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Feed the Future is the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. For more information, or **to subscribe to this publication**, please visit www.feedthefuture.gov.

HOT TOPICS: WORLD LEADERS ADVANCE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AGENDA AROUND G-8 SUMMIT

President Obama Announces New Alliance for Food Security & Nutrition to Fight Global Hunger

On May 18, on the eve of the [2012 G-8 Summit](#), President Barack Obama joined G-8 and African leaders, businesses, international organizations, and civil society members at the [Chicago Council on Global Affairs' \(CCGA's\) Annual Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security](#). The Symposium, convened in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, featured announcements of significant new business commitments for African agriculture and discussions on addressing hunger and poverty in the changing development landscape.



President Barack Obama delivers remarks at the Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security. Credit: Pete Souza/White House

[In his keynote remarks](#), President Obama announced that G-8 and African leaders will commit to the [New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition](#), which aims to achieve sustained and inclusive agricultural growth and raise 50 million people out of poverty over the next 10 years. The President described the three components of the New Alliance: African leaders commit to enacting pro-market reforms; G-8 countries [commit to maintaining their L'Aquila pledges](#) and aligning support for African countries; and 45 private sector companies commit to delivering more than \$3 billion in investments that will help smallholder farmers (most of them women farmers in Africa) to improve their agricultural production and increase their incomes. "Fifty years ago, Africa was an exporter of food," the President said. "There is no reason why Africa should not be feeding itself and exporting food again." [Read more.](#)

[Visit *FeedtheFuture.gov*](#) for more information and resources on food security as a major focus of the 2012 G-8 Summit and follow Feed the Future on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to join the conversation on the future of global food security.

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GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS

The Netherlands Contributes €100 Million to the GAFSP Private Sector Window

On April 21, the Netherlands signed an agreement with the World Bank Group's [International Finance Corporation](#) (IFC) to contribute €100 million to the Private Sector Window of the [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#). The [Private Sector Window](#), managed by the IFC, provides long and short term loans, credit guarantees, and equity to support private sector activities to improve agricultural development and food security in low-income countries. The Netherlands' contribution, along with the commitments made by Canada and the U.S., will enable the Private Sector Window to reach a funding level of approximately \$200 million. [Read more.](#)

USDA Celebrates 150th Anniversary



Secretary Vilsack, Mika Brzezinski, and Former Congressman Joe Scarborough discuss the history and importance of agriculture at USDA's 150th Anniversary celebration. Credit: Bob Nichols/USDA

On May 15, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack joined a variety of special guests at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to commemorate the agency's 150th anniversary and its extensive work on behalf of rural America as well as global agriculture. The anniversary event was hosted by former Congressman Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski of MSNBC's "Morning Joe," and featured Rolling Stones keyboardist Chuck Leavell and NFL stars Art Monk and LaVar Arrington. Secretary Vilsack [reiterated USDA's commitment](#) to "continue to help provide a safe, ample food supply for our nation and the world." President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation establishing USDA on May 15, 1862. [Read more.](#)

[Learn more](#) about the 150th Anniversary event and [follow USDA on Twitter](#).

1,000 Days to Change the Future Event Highlights Importance of Nutrition

On May 21st, on the margins of the NATO Summit in Chicago, [1,000 Days](#) hosted a nutrition summit entitled, "[1,000 Days to Change the Future: Making Malnutrition History](#)." The event, including remarks by Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy at NATO, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, brought representatives of civil society, the private sector, international organizations, and the U.S. Government together to discuss approaches to nutrition and food security problems faced domestically and internationally. Speakers made the case that ending mal- and under-nutrition in the United States and in developing countries will require individual education, government support for agricultural development, and private sector investment. [Read more.](#)

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FIELD STORIES

By Empowering Women, Groundbreaking Nutrition Program in Bangladesh Significantly Reduces Child Stunting

Improving food security for the most vulnerable women, children, and families requires a multifaceted approach to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. An innovative program in Bangladesh is demonstrating that integrating women's empowerment programs with more traditional health and nutrition interventions can make a big difference in saving and improving lives in impoverished communities, [helping more children live to celebrate their 5th Birthdays](#).



The SHOURARDO program in Bangladesh drastically reduced child stunting, in large part by integrating women's empowerment with traditional health and nutrition interventions. Credit: CARE

SHOUHARDO (the Bangla word for "friendship"), is a program jointly run by [CARE](#), the Government of Bangladesh, and [USAID's Food for Peace](#). The first phase of the program, implemented from 2004-2010, represented the largest non-emergency USAID food security program in the world, combining elements of economic capacity building, food production, maternal and child health and nutrition, and women's empowerment.

The results of the program have been impressive: child stunting due to undernutrition plummeted 28 percent in less than four years, nearly double the average for U.S. Government food security projects of this kind, and despite natural disasters and spikes in food prices occurring during the same time frame. [Read more](#).

[Watch a video](#) on SHOUHARDO's success or [visit CARE.org](#) to learn about the next phase of this program.

Want to learn more about the role of women's empowerment in building health and nutrition? Visit [FeedtheFuture.gov](#) for more information on the [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index](#) or to [watch a video](#) on the critical window of opportunity for good nutrition between pregnancy and 2 years old.

Have You Checked Out the Feed the Future Photo Contest?

Feed the Future's partners and implementers in the field submitted a stunning variety of photos showing the U.S. Government's work on food security all over the world. Congratulations to implementing partner and first place winner [PhytoTrade Africa](#), who submitted this photo of a woman harvesting baobab fruit in southern Africa!

[Visit Feed the Future's site on Flickr](#) to see many more photos and comment on your favorites.



USADF Supports Local Tanzanian Cereal Association

On May 10, the [U.S. African Development Foundation](#) (USADF) provided a \$100,000 grant to the Kongwa Cereal Growers Association in Tanzania to help the group implement its high-quality grains production project. The Association, with more than 100 members, will use the grant to expand its sustainable food grains business. Feed the Future trains members of the Association to improve their agronomic and post-harvest handling skills, so that they are able to supply more and higher-quality maize to the World Food Program. [Read more.](#)

Follow USADF on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Conservation Farming Defies Drought in Senegal



Farmers in Kaolack employ the ripper, a simple tool that permits farmers to concentrate distribution of fertilizer in conservation farming. Credit: USAID/Senegal

Agricultural producers in Senegal are finding that small improvements in their farming techniques can yield big benefits when it comes to protecting their livelihoods against risk during growing season. Conservation farming, which has been promoted in Senegal by USAID since 2009, is based on the premise of

“doing more with less”: farmers till and plant only a portion of their land each

season, growing crops in small, evenly-spaced basins rather than plowing entire fields. Not only does most of the land remain undisturbed, but this technique reduces soil erosion and run-off during rainfall, helping the land to retain both water and nutrients.

Despite serious drought conditions during last year’s agricultural season, Senegalese cultivators who used conservation farming techniques increased their yields, helping to ensure the food security of their communities while also earning higher profits. “Through conservation farming, village farmers have seen yields superior to those obtained using traditional methods,” says Falilou Faye, Regional Director of Rural Development in the community of Kaolack, where the technique is being applied. “Despite the low rainfall, yields have actually risen dramatically in places.” [Read more.](#)

Feed the Future Launched in Tajikistan

On May 8, U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan Ken Gross and Erin Elizabeth McKee, Regional Mission Director for USAID/Central Asian Republics, were joined by Tajikistan Deputy Prime Minister Murodali Alimardon for the official public launch of the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative in Tajikistan. Nearly 100 people participated in the event, including cabinet-level Tajik ministers, other government officials, donors, private sector representatives, and staff from local and international NGOs. [Read more.](#)



Tajikistan Deputy Prime Minister Murodali Alimardon with Erin Elizabeth McKee, Regional Mission Director for USAID/Central Asian Republics at the launch event for Feed the Future in Tajikistan. Credit: USAID/Tajikistan

[Download the new Feed the Future Tajikistan Fact Sheet](#) on [FeedtheFuture.gov](#).

Feed the Future Helps Improve Rice Production in Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania

Currently, production costs for rice in Tanzania are high, but profit margins are low. Large-scale agricultural investments are important for driving technology adoption and improving markets, but these investments are few and scattered. Feed the Future has begun working closely with the Tanzanian Rice Partnership, established under the auspices of the [Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania](#) (SAGCOT), to link smallholder farmers with major rice vendors and markets. SAGCOT is an agricultural public-private partnership designed to improve agricultural productivity, food security, and livelihoods in Tanzania. Over the past year, Feed the Future and the Tanzanian Rice Partnership have been strengthening Tanzania's rice value chain, from farm to market, through interventions that help farmers organize themselves into associations, introduce new production and post-harvest technologies, facilitate farmer access to credit, and establish market linkages. [Read more.](#)



Outgrowers in the Kilombero rice cluster test an adapted version of a rice intensification system. Credit: Gervas Manjori

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

Nutrition Research Aims to Make Food Security Investments More Effective

It is no small task to simultaneously deliver improvements in agricultural productivity and profitability for smallholder producers while also improving child nutrition in rural households, though this is a central goal of Feed the Future programming. To figure out how to do just that, Feed the Future partners with U.S. Land Grant Universities to carry out international food and agriculture research. Under Feed the Future, American universities work with counterparts in developing countries, international agricultural research institutions, U.S. agribusiness, U.S. federal agencies such as USDA, and many others to deliver health, nutrition, and agricultural assistance in ways that lead to cost-effective and sustainable improvements in the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and their families. [Read more.](#)

HEARD ON THE HILL

Ahead of G-8 Summit, Scaling Up Nutrition Event Highlights Global Commitment to Food & Nutrition Security

On May 17, USAID Administrator Shah joined Members of Congress on Capitol Hill for a high-level breakfast briefing on nutrition, co-sponsored by 1,000 Days, the Alliance to End Hunger, Bread for the World, CARE, ChildFund, Concern Worldwide, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Helen Keller International, Save the Children, World Food Program USA, and World Vision. Held on the eve of the 2012 G-8 Summit, the event showcased U.S. and global efforts to tackle maternal and child nutrition; highlighted [Scaling Up Nutrition](#) (SUN) country progress; and built support to improve nutrition, particularly for women and children in the critical 1,000 day window from pregnancy to a child's second birthday. [Read more.](#)

[Learn more](#) about how Feed the Future is improving global nutrition or [download a fact sheet](#) on U.S. investments to address undernutrition.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Applications: Dissertation Fellowships to Strengthen Evidence Base on Gender and Agriculture

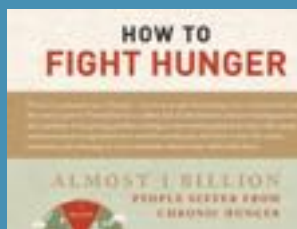
USAID and the [International Food Policy Research Institute](#) (IFPRI) have announced a [call for applications](#) for doctoral dissertation research fellowships on the [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index](#) (WEAI). The two organizations are co-sponsoring 3 dissertation-year fellowships to support research that complements and builds on the Index, which increases understanding of why women in developing countries face persistent obstacles and economic constraints to inclusion in the agriculture sector. The goals of the fellowships are to strengthen understanding and evidence of the WEAI; expand understanding of WEAI dynamics through complementary qualitative and ethnographic work; and support promising researchers interested in gender and agriculture. [Read more.](#)

Common Bean Productivity Research for Global Food Security Competitive Grants Program

The common bean, *Phaseolus vulgaris*, is widely produced throughout food insecure areas of the world, including many Feed the Future countries in East and Southern Africa. In collaboration with USAID, USDA's [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) is seeking research proposals to develop approaches and/or methods to address challenges to common bean production among smallholder producers. The total amount available for support of this program in FY2012 is approximately \$4.5 million. [Read more.](#)

[Access the full Request for Applications.](#)

Check out Feed the Future's new infographic on How to Fight Hunger!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 30 – June 1 (Lincoln, NE)
[Water for Food Conference](#)
- June 3 – 6 (Washington, DC)
[AIAIRD 48th Annual Conference:](#)
[“Priorities for Inclusive Agriculture and Rural Development”](#)
- June 6 – 8 (Washington, DC)
[Global Learning Exchange on Best Fit Approaches in Extension and Advisory Services](#)
- June 11 (Washington, DC)
[The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa’s 2012 US–Africa Forum](#)
- June 20 – 22 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
[United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development](#)

NEWS & MEDIA

News

[The New Alliance to improve food and nutrition security supported by the EU](#)
May 21, 2012 (EuroAlert.net)

[Obama Updates Development Profile: Ag and Private Sector Now Friends](#)
May 21, 2012, Sarah Jane Staats (Center for Global Development)

[G8 pledges to lift 50 million Africans out of poverty](#)
May 20, 2012 (AFP)

[Where G8 nations stand on key issues](#)
May 19, 2012 (Star Tribune)

[G8 Looking Forward: Embracing the Realities of Africa's Changing Food Systems](#)
May 18, 2012, Michele McNabb (Chicago Council)

[Why Does Hunger Still Exist in Africa](#)
May 18, 2012, Michel Martin (NPR)

[USAID Administrator: Food Security a 'Grand' but 'Achievable' Goal](#)
May 18, 2012 (PBS Newshour)

[Obama: New aid pledge for Africa](#)
May 18, 2012 (UPI)

[Obama announces new \\$3 billion food initiative](#)
May 18, 2012 (MSNBC)

Op-Eds

[The last mile: Reaching women farmers](#)
May 18, 2012, Roger Thurow (Huffington Post)

[The resource miracle](#)
May 18, 2012, Bono (TIME)

Blogs

[Camp David declaration](#)
May 18-19, 2012 (White House)

[Let's Put Hunger on All Our Plates](#)
May 18, 2012, Cat Cora (FeedtheFuture.gov)

[Big win for agriculture: President Obama outlines new plan for global food security](#)
May 18, 2012 (ONE Blog)

[Achieving global food security](#)
May 16, 2012, Gebisa Ejeta (USAID IMPACT)

[Making the promise of food security a reality](#)
May 17, 2012, Ertharin Cousin (World Food Program)

[Guidelines Support Best Practices for Increasing Food Production and Promoting Sustainable Development](#)
May 14, 2012, Gregory Myers (USAID IMPACT)

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is intended to enhance collaboration and information-sharing about implementation of Feed the Future. To subscribe or to find out more information about Feed the Future, please visit our website at: <http://feedthefuture.gov/newsletter>.