



CIRE

The Center for
International Research,
Education, and Development

BUILDING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

We live in a world of accelerating change, complex problems, and global threats. Addressing these problems and mitigating their impacts requires collaboration across disciplines and areas of expertise, countries and governments, cultures, societies, and communities.

For decades, Virginia Tech has created, conveyed, and applied knowledge to address global problems and challenges. CIRE, which is part of Outreach and International Affairs, is a university-wide center that links Virginia Tech to the world. It seeks funding and global partnerships to support the university's research, teaching, and development efforts.

Integral to this is an emphasis on improving standards of living and livelihoods of people in developing countries. Virginia Tech does this through research and technological innovation; engagement with outside partners and local stakeholders; and training students to be the next generation of problem solvers. We believe that through our research, partnerships, and capacity building, we contribute to solving problems that affect all of us.



www.cired.vt.edu | 526 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg VA 24061 | 1-540-231-6338



Planting Onions, 2005 (oil on canvas), Willis, Tilly / Private Collection / Bridgeman Images

APPLYING KNOWLEDGE TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

CIREC applies Virginia Tech's knowledge to global challenges through projects and activities that engage faculty, students, staff, and host-country partners. One of these is the USAID-funded Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which works with people, communities, and institutions to develop solutions to the agricultural problems they face. The work is more than just about crop damage caused by pests and disease; it also addresses issues such as gender, nutrition, training and equitable use of resources. CIREC has managed the IPM Innovation Lab since 1993.

Our work with universities in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America strengthens their ability to educate the next generation of scientists, teachers, and leaders. An example is the USAID Education and Research in Education (ERA) project in Senegal, which uses the land-grant model to help the country revitalize its agriculture and improve food security through collaborative research, extension, and education activities.

In countries where we have a history of engagement, we strive to stay there. In addition to the seven-year ERA project (2011-2018), Virginia Tech recently was awarded a 5-year spin-off project, Youth in Agriculture (YIA). We plan to be working with our Senegalese colleagues not only for the next five years, but also for many decades to come.

Projects are truly successful when they are inclusive, equitable, and based on the priorities of local groups. This approach guides CIREC's Women and Gender in Development (WGD) program, which promotes gender sensitivity in every project. The program conducts interdisciplinary research on gender issues that ensures that women benefit.

In all of our efforts, we are committed to working with local stakeholders and partners - researchers, scientists, teachers, business people, NGO workers, policymakers, development practitioners, farmers and other rural people - to help them have the tools and knowledge they need to improve their lives, and the lives of those they work with and serve. We extend our collaborative approach to all in the spirit of Virginia Tech's motto -*Ut prosim* (that I may serve).

