The Small Research Grants Program
FINAL REPORT, 2007
What is SAGA?

SAGA was a project of Cornell and Clark Atlanta Universities for research and technical assistance funded by a cooperative agreement with USAID.

SAGA brought together key personnel having extensive experience and interest in Africa as researchers, teachers, students and policymakers to offer a different perspective on growth and poverty reduction activities. More specifically, the project focused on the capabilities of individuals, households, and communities – their productivities, their vulnerabilities, their institutions, and their environment.

The aim was to understand further the economic, social, institutional and natural constraints that keep poor households from prospering in the context of growth-orientated reform in the developing world, Africa in particular.

Visit our websites (www.saga.cornell.edu and/or www.saga.cau.edu) to learn more about SAGA’s

- Overall goal
- Focus and study Areas
- Research Outputs/Publications
- Technical Assistance Activities, and
- Conferences

since its inception in 2001.

What follows is the Final Report of the activities completed under the Small Research Grants Program of SAGA.
The Small Grants Program

The overall goal of SAGA was to increase African capacity to produce high quality, policy-oriented research on key issues affecting economic growth and access in various countries of Africa. In support of this goal, SAGA had four main objectives: (1) strengthening of select African economic research institutes; (2) expanding the pool of highly trained African economists; (3) conducting policy-oriented research on economic growth and access issues; and (4) facilitating linkages between U.S. and African researchers. In order to achieve these goals, SAGA was developed and implemented under three components: (1) collaborative research; (2) Small Grants Program and (3) Technical Assistance.

The objectives of the Small Research Grants Program were to complement SAGA’s goals, and directly to facilitate the fourth goal of SAGA by providing small grants to graduate students and faculty members based in US institutions to carry out collaborative research with African Research Institutions. More specifically:

1. To foster productive and long-lived relationships between U.S.-based researchers and SISERA-based researchers;

2. To support policy-oriented research of the highest quality on SAGA-related themes;

3. To maximize the possibilities for complementarities between the research grants program and the research and technical assistance components of SAGA;

4. To promote the research of women and minorities who are underrepresented.

Outputs:

Given these goals and objectives, under the Small Grants Program, we were able to achieve the following:

1. Developed Guidelines for soliciting, evaluating, and implementing research proposals (www.saga.cau.edu);

2. Distributed and articulated the purpose and objectives of the Small Grants Program via websites, annual conferences, professional newsletters, and direct mail to over 200 US academic and research institutions for the purpose of soliciting competitive applied research proposals;

▲Note: Although five rounds of annual research grants were planned, according to the contractual grant awarded to us, we were only able to fund three rounds of annual research grants due to lack of funding.
3. Evaluated and selected over 97 proposals;

4. Implemented and managed 25 research grants/projects; and

5. Back-stopped all the awardees, and facilitated collaboration with the host SISERA institutions; and

6. Collected and distributed/shared outcomes and progresses of the research projects through annual in-country SAGA/SISERA supported conferences, brochures and annual meetings/reports, and websites (www.saga.cornell.edu).

The details on what was achieved:

We were able to select and fund 25 research grants (26 individuals). Of these, seventeen (17) were PhD students (8 females) and 9 faculties (2 females). All the recipients of the grant were based in one of the member research institutes of the Secretariat for Institutional Support for Economic Research in Africa (SISERA) during their field research period.

The SISERA institutions participated in hosting these awardees included:

1. Economic Policy Research Center, Uganda;
2. Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, Ghana;
3. Economic and Social Research Foundation, Tanzania;
4. Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches en Economie et Gestion, Cameroun;
5. Institute of Policy Analysis and Research, Kenya;
6. Centre de Recherche Economique Appliquée, Senegal;
7. Institute of Economic and Social Research, Zambia;
8. National Institute of Economic Policy, South Africa;
9. Groupe de recherché en economie appliqué et théorique, Mali;
10. African Institute of Applied Economics, Nigeria;
11. Botswana Institute for Developmental Policy Analysis, Botswana;
Table 1 shows the final recipients/awardees with their respective research projects titles, home institution, and where they went to carry out their field research and with whom they collaborated.

All the awardees, except two-to our knowledge, have completed their research projects and provided the expected deliverables to both their home institutions (USA) and host intuitions (the SISERA member-in country institutions). All PhD candidate awardees, except two, have completed their degree requirements - to our knowledge. And, all awardees have presented their works at various professional forums and are beginning to publish their findings from their SAGA supported research projects.

More specifically, the deliverables/outputs from these collaborative research efforts included:

- Dissemination of research results through exit seminars at the host institutions, and papers/reports and publications.

- Continued collaboration/communication between the U.S.-based principal researcher and both senior and junior researchers at the host institution.

- Creating databases for the host institution.

- Completion of Ph.D. degrees and subsequent publications.

**Distributions/Follow-ups:** Research abstracts, policy briefs, presentations and publications from these projects have been disseminated via our websites. All research outputs from each grants year and various brochures have been summarized in Annual Reports, and, distributed and discussed at Annual SAGA and SISERA meetings. A sample of abstracts from our final awardees, and publications and presentation from selected awardees are also included here (Attachments I & II).

In an effort to ensure a successful research experience for the awardees, we remained in contact with all the awardees while carrying out their field research as well as with those returned and were completing their trip and other final reports on their projects. This required us to not only be a backstop for all awardees who have either returned or in the field collaborating with the SISERA-host institutions but also to follow up on deliverables and distribution of project outputs. Also, in making sure that all the grant recipients and the host institutions located in different countries are familiar with each others research projects, we produced and distributed a brochure containing the details of each projects including faces of those participated during the field work (see, for example, the brochure attached).
Reflection - A Summary

We are happy to report that the Small Grants Program of SAGA has been successful in attracting a larger and more diverse pool of applicants. This was due to two factors: (1) the program has been publicized by previous recipients and SAGA members, and (2) our direct advertising through:

- Letter/Grant Announcement to Department Chairs and Graduate Coordinators to at least two universities in every state in the country. And, in some cases, to individuals that have been in contact with us in previous years;

- Various issues of the American Economic/Agricultural Economics Associations Newsletter;

- Distribution of flyers and presentations at various professional annual meetings such as the Allied Social Sciences Association, African Studies, etc.

As a result, we had attracted over 30 proposals for each of the three funding years. However, due to funding limitation we could only select and fund 25 projects (26 PIs).

It must be said that the Small Grants Program, and the SAGA program as a whole, was in its prime time with respect to level of interests of both the collaborating in-country research institutions (SISERA) and US academic institutions while it faced financial cuts. It is unfortunate that we were not able to meet the hopes and promises that were made during the 1st year of the SAGA project.

Finally, we believe that SAGA should be used as a model for designing future development projects. The components and the steps we, the SAGA Family, undertook to design and implement each (the collaborative research, the technical assistance and the training) here as well as in the study sites by making everyone involved that each had a stake and role to play will have a long lasting effects, we hope. It was truly participatory at all levels.
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<thead>
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<th>NAME</th>
<th>UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>PROPOSAL TITLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armah, Paul (F)</td>
<td>Arkansas State University</td>
<td>Ensuring Food Security in Ghana – The Role of Maize Storage Systems</td>
<td>ISSER</td>
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<td>Bawalya, Samuel (S)</td>
<td>University of Rhode Island</td>
<td>Forest Policy and Administration in Zambia: Economic Instruments for Welfare, Sustainability and Revenue Recovery</td>
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<td>Downs, Maxine (S)</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>Why Don’t Women Dye for Credit?: A Study of the impact of social networks on urban women cloth dyers of Bamako, Mali</td>
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<td>Eloundou, Parfait (F)</td>
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<td>Access to Schooling and Employment in Cameroon: New Inequalities and Opportunities</td>
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<td>Gandonou, Jean-Marc (S)</td>
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<td>Gugerty, Mary (F)</td>
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<td>The impact of Commitment Mechanisms on Savings for the Poor</td>
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<td>Kabahenda, Margaret (S)</td>
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<td>Evaluating the Nutritional Status of Ugandan Children</td>
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<td>Kaliba, Aloyce (F)</td>
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<td>Potential Impact of AGOA on Poverty Alleviation: The case of Tanzania</td>
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<td>Karlan, Dean (S)</td>
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<td>The Impact of Microlending on Micro-business and households</td>
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<td>Lucas, Linda (F)</td>
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<td>Mude, Andrew (S)</td>
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<td>Mulaa, John (S)</td>
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<td>Social Capital and Education: The Case of Busia, Western Kenya</td>
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<td>Nwokolo, Benedict (F)</td>
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<td>Nyankori, James (F)</td>
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<td>Determinants of Access to Primary Education in Uganda and Implications for Strategic Interventions</td>
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<td>Cornell University</td>
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<td>Mali</td>
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Note:
(S) – Student
(F) - Faculty
* - No deliverable received.
** - Was not able to take advantage of the grants offered to him.
Attachment I:

ABSTRACT – Final/Recent Awardees
ABSTRACT

Downside Risk, Variable Income Streams and a Lack of Access to Capital: Disentangling Barriers to Entry into Self-Employment in KMP South Africa

By
Paul L. Cichello

Working with researchers from the DPRU and CSSR units of the University of Cape Town, I plan to re-survey a set of individuals in the Khayelitsha area outside Cape Town, South Africa. Analysis of the 2000 Khayelitsha Mitchell’s Plain survey revealed that a lack of money/access to capital was the primary reason that individuals did not increase self-employment activities. However, the 2000 survey, and a follow-up survey in 2004, did not adequately disentangle whether the hindrance is capturing: a) a lack of access to capital at reasonable interest rates (for business stocks/equipment); b) ex-ante risk mitigation behavior due to variable income streams (where risk comes from variable outcomes over time); or c) ex-ante risk mitigation behavior due to the potential downside risk (where risk comes from variable outcomes across individual business enterprises). This summer, we hope to re-survey a subset of the 2000 sample to better disentangle these effects. The distinction between these three potential issues is important for policy makers and NGOs who seek to assist self-employment activities. With over forty percent of South African’s unemployed, removing such barriers to participation in the labor market or creating pathways around them is a pressing issue. In addition to the primary goal of disentangling these three effects, we also hope to also a) better identify complimentary hindrances preventing self-employment and b) better identify the full costs to an individual for choosing to engage in self-employment activities, with particular interest on changes in access to benefits within one’s kin network.

Affiliated Institutions:
Hosting Institution: DPRU/South Africa
University: Loyola College
Current Status: In the Field
ABSTRACT

Understanding the Dynamics of Child Labor in Zone Lacustre, Mali

by

Andrew Dillon

A unique data collecting opportunity exists to extend the only Malian household panel data set, originally collected in 1997-98. Critical lacunas in the economics of child labor exist that could be addressed by analyzing these data in this arid agricultural region of Mali. To ensure that this project is indeed feasible, a preliminary research trip was undertaken from January-March 2005 where 89% of the original households were identified, community surveys to aid sample design were taken and household composition and exiting household characteristics collected. The proposed project will investigate the dynamics of child labor including cohort comparisons of the household’s decision to send children to work versus school, long-term outcomes of child labor on child laborers and household welfare, the relation between child labor and poverty traps, as well as the interactions between child labor status and child health over time. In one of the poorest countries in the world, it is imperative that high quality panel data exist to confront persistent child labor through the resolution of theoretical problems and empirical questions.

Affiliated Institutions:
Hosting Institution: GREAT/Mali
University: Cornell University
Current Status: In the field
ABSTRACT

Asset Accumulation in Rural Burkina Faso: Risk Sharing Networks and Shocks

by
Harounan Kazianga

This research proposes to examine the extent to which income shocks and risk sharing networks influence asset holdings by rural households in Burkina Faso. While there is a consensus on the connection between growth and risk (e.g. Collier and Gunning, 1999), neither the theoretical nor the empirical literature provides much guidance for quantifying the effect of risk on growth, let alone the strategies that agents develop to respond to risk. In particular, access to informal insurance is hypothesized to have two opposite effects on household economic growth, and hence on the ability to move out of poverty. A fundamental result in the precautionary savings literature is that access to risk sharing decreases savings. In the context of developing countries, characterized by poor financial instruments, access to risk sharing may, however, encourage households to accumulate more productive assets than they would do in the absence of risk sharing. With the increasing interest in providing formal risk management and coping mechanisms to poor households (e.g. Dercon, 2005; Ravallion, 2003; World Bank, 2001), an empirical assessment of the impact of risk sharing on asset accumulation and hence long term income growth is can provide useful information to policymakers. This project uses household panel data that include directly solicited information on economic shocks and risk sharing networks membership to examine the effects of economic shocks and risk sharing networks on asset accumulation in Burkina. The main objective is to test whether access to more risk sharing encourages households to hold more productive assets.

Affiliated Institutions:
Hosting Institution: CEDRES/Burkina Faso
University: Columbia University
Current Status: Not yet in the field
ABSTRACT

Local Government Financing and Provision in an Institutionally Constrained Decentralized System: The Case of Agricultural Extension in Uganda

by
Abdu Muwonge

This study is to examine the financing and provision of agricultural extension services in Uganda. In June 2001 a new extension programme known as the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) started replacing the old extension system, which was inefficient, unsustainable, and offered low farmer ownership. The NAADS is based on decentralized, farmer-owned private-sector-driven advisory services. The NAADS envisages that farmer empowerment and participation coupled with improved farming and management practices will increase agricultural productivity and profitability. In spite of the innovative NAADS, the current extension faces challenges. The NAADS is inadequately funded, monitored, and purportedly run by inefficient private providers with low capacity.

The objective of this study is twofold: to track the actual flow of financial resources and the execution of contractual obligations under the NAADS and to assess the impact of access to advisory services on agricultural productivity. The data methods will include a policy review, secondary and primary data collection. Data is to be collected on private providers’ contracts, flow of financial resources, on the deliverables to the farmers, agriculture outcomes and factors influencing the outcomes. This study will contribute to the knowledge of the institutional implications on the financing and provision of extension services in a decentralized system. The principal (central government)-supervisor (local government)-agent (private provider) model will be used to study what incentives are needed to induce efficient provision of extension. The outputs of this study will include a completed thesis of publishable quality in a scholarly policy journal and capacity building in executing survey based research.

Affiliated Institutions:
Hosting Institution: EPRCfUganda
University: Georgia State
Current Status: In the Field
ABSTRACT

Improving the Performance of Integrated Conservation and Development Programs
Evidence from Botswana

by

Elizabeth Frances Pienaar

In an effort to mitigate the costs of wildlife conservation to rural communities, policymakers have implemented integrated conservation and development projects (ICDPs) in Africa. The purpose of these ICDPs is to attain the dual goals of increased conservation of wildlife and improved social and economic welfare in rural communities. ICDPs recognize that establishing local institutions, which empower rural households to act in their own interests, can be conducive to increased wildlife conservation. Accordingly, ICDPs promote growth and income diversification through the implementation of non-farm enterprises, which are complementary to wildlife conservation. However, despite high expectations, ICDPs have seldom been successful. Weaknesses of these programs include failed delivery of promised benefits, insufficient incentives for local communities to participate in wildlife conservation programs, lack of power devolution, and, in certain areas, continued and persistent biodiversity loss.

The implementation of ICDPs (or other programs whose purpose is to promote sustainable development) is likely to have an effect on the incentives that rural households face with respect to their consumption and production decisions. The principal purpose of my research is to investigate whether, and how, changes in shadow prices alter households’ incentives, production and consumption behavior and full incomes, which in turn will impact on wildlife conservation. Developing this knowledge is a necessary first step towards determining which ICDP arrangements generate benefit to rural communities, while ensuring conservation of wildlife stocks. Empirical analysis will be conducted using information and data that is collected in Botswana, a country that has placed particular emphasis on using wildlife-based revenues to compensate rural communities for the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat. The purpose of this analysis is to inform development and conservation policies in African countries.

Affiliated Institutions:
Hosting Institution: BIDPA/Botswana
University: University of California, Davis
Current Status: In the Field
Attachment II:

Publications/Papers: A sample of Deliverables
Publications/Papers: A Sample

**Samuel Bwalya:** “The role of Economics in Forest Management in Zambia”, presented at INESORJZambia.

“The role of forest dependency and heterogeneity in promoting collective action: Case study from Zambia”. Final Report.

**Policy Brief**
“Forrest Policy and Administration in Zambia”

**Maxine Downs:** “Is Microcredit with Education (CEE programs) a viable solution in eradicating poverty?, presented at GREAT, Mali.

**Policy Brief**
“Why Don’t Women dye for Credit? A study of the impact of Social Networks on Urban Women cloth dyers in Bamako, Mali”.

**Parfait Eloundou:** “Are African Families becoming overextended? A Historical Analysis of the effects of Family Extension on Schooling Inequalities in Cameroon”, presented at CEREG, Cameroon.

“The Externalities of Pregnancy-Avoidance Programs for Girls’ Education: Theory, Simulation, and Application to Cameroon”.

“Closing Gender Gaps in Education in Africa: The Potential Contribution of Pregnancy-Avoidance Programs”

“Economic Downturns and Schooling Inequality, Cameroon, 1987-95”.

“Integrating Education and Population Policy:


**Policy Brief**
“Access to Schooling and Employment in Cameroon: New Inequalities and Opportunities”

**Mary Gugerty:** “Finding Missing Markets and Addressing Farmer Constraints: The DrumNet Project”, presented by Narva Asfah (Graduate Student) at ESRF, Tanzania.
Received Ph.D.
Policy Brief
Investigating the Relationship between Household welfare and social Capital, in Eastern Uganda

Received Ph.D.


“Access to Primary Education in Rural Uganda”. Final Report.

Jacqueline Orgie: No information received

Received Ph.D.

Accepted for Presentation at the Food Distribution Research Society (FDRS) Annual Conference, October 15-19th 2005, in Washington, DC.  
Program Abstract (Pending) for the Food Distribution Research Society (FDRS) Annual Conference, October 15-19th 2005, in Washington, DC.  
Policy Brief  
Ensuring Food Security in Ghana: The role of Maize Storage Systems.  

Jean-Marc Gandanou:  
“An Economic Evaluation of the Profitability and Adaptability of Precision Agriculture for Cotton Production in Benin”, presented at CORCEDO, Benin.  
Policy Brief  
Precision Agriculture and Cotton Production in Benin: Policy Relevance Summary  

Margaret Kabahenda:  
Preliminary Progress Report  
“Evaluating the Nutritional Status of Young Children in Western Uganda, Kabarole District”.  

Aloyce Kaliba:  
“Welfare Effects of the U.S.’s African Growth and Opportunity Act on Tanzania”  
Policy Brief
“Economic Potential and Limitation of AGOA in Sub-Saharan Countries”

Linda Lucas:
Policy Brief
“The Work of Women in Uganda: Contributions to the Macroeconomy”

Andrew Mude:
Policy Brief
“Imperfections in membership based organizations for the poor: An explanation for the dismal performance of Kenya’s coffee cooperatives”.

John Mulaa:
Received Ph.D.
Policy Brief
“Social Capital and Education: The Case of Western Kenya”.

Emelly Matumbatsere:
Policy Brief
“Regional Integration of the Cereals Markets in Southern Africa”.

Benedict Nwokolo:

Leopold Sarr:
“Progression through School and Academic Performance in Senegal: Descriptive Survey Results, July 2004.”
Attachments III

SAGA Small Grants
Recipients Contact Information
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2002-2003
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