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Project Timeframe: May 16, 2011 – December 15, 2011

I recently traveled to India with the ACES Academy for Global Engagement where I saw first-hand the effect that policy has on the incentives of both the public and private sector to make basic investments in infrastructure. For example, in India, a private firm is not allowed to procure grain directly from farmers. Only the government or specially licensed mandis are allowed to do this. This one policy has a profound effect on the current state of infrastructure in India and is responsible for a large degree of the post harvest losses experienced in this country. Policy has a similarly important role in Brazil as well. One thing that we can do while the ADM Institute defines its role in the space of post-harvest loss prevention is to assess the state of agricultural policy in our focus countries, India and Brazil. This will allow us to have an understanding about what kind of solutions are feasible within the political environments we will be working with. With funding for one 50% Ph.D. graduate assistant for two summer months in 2011, two 50% Ph.D. graduate assistants in the fall of 2011, plus one month of summer salary for myself, we will produce two white papers outlining the agricultural policy environments in India and Brazil. This white paper will be read internally to help shape our steps forward within the institute, but it will also be an initial contribution to the information put forth by the ADM Institute on its website.

Deliverables:

- White papers titled, “The State of Agricultural Policy in India” and “The State of Agricultural Policy in Brazil”
- Initial identification of policies helping or hindering investment in post harvest infrastructure.