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“Global food security and food safety:  
The role of universities”

## Capacity Building of Agricultural Professionals Is Key to Address Food and Nutritional Security Challenges: An Empirical Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa

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### Abstract

Research and Training Institutes play an important role in building Human and Institutional capacity in developing countries. Building capacity of agricultural Extension professionals in developing and underdeveloped countries is very crucial to address ever-changing problems in the Agricultural sector to achieve food security. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) acknowledged investment in the capacity building of Agricultural Extension Professionals could yield as high as 500 % rate of return. National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) at Hyderabad implementing ‘Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT) Program’ in 17 Asian and African Countries. The objective of the programme is to build the capacity of Agricultural professionals in African countries in collaboration with National/ International (non-) governmental Specialized Institutes to address the gaps in the agricultural sector to achieve food and nutritional security in Asia and Africa. The training themes were selected based on the gap analysis. Trainings are organised in collaboration with National/ International (non-) governmental Specialized Institutes such as Agricultural Research Institutes, Agricultural Universities, and other organisations. 580 agricultural professionals have been trained from 14 countries representing Agriculture, Horticulture, Fishery, Animal Husbandry and Rural Development. All the participants were administered to pre & post training tests to analyse the change in the knowledge level. The data obtained from the tests were analysed with descriptive statistics. Results were stupendous, on an average participants change in the knowledge level was 32 %. Further, analysed how gain in knowledge through trainings has created impact at field level. To analyse, back at work projects were prepared by participants during the training period based on the technology or new knowledge they acquired in various specialised training Institutes in India and Uganda. During the impact evaluation, of 580 executives completed training 32 trainees were randomly selected from Uganda, Kenya, Liberia, Botswana, Malawi and Ghana. Noticed, a significant correlation between change in the knowledge level and the impact they created at field level. The results have policy implications to encourage increased capacity building programs for agricultural professionals in collaboration with Universities and Research Organisations to address food insecurity and malnutrition in developing countries.

**Keywords:** Capacity Building, Feed The Future India Triangular Training, Food & Nutrition Security

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