatemala).



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Earthquake – Response Strategy

- USAID's efforts address long-standing issues and lay the foundation for sustainable solutions.
- USAID is helping to increase the capacity of the Government of Haiti to lead rebuilding efforts by providing support to both the Haitian Government and the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC).



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Addressing Big Problems



USAID utilizes science and technology to help Haitian agriculture and natural resource management.



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Earthquake – Science and Technology **WINNER**



WINNER is a five-year, \$126 million program that uses an innovative Watershed Investment Fund to work with over 250 farmers' associations, government officials, NGOs, and other entities.



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Alternatives - Intensification



After the earthquake, WINNER introduced improved seeds and cropping practices that helped to increase yields at a crucial time



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Alternatives – High value



WINNER is also in the process of creating a “supermarket” of alternative systems to erosive hillside cultivation of annual crops.



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Earthquake – Capacity Building

- USAID is also focused on capacity building.
 - Five students began graduate degree programs at U.S. Universities with USAID funding.
 - U.S.-Haiti Higher Education Partnership Program between four Haitian and four American universities.
- USAID and Gates Foundation are developing Haiti's financial sector and providing access to banking and finance by partnering with local cell phone companies on mobile banking.



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Procurement



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Funding Status and Procedures

- The Supplemental Request has been passed, and a detailed Spend Plan has been submitted to Congress
- After final approval of the Spend Plan, USAID will be able to issue awards using open solicitations to meet the identified assistance needs.



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How to Apply for Funding

- As solicitations are issued by USAID for work in Haiti in the coming months, they will be made available and publicized on U.S. Federal systems
 - For contracting opportunities, www.fbo.gov
 - For grant opportunities, www.grants.gov
 - For donating goods or services, www.usaid.gov/haiti



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Conclusion

- USAID is finding new and innovative ways to:
 - Provide sustainable development solutions
 - Focus on capacity building in developing countries
 - Identify scientific and technological solutions to real-world problems
- As leaders in science and technology, American researchers can foster and mentor research capabilities in the developing world.
- These challenges cannot be met without appropriate scientific knowledge and technological expertise.