



**NA-USIP Roundtable:  
Workshop on Adapting Agricultural Extension to Peacebuilding**  
of the  
National Academies and  
United States Institute of Peace

May 1, 2012

U.S. Institute of Peace  
2301 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C.

**AGENDA**

The goal of this workshop is to identify what peacebuilding activities could be delivered as components of existing extension services and what organizational modifications and new capabilities would be required to do so effectively.

The day divides into two halves. In the morning, we will investigate how resource conflict manifests in rural communities and how have extension and advisory services been used to affect such conflict. In the afternoon, in breakout sessions participants will brainstorm what are the capabilities required to support a peacebuilding role for extension.

The breakouts will address 1) what changes are required in the skills of individual extension officers, 2) what changes are required in the organization of extension systems, and 3) what technological innovations are required in order for extension officers to integrate peacebuilding into their extension activities.

**8:00 a.m. Breakfast**

**8:30 a.m. Welcome and Goals for the Day**  
*Ann Bartuska, USDA; Pamela Aall, USIP*

**8:45 a.m. Conflict in Rural Settings**  
Conflict affects agricultural communities in multiple ways. Disagreement between communities on rights to land and water access can act as flashpoints to initiate conflict. Likewise, in the aftermath of conflict, returnees whether refugees or demobilized soldiers can create conflict by stressing a community's economic and social resources. What can be natural additions to an extension officer's activities to manage these destabilizing phenomena?

*Speakers: Jon Unruh, McGill University  
Caroline Hartzell, Gettysburg College  
Michael Jacobs, Texas A&M University*

*Moderator: Pamela Aall, USIP*

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. Extension in Fragile Societies**  
Extension agents working in rural communities are typically representatives of government with the responsibility to provide information and guidance to improve agricultural productivity. What are the affects of conflict on agents'

capacity to deliver such services and what examples exist of extension agents using delivery of such services as a means to manage conflict effectively?

*Speakers: Mark Bell, UC Davis  
Jim Conley, Civilian Response Corps  
David Nisbet, Agricultural Research Service*

*Moderator: Ann Bartuska, USDA*

**12:30 p.m. Lunch**

**1:15 p.m. Break-out Sessions**

**Capacity Building & Training (Room B214)**

Extension officers support farmers by communicating information, by providing access to resources, and by organizing farmers to get to market. Given the need to continue to support the technical dimensions of farming, what are the skills required for extension officers to manage conflict effectively in their communities?

**Organizational Change and Institution Building (Room B215)**

Extensions systems typically operate within a Ministry of Agriculture. Following conflict, resources can be scarce, and coherent guidance even scarcer. To enable effective frontline peacebuilding activities by extension agents, what changes are required in how agents are organized, supported, and resourced?

**Technological Infrastructure (Room B241)**

Extension systems have used various communications technologies (rural radio, for example) to communicate with dispersed agricultural communities. Cell phone technology is transforming what can be communicated and has created the potential for two-way conversations. How should this and other recent ICT innovations be applied in extension to manage conflict?

**3:30 p.m. Reconvene**  
*Ann Bartuska, USDA; Pamela Aall, USIP*

**4:30 p.m. Adjourn**