






# Annual Report 2015/16

At the Global Knowledge Initiative, our mission is to build purpose-driven networks to deliver innovative solutions to the world's most pressing problems. We thrive on creating the enabling environment, the mindset, and the tools that facilitate Collaborative Innovation, which is the act of combining efforts and sharing complementary resources to create, test, and implement innovative ideas. In 2015 and 2016 GKI reached more people and tackled more global challenges than ever before. We continue to be inspired by our team of partners and supporters around the world. Take a look at what we've done together!

## CHALLENGES WE'VE WORKED ON

We're passionate about working on complex problems that affect the lives of millions of people around the world. In the last 2 years, GKI has played a role in tackling a variety of these challenges previously considered too difficult to solve. We've helped innovators connect global networks and locate critical resources to solve challenges in agriculture, economic inequality, and education. Learn more about some of our work on the challenges that affect people in poor and vulnerable communities worldwide:

### AGRICULTURE

-  **Post Harvest Food Loss**
-  **Banana Wilt Disease**
-  **Potato Taste Defect in Speciality Coffee**

### ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH

-  **Global Healthcare Supply Chains**
-  **Bovine Tuberculosis**
-  **Emergency Medical Care in Least Developing Countries**

### EDUCATION

-  **Limited Information and Communication Technologies in Education**
-  **Innovation Skills Gaps for Researchers**

### ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

-  **Economic Exclusion in Cities**



### Challenge Spotlight: Potato Taste Defect in Speciality Coffee

After emerging from the atrocities of genocide in the early 2000s, the rise of Rwanda's specialty coffee industry offered hope for economic renewal. Against this promising backdrop, however, coffee roasters began encountering a mysterious potato odor –called the “potato taste defect” – emanating from Rwandan coffee beans. As concern about the defect grew, a team from the University of Rwanda – led by entomologist Dr. Daniel Rukazambuga – decided to act. The University of Rwanda team enlisted GKI to help build a problem-solving network whose membership mirrored the full range of issues represented by the potato taste challenge. The network was built from the University's strengths, with GKI taking care not to duplicate resources already in play. The goal was to add value with each new partner identified. Thus began a shared journey of network development that now spans research, policy, industry, and civil society actors on four continents.

#### Impact/Results Include:

- Trained 10,000+ coffee farmers on pest management through partnership with companies like Starbucks Coffee and Rogers Family Company
- Grew a dynamic problem solving network to include over 30 organizations, spanning four continents, that has changed policy and behavior and improved farmers' livelihoods
- Earned GKI the distinction of “Top 100 Innovations for the Next 100 Years” for GKI's model for problem-solving network formation from The Rockefeller Foundation





## Challenge Spotlight: Social Innovation Lab on Education Reform in South Africa



Vast disparities in access to quality education and other evidence of poor school performance elevated the need for South Africa's education sector to undergo major reform. National leaders looked to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as part of the solution and with major education reform looming, they enlisted the World Bank and GKI to build a "Challenge Scoping Lab." The effort was designed to collectively prioritize education challenges based on the perspective of key communities: those who use the education system (e.g., students, parents) and those who implement education programs (e.g., teachers, administrators, technology developers, etc.). GKI designers constructed the Social Innovation Lab experience to maximize participants' time spent with users to understand their perspectives. Lab participants then generated ideas for action that built off those user insights. The Lab process effectively helped diverse stakeholders with competing incentives to prioritize from among 46 challenge ideas that fueled a subsequent phase of strategic planning.

### Impact/Results Include:

- Complete Lab process credited with providing South Africa with clear strategic priorities that elicited buy-in from the Office of the President and guided government investment
- Engaged 40 education stakeholders in a multi-week "Challenge Scoping Lab" process that included human-centered design approaches, ideation, prototyping, and prioritization
- Developed 46 starting challenges that synthesized the perspectives of previously disconnected stakeholders

## OUR FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

We are proud to support a variety of inspiring individuals, teams, and organizations in their goal to achieve sustainable, meaningful impact. This shortlist of initiatives provides a quick glimpse into how GKI is supporting Collaborative Innovation – the process of combining efforts and sharing complementary resources to create, test, and implement innovative ideas – around the world.



### Yieldwise Initiative, Agriculture

Scanned for innovations across the world poised to address challenges pertinent to reducing post harvest food loss.

**Impact:** GKI identified and evaluated alternative innovations needed to tackle specific challenges faced by value-chain actors. Further, GKI designed and delivered 7 rounds of training on the skillsets, toolsets, and mindsets needed for innovation.



### Systems Thinking, Global Health

Evaluated healthcare supply chains that distribute medicines needed for HIV/AIDS, malaria, and family planning worldwide.

**Impact:** GKI identified areas of misaligned incentives and the factors enabling or hindering the effective delivery of healthcare commodities. GKI made recommendations for improved efficiency and effectiveness for the design of a follow-on project.



### Thought for Food, Youth Innovation

Helped young innovators construct alternative scenarios for a food secure future.

**Impact:** GKI facilitated and trained 300 entrepreneurs and Thought for Food Ambassadors, eliciting 3,000 ideas and synthesizing them into 9 emergent areas of action needed for feeding 9 billion people by 2050.



### Academy for Global Engagement, Higher Education

Trained U.S. scientists to deliver effective research pitches and build global problem-solving networks.

**Impact:** GKI was lauded for helping the 2015 fellows raise more than \$7 million in grant funding. Fellows credited GKI with successfully helping them to "think systematically and holistically" about their projects and the networks needed for successful application of their research globally.

## GRATITUDE

With each year, we find more reasons to be thankful for you, our supporters. From your ideas to your partnership, your spirit of creativity to your contributions, you've supported GKI in so many powerful ways. We couldn't do any of this without you. We look forward to many more years together, innovating a better future through Collaborative Innovation!

