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 2016 to September 2017. Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development represents a partnership of the United States Agency for International Development with the Government of Sweden, 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.

Powering Agriculture will:

- Support clean energy technology and business model innovations for agriculture.
- Ensure that financial intermediaries have the capital they need to help organizations scale their clean energy innovations and reach the farmers and agri-businesses that need these technologies.
- Develop partnerships with public and private sector organizations that want to support the goals of the Powering Agriculture initiative.
- Serve as a clean energy and agricultural information resource hub for people around the world.

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

- Upscaling the MOOC training to the Caribbean -> CaribOOC: Based on the success of the inaugural course, the MOOC materials and case studies were modified for the Caribbean region and piloted with 40 participants in the spring of 2017.
- Release of an updated companion reader for the Sustainable Energy for Food MOOC.
- Publication of the Gender Integration Summary Report 2016 which examined both current efforts and future plans of Innovators to integrate gender considerations into their work.
• Publication of a series of 6 topical guides focused on integrating gender into the development and deployment of clean energy solutions (CES) for the agricultural sector.

• The continuation of the PAX webinar series, with sessions: 1) How to get your message out there — Developing an effective branding and outreach strategy; 2) Selling your innovation to smallholder farmers — Examples of commercial success by Richard Kohl; 3) Realities of the Engineering Timeline.

• Participation in various conferences, including convening of a panel titled Lessons Learned by Early-Stage Clean Tech Innovators in Developing Countries at the VentureWell Open 2017, and Intersolar 2017 where Powering Agriculture, along with partners University of Hohenheim and Phaesun, received an award in the category of outstanding solar projects.

• Site visits to 1 of the 11 Innovators from the 2013 cohort and 1 of the 13 Innovators from the 2015 cohort, during which progress was verified and beneficiaries were interviewed.


• Developed, in partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Toolbox on Solar Powered Irrigation Systems Information and Tools for Advising on Solar Water Pumping and Irrigation.
In the next financial year (October 2017 to September 2018), Powering Agriculture expects to implement the following major items:

- Establishment of a public-private partnership with an investment fund to support the commercialization and scale-up of clean energy technologies and innovative business models for farmers and agribusinesses.

- Hosting of the Powering Agriculture Xcelerator (PAX) program in-person workshop for the Innovators in Kenya, January 15 to 18, 2018.

- Publication and anchoring of the SPIS Toolbox with training institutions through a series of training and training of the trainers, development of new modules, and an official launch at an FAO event in March 2018.

- Continued activities related to energy efficiency in the tea sector, including assessment of similar interventions in the Rwandese and Malawian tea sector, adaptation and deployment of the existing training materials, and assessing the energy saving potential in tea factories in China, India, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

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