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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.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS

DuPont Launches New Global Food Security Index



The new Global Food Security Index defines a set of food security measures. Credit: EIU

On July 10, American biotechnology company DuPont launched a new [Global Food Security Index](#) that examines the core issues of food affordability, availability, access, and quality across a set of 105 countries worldwide. The index was unveiled at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, in conjunction with food security thought leaders and the [Economist Intelligence Unit](#) (EIU), which developed the index with sponsorship from DuPont. [Read more](#) on this story or [see more Global Food Security Highlights](#).

FIELD STORIES

Feed the Future Grants to Smallholder Dairy Farmers Raise Incomes in Malawi



Mercy Chitwanga says that she can support her children as a single mother for the first time thanks to a Feed the Future grant from USAID. Credit: USAID

The capacity building grant to Chitsanzo provides training in livestock management and strengthens market linkages for the cooperative's members, many of whom are women earning a living wage for the first time. Mercy is one of more than 1,000 female dairy farmers in Malawi who are increasing their earnings and accessing more nutritious food for their children with support from Feed the Future. For many of Chitsanzo's dairy farmers, incomes have risen 35 percent in the last quarter alone. [Read more](#).

Mercy Chitwanga, a dairy farmer in Malawi, has seen big improvements in her farm's milk production and her family's income since 2011. Mercy is Chairperson of the Chitsanzo Dairy Cooperative, a group of smallholder dairy farmers that was awarded a \$95,000 Feed the Future grant through the [United States African Development Foundation](#) (USADF). The dairy sector is a Feed the Future priority in Malawi because of its high potential for growth.

Did you know Feed the Future is also [transforming the dairy sector in Kenya](#)? [Read more stories from the field](#).

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GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the Land-Grant University System and the U.S. Department of Agriculture

This year at the annual [Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#), which took place June 27 – July 1 and July 4 – 8, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Land-Grant University System celebrated their partnership and 150-year anniversaries. One of the festival programs was: “[Campus and Community: Public and Land-Grant Universities and USDA at 150](#).” This Festival program brought the partnership to life for visitors through demonstrations, discussions, and hands-on activities.

The festival celebrated the 150th anniversary of the creation of the USDA and the land-grant university system via the [Morrill Act](#). The Morrill Act, enacted in 1862 by President [Abraham Lincoln](#), provided for grants of federal land to states willing to establish a public university with a focus on agriculture.

[Continue reading USDA Chief Scientist and Under Secretary Catherine Woteki's blog on FeedtheFuture.gov.](#)

Women and Natural Resources Highlighted at Rio+20 Conference

On June 21, on the margins of the [Rio +20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development](#) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the U.S. Department of State and USAID collaboratively hosted a side event on Women and Natural Resource Management, featuring a panel discussion hosted by USAID Deputy Administrator Donald Steinberg. Panelists Jeannette Gurung, Executive Director of [Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management](#), and Kerri-Ann Jones, [Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs](#), addressed the deterioration of natural resources, as well as opportunities for engaging women in decision-making and leadership in sustainable natural resource management. [Read more.](#)

FIELD STORIES (cont.)

Feed the Future Press Tour in Tanzania Marks Global Economic Statecraft Day

On June 14, in Morogoro, Tanzania, representatives from the U.S. Department of State and USAID marked the first annual [Global Economic Statecraft Day](#), which was launched by Secretary Clinton to highlight America's commitment to global economic prosperity and cooperation as a pillar of its foreign policy. U.S. diplomats in Morogoro gathered for a joint press tour of Feed the Future activities that demonstrate investments in Tanzanian agriculture.

The press corps heard from Veronica Urio, a Tanzanian smallholder farmer who received a grant for \$2,000 from Feed the Future and was trained to use new planting techniques to improve her rice yield. On a tour of her farm, Veronica spoke to the group about how assistance from Feed the Future has advanced her production and benefitted both her and her family. [Read more.](#)



Veronica Urio is interviewed about her rice farm. Credit: Megan Johnson/USAID

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Feed the Future in Haiti Achieves Success in Horticulture



Michel Dorlean is the President of a flower growers' association in Furcy, Haiti that is using efficient drip-irrigation greenhouses thanks to Feed the Future. Credit: USAID/FTF

Michel Dorlean, a Haitian horticulturalist, grew up learning the family business of planting and growing flowers on hillside plots in his mountainous hometown of Furcy. Despite all the intensive work that goes into cultivating flowers, Michel and many other local flower producers struggled each year to reach their full earning potential. The traditional hillside plots left their flowers vulnerable to excessive heat, humidity, and rain; Michel used to lose upwards of 8 percent of his

flower yields. The massive earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010 made matters worse, leading to a dramatic drop in prices that nearly forced farmers in Furcy to abandon flower production for more profitable crops.

Today, thanks to assistance from Feed the Future, Michel is the president of a flower growers' association in Furcy that generates US\$18,000 per year. The project, implemented through USAID, is teaching smallholder farmers like Michel and his association how to use greenhouse agriculture to produce a higher

quantity and quality of crops on smaller areas of land. [Read more.](#)



The new greenhouses have been constructed on terraces to prevent soil erosion. Credit: USAID/FTF

In Kenya, New Loan Products Help Dairy Farmers Scale Up

The dairy sector currently accounts for eight percent of Kenya's GDP. With 1.5 million smallholder farmers producing milk, dairy has the potential to greatly contribute to improving the food security and resilience of rural farming families in Kenya.

Unfortunately, smallholder farmers often face serious financial constraints to scaling up production. In Kenya, land ownership is poorly documented, so farmers can't use their land as collateral to secure loans. Banks are reluctant to lend money to rural farmers and small business owners who have limited assets and virtually no financial history. This lack of access to commercial finance prevents many farmers and entrepreneurs from growing their businesses.



A USAID-funded rural credit advisor meets with a loan recipient. Credit: USAID/Kenya

To help address these challenges, Feed the Future is working with financial institutions in Kenya to support rural microenterprise. Through technical assistance from USAID, institutions ranging from the largest banks to the smallest microfinance institutions are beginning to lend in the dairy sector. Under Feed the Future, USAID trains bank employees on best practices for "value chain lending," or providing financial services to farmers, suppliers, processors, and buyers all across a given sector to reduce the costs and risks of doing business. [Read more.](#)

Giving Livestock Feed a Boost in Ethiopia

Raising livestock is a major source of economic activity in Ethiopia. The country's livestock population is the largest in Africa and contributes to the livelihoods of 60-70 percent of Ethiopia's population. Ninety percent of crop production is dependent on animal draft power. Therefore, producing a high quantity and quality of feed for animals is a key factor in raising healthy and productive livestock and sustaining agriculture.

Through Feed the Future, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has supported a [Food for Progress](#) program to improve food security and the standard of living for Ethiopian families who depend on livestock for their livelihoods. The program, begun in 2009 and implemented by [ACDI/VOCA](#), has taken a multifaceted approach to improving animal feed throughout the country. [Read more.](#)

Did you know that livestock is also a [Feed the Future](#) priority in West Africa? Want to learn more about [two new varieties of forage released in Nicaragua](#) to increase meat and milk production? Read on for more!



Through Feed the Future, local Ethiopian partners have been trained in best practices for managing feedlots, where livestock are fed prior to being sold. Credit: USDA

Calling All Photographers!

Submit your Feed the Future photos to our photo contest by August 10. We'll share your submission(s) on our [Flickr site](#) and an interagency team will vote on their top favorites. Help us share the story of what Feed the Future is doing around the world!

[Click here for more details.](#)



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

Livestock Workshop Builds Regional Capacity to Guard against Major Animal Diseases

In June, USDA, USAID, and [U.S. Africa Command](#) (AFRICOM) hosted a joint workshop in Banjul, Gambia, for five West African nations on the role of livestock in [Feed the Future's activities in the region](#). Countries that joined the workshop included [Ghana](#), [Liberia](#), Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia. Participants included a variety of veterinary laboratory technicians and veterinary epidemiologists from these nations.



Participants from Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, AFRICOM, USDA, and USAID attended a Regional Workshop on Surveillance, Diagnosis, Prevention and Control of Major Transboundary Animal Diseases. Credit: Daniel Kasmierski/U.S. AFRICOM

The livestock workshop aimed to develop knowledge and skills that will strengthen the capacity of local professionals throughout the region to improve the surveillance, early detection, prevention, and control of major Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs). TADs are epidemic diseases that are highly contagious or transmissible and have the potential to spread rapidly across national borders. They cause high morbidity and mortality rates in susceptible animal populations and can therefore pose serious threats to the livelihoods of livestock farmers, buyers, and others along the livestock value chain. [Read more.](#)

Feed the Future Releases Two New Sorghum Varieties in Nicaragua

With support from a Feed the Future grant and in partnership with the [Instituto Nicaraguense de Tecnologia Agropecuaria](#) (INTA), the [Collaborative Research Support Program for Sorghum, Millet and Other Grains](#) has released two new varieties of sorghum in Nicaragua that will be used for forage (plant material eaten by grazing livestock).

These new varieties exhibit the “brown midrib” trait (bmr), which has been used for many years by sorghum producers in the United States. The bmr trait increases the digestibility of sorghum by reducing the amount of lignin, a chemical compound found in the cell walls of plants. The more digestible sorghum is for the livestock that consume it, the higher the quality of these animals’ meat and milk production. The new sorghum varieties therefore have the potential to improve the value of livestock for smallholder farmers and to increase the nutrition of their food products. [Read more.](#)



Dr. John McMurdy of USAID joins a representative from INTA at the formal release of two new sorghum varieties.

Borlaug Summer Institute on Food Security in Full Swing at Purdue University

The inaugural [Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security](#) is being held from July 8-21 on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. The two-week program combines lectures, practicum, small group work, and farm site visits for a select group of graduate students enrolled at U.S. universities. The goal of the Summer Institute is to provide participants with a holistic understanding of the conceptual challenges around global food security, with a focus on cross-disciplinary problem solving of real-world development challenges. [Read more.](#)

Highlights in Research

Feed the Future is embarking on a major new effort to increase the number of agricultural scientists and strengthen scientific institutions in developing countries!

Honoring the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug, the agricultural research training program will create new models for capacity development and link scientific and higher education communities in Feed the Future countries and the United States. The program will initially launch in Ghana, Uganda, Mali, Mozambique, and Bangladesh, and will be implemented by Michigan State University.

[Read the full announcement.](#)

MEASURING RESULTS

How Does Feed the Future Measure Gender Impacts?

Closing the “gender gap” in agriculture could reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 100-150 million, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Women make up 43 percent of the agricultural labor force in the developing world, and are likely to channel the income they control into the nutrition, health, and education of their children. However, the work they do on farms is often unpaid and under-valued. They are excluded from decision-making and lack equal access to land and resources like credit, markets, extension services, and inputs. In Africa, for example, women own just 1 percent of agricultural land, receive only 7 percent of extension services, and access less than 10 percent of agricultural credit offered to smallholder farmers.

This is why Feed the Future promotes [gender programming](#) as an important way to improve agricultural production, food security, child nutrition, health, and education. [Continue reading this blog post on USAID Agrilinks.](#)

HEARD ON THE HILL

CODEL to East Africa Includes Feed the Future Site Visits

USAID Assistant Administrator for the Africa Bureau Earl Gast recently accompanied a Congressional delegation to East Africa led by Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa. The CODEL also included Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA), Ranking Member on House Armed Services Committee; and Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa. Among the site visits on the trip were a farm in Kenya that is working to develop hybrid corn and drought-tolerant sorghum that can be distributed through local Feed the Future projects. [Read more.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 23 – 27 (Vienna, Austria)**
[International Symposium on Managing Soils for Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)
- **July 24 (Washington, DC)**
[Stakeholder Meeting on FFP's Second Food Aid and Food Security Assessment](#)
- **July 25 (Washington, DC)**
[Fishing for the Future: The Why and How of Nature's Most Abundant Protein Source](#)
- **July 30 – 31 (Fort Collins, CO)**
[Research Synergies for South Asia Research](#)

Submit your video for the Global Agribusiness Video Survey!

USAID's [Enabling Agricultural Trade](#) project is surveying women and men working in the agriculture sector to learn about the challenges they face trying to meet the needs of a hungrier planet. If you own or operate an agribusiness dealing with inputs, production, trade, processing, or input/export, the project wants to hear from you!

[Learn more.](#)

NEWS & MEDIA

News

[East Africa's Seasonal Rains Are Seen Improving By USAID](#)

July 19, 2012, Rudy Ruitenberg (Bloomberg)

[Shriveling US Crops Could Shrink Food Aid](#)

July 18, 2012, Steve Baragona (Voice of America)

[Malawi's Banda launches K6.8 billion 'Feed the Future' project](#)

July 12, 2012, Mana (Malawi Democrat)

[International Food Security Assessment 2012-22](#)

July 11, 2012 (USDA Economic Research Service)

Op-Eds

[Obama's Fantastic Boring Idea](#)

July 11, 2012, Nicholas D. Kristof (New York Times)

[How Solving Hunger Builds A More Secure World](#)

July 06, 2012, (World Food Programme)

Blogs

[Q&A: USAID Chief on India's Food Security Challenge](#)

July 12, 2012, Biman Mukherji (Wall Street Journal)

[Chronic Crisis in the Sahel Calls for a New Approach](#)

July 02, 2012, Nancy Lindborg (Huffington Post)

[Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Act](#)

June 26, 2012, Rajiv Shah (USAID IMPACT)

[Food Security Amidst Pressures on the Planet](#)

June 20, 2012, Amit Mistry (USAID Policy Post)

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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