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Dr. Raj Shah

Administrator

USAID Board for International Food and Agricultural Development

U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Development Partners

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October 15, 2012

Dear Administrator Shah,

In September, the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) Haiti Task Force conducted a follow-up review of USAID efforts in the Republic of Haiti, following our prior study submitted to you in spring, 2011. Enclosed please find a report of our findings, entitled: "Review and Recommendations on Rebuilding Food Security and Agricultural Industries of The Republic of Haiti." We would like to thank the Bureau for Food Security and the USAID Mission for their support of this effort.

The purpose of this review was to review progress on agricultural development in Haiti since the last BIFAD report. Our comments and recommendations for improvements are based upon BIFAD task force observations during the recent visit. In addition to this report, we see a great need for an additional in-depth independent review.

It is clear that USAID is participating in a monumental undertaking, of rebuilding a nation in the aftermath of a natural disaster. This is not a simple or straightforward path, with many challenges in Haiti that slow redevelopment and growth. In preparing this report, the BIFAD task force took into account the many obstacles preventing capacity building, country growth and redevelopment that are outside the control of USAID. With this in mind, we believe that it is necessary to deploy additional human resources at the disposal of the United States Government to interact and guide the Haitian government to jump start its economy.

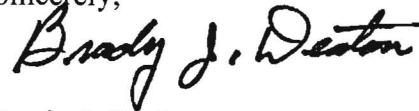
The report provides a brief background on the first BIFAD Haiti report. The attached report provides a summary of observations made during the September 2012 visit, including: field trips and visits with key agriculture stakeholders, local farmers, government officials, and educators. As part of this summary, the report outlines various issues that are yet to be addressed by USAID and other donors. Given that it has been almost three years since the earthquake devastated that nation, we have a tremendous sense of urgency about what needs to be done to alleviate hunger and poverty in Haiti.. For this reason, we outline several recommendations that we believe must be seriously considered in the near-term.

Dr. Shah, as you no doubt realize, Haiti's only truly exportable resource is food and agricultural products. We strongly believe that it is by enhancing human capacity and the infrastructure necessary to expand these exports that Haiti's economy will be truly rebuilt. Production for domestic consumption will not make a significant difference in lifting Haitians out of poverty. Only by establishing value chains of food and agricultural products destined for export markets will significant progress be made. To achieve sustained

progress, markets need to be identified, comparative advantages sought, investors and entrepreneurs attracted, experts educated at the university level, and workers trained.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these recommendations. BIFAD looks forward to meeting with you to present the report personally so we may open the way to discussion and brainstorming to result in a plan of action for USAID, and which BIFAD can support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brady J. Deaton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'B' and 'D'.

Brady J. Deaton  
Chair