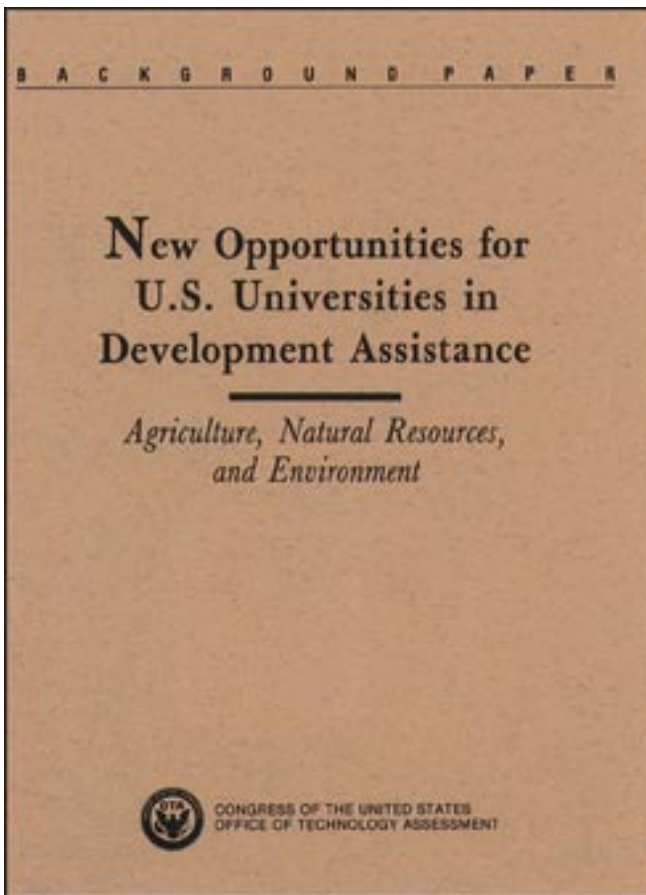


*New Opportunities for U.S. Universities in  
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# Foreword


U.S. universities and the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) have long history of collaboration in development assistance, and of frustration with aspects of their relationship. Collaboration has been based on mutual recognition of the need to access the broad range of U.S. intellectual resources to help address developing country problems; the shared frustration has been based on mutually perceived shortcomings in collaborative efforts. Numerous factors contributed to U.S. university/AID conflicts, including different approaches to development assistance, differing bureaucratic styles, mistrust of each other's commitment and/or technical capabilities, and intrusion of politics into some aspects of development aid.

New opportunities for U.S. university involvement in foreign development assistance, however, are arising from new initiatives in AID and in other development assistance organizations. AID's growing emphasis on sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, and maintenance or improvement of environmental quality offers U.S. universities new areas of specialization and, thus, fresh areas of participation in development assistance. Intensifying efforts to achieve mutual benefits from development assistance for developing countries and the United States also offers U.S. universities involvement in "second generation" development projects.

In addition, AID and U.S. universities are developing new, multi-institutional collaborative relationships involving a wide sphere of U.S. universities, private sector organizations, and Federal agencies. Benefits of such expanded collaboration may include: potential for increased university participation in development assistance, economic and strategic advantages of pooling knowledge and resources and of sharing risks and costs, the possibility of garnering increased political support for university involvement in development assistance, and broadening educational opportunities for U.S. and developing country students.

The House Committees on Foreign Affairs and Science, Space and Technology requested the Office of Technology Assessment to review the constraints and opportunities to U.S. university involvement in foreign development assistance related to agriculture, natural resource management, and protection of environmental quality. The Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Trade, Oceans, and Environment of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and Senator Tim Wirth supported that request. This background paper discusses the legacy of 40 years of U.S. university/AID collaboration, and examines new opportunities for U.S. university participation in development assistance.

OTA greatly appreciates the contributions of workshop participants assembled for the study, authors of contracted papers, and reviewers of draft materials. We are especially grateful for the time and effort donated by representatives of universities, private organizations, and Federal agencies who provided materials and information to keep OTA informed on the ever-changing relationship between U.S. universities and AID. As with all OTA studies, the content of the report is the sole responsibility of OTA.

  
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NOTE: OTA appreciates and is grateful for the valuable assistance and thoughtful critiques provided by the workshop participants. The workshop participants do not, however, necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse this report. OTA assumes full responsibility for the report and the accuracy of its contents.

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