Gathenya Plenary

- How to deal with the short-term research challenge?
- How do we build partnerships between LGUs and African institutions?
- What role can information technology (ICT) play?
  - These might serve as good research questions
    - Document examples of what works
  - Establish LGU experiment stations in all African nations
    - Perhaps with existing NARIs or CGIARs
    - Perhaps a major component would be virtual
Interdisciplinary Engagement

- How can a project like this be replicated when it’s so individually driven?
- How can university policies be changed to provide incentives for such work?
- And how can it be done in a way that there are broader local community benefits?
- When building such a project, how do you manage the multidisciplinarity?
- Can we create a portal to give various collaborators access to Penn State’s faculty and information? (e.g. India–Africa model)
Educational engagement

- How can we get the tangible and intangible educational goals communicated and incentivized?
- How do we address the language barrier?
  - Good to do at least some study of language
  - Good to seek out Penn State students from the country and have conversations with them before going to do research
- Important to have reflection time for students after study-abroad experience
- Unmentioned challenge: Funding
Genuine and trusting partnerships are needed to overcome host of barriers
  ◦ Great opportunity to collaborate on publications
  ◦ Opportunity to learn from past failures

How to mainstream gender in research–extension?

How to promote participatory research–extension system (including farmers, extension, researchers, and policy makers)?
  ◦ How do we get African policy makers committed?
  ◦ How do we get US policy makers committed?
Extra–academic Perspectives

- African continent has substantial consumer potential and agricultural production potential
  - “Regional trading blocks” becomes a more useful concept than looking at individual nations
  - Need competent research teams.
  - Need to involve policy makers
  - Need African problem-solving approach
    - Curriculum development to produce African scientists
    - How to better use technology
Universities can and should expose young people to African needs and outreach opportunities

Teaching and learning
  ◦ Universities should be less a passive observer and more of a champion of ideas and projects.
  ◦ Missing out on comparative learning opportunities
  ◦ Have to recognize the importance of rural organizations, such as cooperatives, in the African context

Refocus donors, make extension more effective