This annual report describes the key activities of Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development (PAEGC) implemented over the financial year period of October 2017 to September 2018. Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development represents a partnership of the United States Agency for International Development with Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Government of Germany, Duke Energy Corporation, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. It was launched in 2012 to support the development and deployment of clean energy innovations that stimulate low-carbon economic growth within the agriculture sector of developing countries to help end extreme poverty and extreme hunger.

Some of the main activities that were implemented during the reporting year period include:

- Innovators representing the 2013 and 2105 cohorts gathered in Nairobi in January 2018 for the 2nd Powering Agriculture Xcelerator (PAX) Workshop and Power Agriculture Innovator Showcase (PAIS).
- The Powering Agriculture Investment Alliance was established, creating a partnership with AlpahMundi and Factor[e] that will catalyze a minimum of US$25 million in private sector finance for ventures with the potential to achieve transformational development impact in the clean energy/agriculture nexus.
- A variety of knowledge sharing products were published, including “A Powering Agriculture Guide on Financing Types for Innovators”, two studies and associated policy briefs, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: “The Benefits and Risks of Solar Powered Irrigation – A Global Overview” and “The Costs and Benefits of Clean Energy Technologies in the Milk, Vegetable and Rice Value Chains”.
- The PAX webinar series continued, with a 2-part session entitled “You have the product, what about the team?” Part A: Building the Team and Part B: Keeping Your Team.
Site visits to 3 of the 13 Innovators from the 2015 cohort were conducted, during which progress was verified and beneficiaries were interviewed.

The Powering Agriculture East Africa Hub (Hub), managed by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, actively promoted the use of renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency in food value chains in the region. Hub activities focused on capacity building and the development of viable business models, integrating the Innovators’ work where possible. The Hub transferred the energy efficiency knowledge gained through its work with Kenya’s tea sector to other sectors (dairy) and regions (South-East Asia, East Africa).

In the next financial year (October 2018-September 2019), the first phase of the Powering Agriculture grand challenge will draw to a close with the culmination of the last set of innovator grants and the end of the Powering Agriculture Support Task Order. As part of this culmination, Powering Agriculture expects to accomplish the following major items:

- Publication of technology-focused papers documenting advances in the clean energy/ag nexus and summarizing lessons learned from the Powering Agriculture innovators
- Site visits to the remaining 2015 Innovators
- Powering Agriculture Final Event
- Powering Agriculture Final Evaluation

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