

Candidate for Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences: Dr. Kitty Cardwell



Dr. Cardwell serves the Oklahoma State University as Director, of the National Institute of Microbial Forensics in Food and Agricultural Biosecurity & Professor, Special Topics in Microbial Forensic Sciences.

She moved to Oklahoma from Washington DC where in 2012-2013 she did a professional detail as a Senior Advisor from the United States Department of Agriculture to the World Bank. From 2001-2016, Dr. Cardwell was a National Program Leader, with the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture in Washington, DC. Before going to Washington, she was a research scientist at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in Ibadan, Nigeria, from 1989 to 2001. From 1980 -1989, Kitty Cardwell was in private agricultural Business, (Rice Farming) in Villavicencio, Colombia. From 1976-197, she was a Peace Corps Volunteer, Plant Pathology, Instituto Colombiano Agropuecuario, La Libertad, Colombia; Instituto Bienestar Campesino, Matagalpa, Nicaragua

Selected Achievements

- ***Stood up a small business enterprise, MiFi™***, with the team from the National Institute of Microbial Forensics in Food and Agriculture Biosecurity. The products are cutting edge diagnostic technologies for crop and animal disease, and for environmental sampling for Food Safety.
- ***Provided National Program Leadership*** within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), creating grants opportunities, reviewing Land Grant University (LGU) Colleges of Agriculture annual work plans and reports, and conducting Departmental reviews at LGUs around the country.
- ***Obtained a new Congressional appropriation: Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative, which resulted in the Creation of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.*** The NPDN was recognized with the USDA 2010 Partnership Award, and both networks received the USDA 2016 Abraham Lincoln Honor Award. Under Dr. Cardwell's leadership, the NPDN became a functional network of public and private agricultural institutional plant diagnostic

clinics, coordinated into a cohesive, distributed system of seventy-two laboratories in all U.S. states, 3 countries and 3 territories.

- ***Provided leadership in international organizations*** by successful fund raising and coordinating a team of research scientists and economists on three continents and a large research team on the ground in Africa to determine the safety conditions of post-harvest maize in traditional storage structures. A publication by Dr. Cardwell's team on the health effect of aflatoxin on African children won the 2003 CGIAR best publication award and has been acknowledged by the World Health Org.
- ***Haiti Post Disaster Recovery Effort, 2010-2013:*** Dr. Cardwell was instrumental in coordinating within the USDA, and with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the State Department, and the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture to help rebuild the Haitian agricultural public service system after the devastating January, 2010 earthquake. Donor (World Bank, OXFAM Canada, and USAID) investments against the Country Investment Plan for agricultural development programs that Dr. Cardwell facilitated are being implemented.

Professional Preparation

University of Texas, Austin, TX – Botany - BA (Honors), 1976

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX - Plant Pathology & Microbiology - Ph.D. 1989

American University, Washington, DC - Executive Leadership Program - 2013 -2014

Oklahoma State University - Academic Leadership Academy - 2017- 2018