

FACT SHEET: THE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM (CRSP)

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Feed the Future is the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. With a focus on smallholder farmers, particularly women, Feed the Future works hand-in-hand with countries to develop technologies that will sustainably increase crop yields and livestock production, improve nutrition, and combat plant and animal diseases. U.S. universities and their international collaborators are key partners in Feed the Future research programs. One of Feed the Future's flagship research programs is the Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP), led by the U.S. land-grant university community.

History

Launched by the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1975, CRSPs provide a way for developing countries to benefit from the strong capacities within U.S. land grant universities to carry out international food and agricultural research, providing mutually beneficial research to the U.S. and its partner countries. CRSPs help countries develop their national agricultural research systems so that they can solve agricultural production and utilization problems over the long term.

Feed the Future CRSPs

Under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government supports 10 CRSPs responsible for conducting research in the following areas. Each CRSP is managed by a single U.S. university and draws upon the skills of researchers working across many universities.

Aquaculture & Fisheries – The AquaFish CRSP, located at Oregon State University, enriches livelihoods by cultivating international multidisciplinary partnerships that advance science, research, education, and outreach in aquatic resources. The AquaFish CRSP creates and nurtures strong global partnerships to improve resource management, health, food security, income generation, and market access.



Photo: USAID

Assets & Market Access – The BASIS AMA CRSP at the University of Wisconsin works to improve the agricultural competitiveness and economic capacity of the rural poor through research on markets for land, labor, and financial capital and access to assets, as well as input and output markets. In addition to funding research, AMA sponsors conferences that integrate the findings of its research into recommendations on policy priorities and programming interventions.

Dry Grain Pulses – The Dry Grain Pulses CRSP, which is based at Michigan State University, works to increase bean/cowpea productivity, reduce risks for smallholder farms, enhance access to and consumption of pulses for improved nutrition, and improve the performance of pulse markets. U.S. universities participate in collaborative projects in Feed the Future focus countries in Africa and Latin America.

Global Nutrition – Tufts University's Nutrition CRSP implements research and develops capacity to discover what, where, and how interventions can best improve the nutritional status of women and children on a large scale in Africa and Asia. The CRSP focuses on the translation of policies into practice, particularly regarding the cost-effectiveness and scalability of interventions whose efficiency may have been proven but whose scaling-up has been difficult.

“Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world.”

- Dr. Norman Borlaug

Horticulture – The Horticulture CRSP at the University of California, Davis is dedicated to using innovative technologies and disseminating information to open markets for fruits and vegetables, protect produce from post-harvest loss, and improve sustainable production. Harnessing the power of high-value horticulture, projects provide opportunities for income diversification, and advance economic and social conditions of the rural poor, particularly women.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – The IPM CRSP, based at Virginia Tech, works to raise the standard of living for smallholder farmers by developing approaches to agriculture that minimize crop losses and decrease pesticide use. Partnering with scientists at host institutions, this CRSP improves long-term IPM research capabilities as well as fosters the abilities of women in IPM decision-making.

Livestock-Climate Change (LCC) – Colorado State University's Livestock-Climate Change CRSP catalyzes and coordinates innovative systems-based research to reduce vulnerability and increase the climate-adaptive capacity of livestock keepers in dryland regions of East Africa, West Africa, and Asia. The LCC CRSP works to build sustainable research capacity, expand income opportunities and stability for livestock keepers, and advance management practices to adapt to climate change.

Peanuts – The Peanut CRSP, managed in partnership with the University of Georgia, supports joint research, technology development, and capacity building around the world using a peanut development platform. Production projects utilize genetic and management options to increase productivity and sustainability of peanuts. Processor-oriented projects increase the value of peanuts and their access to markets, and consumer-targeted research focuses on increasing the benefits associated with consuming peanuts to increase demand.



Photo: James Nienhuis

Sorghum, Millet, and Other Grains – The Sorghum, Millet, and Other Grains (INTSORMIL) CRSP, located at the University of Nebraska, works to improve food security and enhance farm income and economic activity in 17 sorghum- and pearl millet- producing countries in Africa and Central America. It facilitates market development and improves nutritional quality of sorghum, millet, and other grains and improves the stability and yield of these grains through innovative crop, soil, and water management practices and use of genetic technologies.

Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management – Virginia Tech's SANREM CRSP supports sustainable agriculture and natural resource management through a program of research, education, and outreach in areas of technical expertise including technology integration (including GIS); governance, economic policy, and enterprise development; biodiversity conservation and environmental services; and social and institutional capacity development.