We live in a world of accelerated change, complex problems, and global threats. Addressing these challenges and mitigating their impacts requires a collaborative, innovative, and multi-disciplinary approach.

For decades, Virginia Tech has created, conveyed, and applied knowledge to address global problems and challenges. The Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED) – part of Outreach and International Affairs – is a university-wide center that links Virginia Tech to the world through projects that engage faculty members, students, and staff. It seeks funding and global partnerships to support the university’s research, teaching, and development efforts.

Key to CIRED’s mission 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. Through our research, partnerships, and capacity building, we contribute to solving problems that affect all of us.
APPLYING KNOWLEDGE TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED) applies Virginia Tech’s knowledge to global challenges through projects and activities that engage faculty, students, staff, and host-country partners. In all of our efforts, we empower local stakeholders and partners with the tools and knowledge they need to improve their lives, and the lives of those they work with and serve. We extend our collaboration approach to all in the spirit of Virginia Tech’s motto - *Ut prosim* (that I may serve).

Feed the Future Senegal Youth in Agriculture (YIA)
The USAID Feed the Future Senegal Youth in Agriculture project is scaling up the 4-H Senegal Positive Youth Development program nationally and improving vocational training and business development services through innovative approaches that strengthen training institutions’ connections with private sector actors and markets.

Catalyzing Afghan Agricultural Innovation (CAAI)
The Catalyzing Afghan Agricultural Innovation project builds capacity in the agricultural education and training (AET) system by establishing collaborative relationships between educators, researchers, producers, and the private sector. These relationships will improve the value of agricultural education, while creating opportunities for value chain actors to perceive benefits of improved skillsets among graduating students.

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Since 1993, CIRED has managed the USAID-funded Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It protects plants from pests, ultimately helping to feed the world’s growing population. Through research and extension activities with farmers, partner universities, and host-country research institutes, the Innovation Lab promotes ecologically sustainable pest and disease control strategies. It addresses gender issues, nutrition, training, and equitable resource use.

Women and Gender in International Development (WGD)
The Women and Gender in International Development (WGD) program advances gender equality in development by promoting gender sensitivity in every CIRED project, conducting interdisciplinary research on gender issues and ensuring that women benefit from Virginia Tech projects. An international development project is truly successful when it is inclusive, equitable, and based on the priorities of local groups.

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