Senegalese Agricultural Leadership Tour

Distance & Distributed Education

Learning Sciences & Technology
Distance & Distributed Teaching & Learning

• Capacity Building
  – Malawi 2000
  – UPIC partners (USAID funded)
    • Va Tech & Mzuzu University
    • Five year project
    • Train cadre of 6 Masters students in different specializations of Distance
Capacity Building

– Goals

• Build a graduate certificate program, to be delivered on-line, to train teachers in Malawi on the use of technology in education.

• Field test the materials on a group of 100 or so teachers

• Establish the cadre as a country wide resource for distance and distributed learning
Capacity Building

• We failed (part 1)
  – The connectivity promised by the Leland Foundation did not happen.
  – Power was unreliable
  – Commercial internet via modem was slow and expensive.

• Solution (part 1)
  – Went to paper and pencil system
  – Used couriers to deliver and pick up at centers.
  – Trained two groups – total 27
Capacity Building

• We failed (part 2)
  – The cadre was never formed at Mzuzu. Leadership never did understand.
  – Built a distance Education unit headed up by a former vice chancellor from University of Malawi

• Solution (part 2)
  – None. One former student now directs distance learning at South Western Oklahoma University. One is in distance learning in at Chancellor College. One is department chair of information technology at Mzuzu.
  – Certificate program for teachers never formalized
Capacity Building

• What we learned:
  – Important that leadership understand and support goals and capacity being developed
  – Train more than you need
    » “if you need 10 train 40-50”
    » Loses still build capacity in country
  – Don’t build around a to-be-developed resource – if requires internet then make sure internet in place
Instructional Technology Masters Program (ITMA)

- Distance learning Masters program formed in 2000.
  - Targeted at teachers
- Enterprise Fund program. Gross Direct and Indirect distributed over 13 years over $3.7 M
- Over 250 graduates
  - Dropout rate low
  - Some attrition from teaching ranks
ITMA Characteristics

• 100% on line – any time, any place
  – Many students have moved or had long delays
    • One cancer student took almost 8 years to finish
    • One government person took courses from 4 or 5 different countries

• Project – based learning. Very few examinations or papers. Allows students to customize to their work environment (authentic learning)