

**Access to Readily Available Extension, Educational,
and Research Information and Resources**

Sponsor: USAID

Instructors of this course were:

Mr. Gregory Crosby, Sustainable Development/Extension, USDA

Mr. Peter Young, Director, National Agricultural Library, USDA

Ms. Elizabeth Dodsworth, Global Director, Knowledge Management, CAB Int'l

Mr. Kenneth Hinga, International Relations Advisor, USDA (Moderator)

The training session provided instruction on the use of resources and discussed the international sharing of such information, educational and extension practices globally. These resources covered extensive information that may be of use in addressing issues of agricultural production, disaster relief, pest and disease management, forming small businesses, using geospatial technologies, protection of natural resources, food safety and nutrition, financial security, and sanitary and phytosanitary control for import and export.

Mr. Crosby explained about the National Extension Initiative in detail. It was launched in the U.S. in 2004 and has been used at 104 universities in 50 states. The information was available on the internet and could be accessed by extension and development professionals throughout the world. While the current service has been provided for U.S. conditions, there was scope to extend the knowledge base to developing countries. Mr. Young showed how the National Agricultural Library was providing access to global information to agriculture. The NAL thesaurus served as the foundation for the National Extension Initiative. Through an interactive computer display, Ms. Dodsworth illustrated how the CABI compendium model could be used to improve people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. The CABI partners included governments, aid organizations, research institutes and the private sector.