

**The U.S.-India Knowledge Initiative
and
Arizona State University and School of Agribusiness and Resource Management**

The University and School has been involved in India since the late 1950s. Today's research projects include projects with Jamia Millia University, University of Baroda, Madras University, Chennai, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad and BITS Pilani. ASU has currently 781 Indian students studying at the University in a wide variety of majors, certificate programs and schools. At the polytechnic campus we have two major schools and colleges working with as the teaching, research and outreach missions of the consortium including School of Agribusiness and Resource Management and Global Technology Development. We can contribute to the consortium as a "niche" university.

When thinking of collaborations with India it is imperative to recognize the huge variability in resources, expertise, irrigation issues, water management, homeland security, arid lands, mountainous regions and wealth and level of education that exists across the incredibly diverse country. This is similar to Arizona with its Native Tribes, multicultural background and agricultural challenges. The level of economic vitality, development, prosperity and quality of life varies widely across the regions, cities, villages and rural areas of India also similar to Arizona.

Indian Faculty, students and staff provide many bright spots for linkages with India. Students that graduate from ASU and return to India are competitive in the labor force, but many migrate to other states or countries where there are better, higher paying jobs. Recent theses have included Indian Cooperative and Rural Banking, India Supply Chain Management, Rural Development in Southern India, and others related to our specialties.

The Morrison School of Agribusiness and Resource Management at ASU is like few U.S. universities and has limited funds to redirect to new international ventures without industry or partner support. However, the group of ASU faculty with experience in India seeks opportunities to collaborate with Indian colleagues and to make a difference in India where the needs are basic: improved seeds and production practices, better post-harvest technology, reducing restraints to efficient markets, creating new markets and modifying some agribusiness, trade, environmental planning, and dispute resolution policies are examples. We will also explore opportunities for student and faculty study abroad programs in India, with the focus on India and South Asia. And, we have significant agribusinesses in our area that are giving us encouragement in both the research and study abroad arenas. See www.asu.edu

Our experience in India and our contacts there, cause us to be optimistic about the positive impact that can be accomplished with science-based agribusiness, research and rural development, and some policy changes that will contribute to more efficient markets, improved trade, and transparent governmental actions. Other areas including WTO compliance, food safety, and new trade technology can be useful. These changes can be economically achieved through investment in human capital, improvements in the analytical capacity of decision makers in both the public and private sectors, and investments in selected infrastructure.

One specific we propose is an annual conference that rotates between India and the U.S., to which all interested parties are invited, where critical issues that are central to the Knowledge Initiative are addressed. Also existing student funding from India and U.S. could be focused on India for the next four to five terms.

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