## G7 Environment

Universities for Sustainable Development





MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

### **Three Dimensions of Sustainability**



- Food
- Energy
- Water

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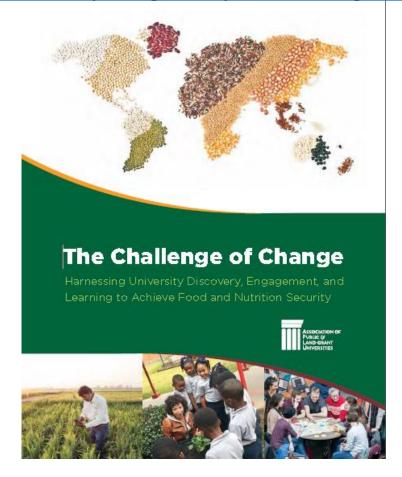


- Food
- Energy
- Water

### Challenge of Change – APLU, 2017

Harnessing University Discovery, Engagement, and Learning to Achieve Food and Nutrition Security

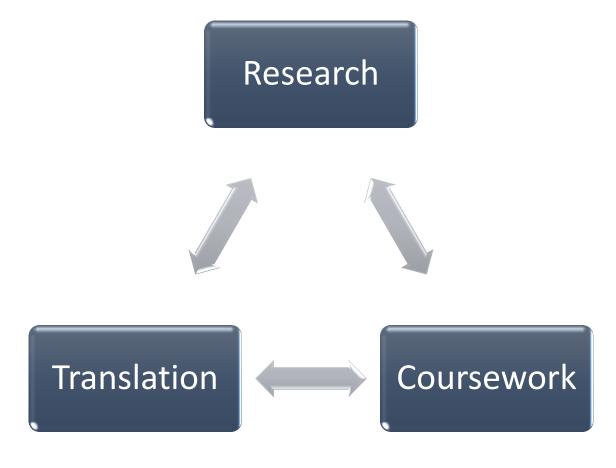
http://www.aplu.org/library/the-challenge-of-change







## A Land Grant University Model for the 21st Century







## Research begins with a relationship with the clients

- Address needs identified by knowing the client, the industry, the marketplace
- Research begins with advancing understanding of the fundamentals
- Research findings lead to practical applications





# Research begins with a relationship with the clients – 2 examples

#### Oklahoma wheat variety development

- Unique production system dual purpose
  - Grazing tillering, vernalization
  - Grain yield, quality
- Unique soils, climate
  - Nitrogen efficiency
  - Water efficiency
- Protections
  - Diseases
  - Insects
- Clients:
  - Producers
  - Millers





# Research begins with a relationship with the clients – 2 examples

#### Reversing desertification in Ethiopia

- Tigray province (north) Mekelle University
- Semi-arid region, hit with El Niño drought
- Mountain runoff drained rapidly, plains devoid of moisture
- University faculty established relationship with farming families
- Constructed detention ponds at base of mountain range
- Resulted in elevated aquifer in plains, > 260 wells





## From a desert to 260 irrigation wells







## Research that fosters entrepreneurship

#### Food industry – Food innovation centers, food products incubators

- Business plans
- Product testing
- Pilot plant environment
- Process training
- Market studies
- Labels, safety regulations
- Enterprise expansion
- Trade development







## Research that fosters entrepreneurship

#### Bio-industry – Bio-fuels, Bio-products

- Agronomic solutions
- Logistics planning and execution
- Processing technology development and transfer
- Feeding into manufacturing value chain
- Market analysis
- Capital development







# Changing culture – Campus food systems as an example

Teaching transdisciplinary thought and action

Addressing food waste at the system level

Addressing food insecurity where it's hidden

Addressing lifestyle for better health







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## **Challenge of Change conclusions**

- Elevate food and nutrition security to top priority
- Align universities for transdisciplinary approach
- Enhance and build university-community partnerships
- Educate new generation to work across disciplines
- Broaden focus beyond yields
- Change food system incentives structure
- Develop capacity of universities in low-income countries
- Leverage technology, big data, information science



