USAID and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research have partnered to create the Center of Excellence for Agriculture – Egypt (COEA). Purdue is a partner university in this multi-year, $30M project led by Cornell University and hosted by the Cairo University Faculty of Agriculture.

The COEA brings together universities, industry partners, and government to create innovative, transformative, and industry-validated curricula for undergraduate and graduate students. The COEA aims to produce translatable, solutions-based research that addresses the current and emerging needs of Egyptian agriculture. In doing so, we will develop:

- workforce-ready students ready to strengthen the Egyptian agricultural economy;
- research products that transform agricultural businesses and livelihoods;
- a sustainable, replicable, and inclusive model, highly valued and financially supported by a wide range of stakeholders throughout Egypt.

Purdue University is leading COEA curriculum initiatives. These are guided by three cross-cutting principles: (1) active, student-centered learning; (2) market-driven course content across value chains; and (3) accessibility. The new curricula are informed by stakeholders and designed to deliver the skills, knowledge, and competencies most needed by employers to drive agricultural growth. In the process, the project will create a new industry-validated B.S. program in animal production, an interdisciplinary M.S. degree, and numerous experiential learning and pilot labs to allow students the authentic learning experiences necessary to build skills needed in the labor market.

Other partner U.S. institutions include Michigan State University and UC Davis. For more information about the COEA project at Purdue contact the COEA Project Director Dr. Paul Ebner at pebner@purdue.edu