

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board for International Food and Agricultural Development

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1. Department or Agency

Agency for International Development

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Board for International Food and
Agricultural Development

3b. GSA

Committee No.

1053

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter Renewal Date

01/17/2025 01/17/2027

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Section 298, Title XII,
Chapter 2 of Part 1 of the
Foreign Assistance Act of
1961, as amended.

13.

Effective Date

12/20/1975 Continuing

14.

Committee Type

14c.

Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program
Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a.

Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee (BIFAD) assists USAID in the administration of programs authorized by Title XII. More specifically, this includes participating in the planning, development and implementation of, initiating recommendations for, and monitoring of the Section 297 program components of Title XII

through U.S. public universities and their public/private partners. Title XII Section 297 activities support agricultural development in developing countries by: 1) building institutional capacity and human resource skills, 2) providing long-term U.S. university program support for global collaborative research and learning, 3) involving U.S. universities more fully in the international network of agricultural science, and 4) providing program support for international agricultural research centers, special research problems and national research systems. The Committee accomplishes its purpose by convening public meetings 2-3 times a year and commissioning in-depth studies. The BIFAD members focus on higher-level, strategically oriented issues, and the BIFAD subordinate units focus on operational, planning, and implementation issues. All BIFAD activities are coordinated through the BIFAD secretariat located in the Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security at USAID and via a support mechanism.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The membership is drawn from U.S. public universities, U.S. agro-industry and non-profit organizations concerned with international agricultural development.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

There are two or three public meetings a year to gather testimony, exchange information, and deliberate recommendations to the Agency on any issue requested.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this

committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

BIFAD is statutorily mandated to provide USAID a unique point of access and strategic cooperation with U.S. universities and colleges that are implementing their own international agricultural development programs based on domestic regional, state and local security and economic prosperity imperatives. BIFAD coordination not only provides USAID systematic access to the top-level scientific, technical and institutional expertise to address critical international food, climate and agriculture development challenges, but it also enables USAID to lead a truly whole-of-U.S. government response to global food security by enlisting the support of not only our federal government partners but our state and local government partners as well.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

There are no closed meetings. However, BIFAD does hold administrative meetings for planning purposes or to gather information.

21. Remarks

BIFAD held one public meeting in FY 2024, Demand-Side Interventions and Approaches for Healthy Diets, to shape the next steps in USAID's strategic thinking and policy prioritization toward the objective of achieving healthy diets for all. This meeting, convened on September 17, 2024, addressed evidence and evidence gaps, areas for additional research, and prioritized approaches and actions for USAID, centered around demand-side interventions and approaches to improve the processing, storage, distribution, sale, purchase, and consumption of safe and nutritious food. A draft evidence review, Increasing the Demand for Healthy Diets: Evidence on

Approaches Across the Food System in Feed the Future Contexts (see link:

<https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/document/increasing-demand-health-diets-evidence-approaches-ac>

was prepared for BIFAD and discussed at the public meeting. A preparatory meeting with 17 experts was convened on July 31, 2024 to gather input for the evidence review and in preparation for the September 17, 2024 public meeting.

Recommendations from this public meeting are in preparation. BIFAD recommendations from a series of public meetings and the study, Operationalizing USAID's Climate Strategy to Achieve Transformative Adaptation and Mitigation in Agricultural and Food Systems, were transmitted to USAID Administrator Samantha Power on November 17, 2023 and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/climatereport2023>.

BIFAD proposed three Agency-wide targets for agrifood system investments that link to broader Climate Strategy targets. They are: 1. Mitigation: Reduce emissions from agrifood systems by 1.2 GtCO₂e per year while supporting initiatives to avoid net conversion of forest, grasslands, or peatlands to agricultural use. 2. Adaptation: Enable the improved climate resilience of at least 180 million people who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, at least half of whom are women. 3. Climate Finance: Mobilize \$36 billion in finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agrifood systems, with at least 30 percent of direct financing used for gender- and socially inclusive investments. BIFAD proposed the following six detailed operational and technical recommendations illuminating a path for Agency-wide transformation to achieve Climate Strategy goals within agrifood systems programming: 1. Set, Measure, and Report on Climate Targets. Require all operating units to

define clear and measurable contributions to Climate Strategy targets while standardizing agrifood system-specific climate indicators and introducing new accountability measures to ensure their prioritization. 2. Integrate Climate Objectives in Program Cycle Strategy, Design, and Implementation. Better incorporate climate risk, impact, and projections data to mainstream programs that balance long-term climate-resilient agricultural gains with immediate food security needs. 3. Build Climate Expertise. Fulfill Climate Strategy commitments with an assessment of staffing needed across all operating units to operationalize the strategy and recruitment of necessary dedicated expert staff, in addition to increased training, technical assistance, opportunities for peer learning, and improved performance incentives for mission and other staff. 4. Increase Climate Investment. Increase the level and flexibility of agriculture and food security investments to mainstream climate goals through longer-term or phased funding, stronger collaboration and co-funding with other U.S. federal agencies, including the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, to better leverage finance, and supporting an enabling environment for adaptation finance. 5. Fund Climate Research. Strengthen the capacity of local and global research organizations to anticipate and address climate adaptation and mitigation needs, including those pertaining to governance, markets, and behavioral change. 6. Invest in High-Potential Leverage Points. Focus technical investments and incentives in high-potential leverage points within agrifood systems to drive emissions reductions and climate-resilient pathways while achieving food security goals. Priority leverage points are: Empower Women, Youth, and Other

Underrepresented Groups to Drive Locally Led,
Climate-Resilient Agrifood Systems Increase
Finance for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation and
Expand its Inclusivity Enable the Use and
Sustained Provision of Weather and Climate
Services Partner with and Strengthen Local
Research and Development Systems Expand
Integrated Soil and Water Resources
Management Expand Integrated Forest and
Agricultural Land Management Reduce Livestock
Emissions while Increasing Production Efficiency
Reduce Food Loss and Waste An Agency

response to the recommendations is under
preparation. An Agency response to BIFAD's
recommendations from its public meeting on
October 19, 2022, Fed to Thrive: Accelerating
Action on Nourishing Foods for Infants and Young
Children, were transmitted to BIFAD on February
29, 2024 and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/document/agency-response-bifad-recommendations-october-19-2022>

The Agency sent a response to BIFAD on
recommendations from its report, Agricultural
Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic
Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa:

Implications for USAID (which can be found at this
link:

<https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/documents/agstudytransmittalmemo>)

on November 14, 2023. The response may be
found at the following link:

<https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/document/agency-response-agricultural-productivity-growth-resilient>

The Agency transmitted a response to BIFAD's
recommendations from its May 23, 2022 public
meeting, The Global Food Security Crisis:

Exploring the Evidence Base and Lessons from
the Past to Strengthen Agricultural, Nutrition, and
Food Systems in the Face of Shocks, on February
29, 2024. The response may be found at the
following link:

<https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/document/agency-response-bifad-recommendations-may-23-2022-7>

Designated Federal Officer

Clara K. Cohen Executive Director and
Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Alexander, Laurence	01/14/2022	07/28/2028	Chancellor, University of Michigan-Flint	Representative Member
Anderson, Pamela	01/14/2022	07/28/2025	Director General Emerita, International Potato Center	Representative Member
Boyd, Marie	01/14/2022	07/28/2025	Associate Professor of Law, University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law Distinguished University	Representative Member
Lal, Rattan	01/14/2022	07/28/2025	Professor of Soil Science, The Ohio State University MSU Foundation Professor, Department of	Representative Member
Liverpool-Tasie, Lenis	01/14/2022	07/28/2025	Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University Past Vice President/Head	Representative Member
Moore, Henri	01/14/2022	07/28/2028	of Responsible Business, Haleon President	Representative Member
Spahn, Kathy	01/14/2022	07/28/2028	Emerita, Helen Keller International	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

Narrative Description

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development

(BIFAD) is a seven-member, presidentially appointed advisory committee to USAID established in 1975 under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended, to ensure that USAID brings the assets of U.S. universities to bear on development challenges in agriculture and food security and supports their representation in USAID programming. Under its charter, it advises the USAID Administrator on issues as requested.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

BIFAD does not review specific projects or agency initiatives whereby a cost-saving analysis would occur. BIFAD focuses its attention at the policy and strategic level as related to USAID's food security and agricultural programs.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

9

Number of Recommendations Comments

There were 3 climate change targets (adaptation, mitigation, and finance) and 6 operational recommendations transmitted in FY 2024.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Please see <https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/climatereport2023> for BIFAD recommendations to USAID intended to help USAID accelerate achievement of its ambitious Climate Strategy goals within agrifood systems programming. These recommendations are being partially implemented, and an agency response was posted online on October 29, 2024 at <https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/document/agency-response-operationalizing-usaids-climate-strategy>

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Agency feedback is provided via planning, the public meetings, and formal responses to

BIFAD recommendations. Agency responses to recent BIFAD recommendations are now available. Agency response to BIFAD recommendations from the May 23 2022 public meeting:

<https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/document/agency-response-bifad-recommendations-may-23-2022-p>

Agency response to BIFAD recommendations from the October 19, 2022 public meeting:

<https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/document/agency-response-bifad-recommendations-october-19-2022>

Agency response to BIFAD recommendations and report on agricultural productivity and economic transformation in sub-Saharan Africa:

<https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/document/agency-response-agricultural-productivity-growth-resilient>

An Agency response to BIFAD's November 2023 climate change recommendations:

<https://www.usaid.gov/bifad/document/agency-response-operationalizing-usaids-climate-strategy>

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

BIFAD's FY 2024-2025 work plan includes the overarching goal to provide evidence-based recommendations to USAID and the broader development community and amplify this evidence to inform strategy, policy, and programming that build resilient and sustainable food and nutrition systems to reduce extreme poverty and malnutrition in a changing climate. Three priority work streams include: 1. Strengthening agricultural and food systems to respond to global food security crises and to mitigate the impacts of shocks (i.e., conflict, pandemics, climate change). 2. Improving the affordability of safe and nutritious foods. 3. Adapting to and Mitigating Climate Change in Agricultural and Food Systems BIFAD is also committed to intentionally embedding the following cross-cutting themes across the three priority work streams: 1. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, including engagement of minority-serving institutions and women's empowerment and economic empowerment. 2. Locally led development 3. Research and Development 4. Higher education engagement 5. Private sector engagement Near-term priorities implemented in FY 2024 include: 1. Providing recommendations to shape USAID strategic thinking and policy prioritization on demand-side interventions and approaches

to increase the distribution, purchase, and consumption of healthy food. Preparatory research for BIFAD will include a review of existing evidence related to the creation and increase of the demand side for safe, nutritious food in LMICs relevant to Feed the Future priority countries and focus zones, including measures and metrics related to monitoring progress and understanding impact and a preparatory roundtable discussion with key experts, practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders to generate a prioritized set of policies, programming, and market-based approaches that USAID can implement in Feed the Future Programming portfolios. The research will be presented and deliberated at a public meeting in September 2024. 2. Establishing a permanent, high-visibility BIFAD subcommittee to promote dialogue for sustained, inclusive, and equitable engagement of Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) in Agency agricultural, food security, nutrition, and resilience programming and policies. Subcommittee members will be appointed in 2024 and will develop a work plan and schedule of preparatory meetings, leading to a BIFAD public meeting in 2025.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A