



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY & PROJECTS

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Enquiry into the role of development partnerships in agriculture and agribusiness in promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability in the Indo-Pacific region**

Public Hearing 11 March 2016

The University of Sydney panel session was shorter than anticipated and further comments were invited from participants.

Professor David Guest has provided the following additional comments for the consideration of the Committee:

1. Recognise the unique position of universities as resources with diverse skills and experience that contribute to the goals of Australia's aid program
2. Given the capacity of the University, our contribution would be maximized by ensuring Australia's aid program, and its administrative structures, have the flexibility to facilitate and support interdisciplinary approaches. One mechanism might be to allocate a proportion of funding from each program "pillar" to interdisciplinary approaches that address complex development challenges.
3. Develop enterprises (exploiting new technologies such as mobile phones and internet) that provide rewarding careers for young people in rural communities.
4. Partnerships with the private sector are most productive when the material and non-material goals of private and public sector partners align. These alignments are not automatic and cannot be mandated