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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](http://www.feedthefuture.gov).

## HOT TOPICS: WORLD FOOD PRIZE EVENTS HIGHLIGHT PROGRESS AND INNOVATION IN FOOD SECURITY

### USAID Administrator Shah Releases First Feed the Future Progress Report



Administrator Shah delivers remarks at the 2012 World Food Prize. Credit: The QED Group

Delivering [keynote remarks](#) on October 18 during the weeklong World Food Prize events in Des Moines, Iowa, U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Rajiv Shah released the first progress report and scorecard for Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. Feed the Future supports countries in developing their own agriculture sectors in order to generate opportunities for economic growth and trade, which can lead to increased incomes and reduce hunger and undernutrition.

The progress report highlights how Feed the Future is already making a difference in people's lives in the developing world, and the scorecard tracks how well the U.S. Government is changing its development and engagement process to more effectively meet its goals. So far, Feed the Future has helped 1.8 million food producers to adopt improved technologies or management practices that can lead to more resilient crops, higher yields, and increased incomes. The initiative has also reached nearly 9 million children through nutrition programs, which can prevent and treat undernutrition and improve child survival. [Read the full press release.](#)

Visit [FeedtheFuture.gov](http://FeedtheFuture.gov) to see the [Feed the Future Progress Report](#) and [Scorecard](#), or keep reading about the [2012 World Food Prize events](#).

## HEARD ON THE HILL

### Honoring the Legacy of Longtime Anti-Hunger Advocate, Former Senator George McGovern

Former U.S. Senator George McGovern, a lifelong champion of global hunger issues, died in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on Sunday, October 21. He was 90 years old. A tireless advocate for the hungry poor both in the United States and throughout the world, Sen. McGovern's leadership and passion for increasing global food security were truly extraordinary. Feed the Future honors his legacy and [joins leaders across the U.S. Government](#) in commemorating his nearly six decades of public service.

[Read more stories from The Hill.](#)



Credit: McGovern Center for Leadership and Public Service

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## GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS

### White House "Champions of Change" Strengthening Food Security in the U.S. and Around the World

Last month, the White House welcomed 11 [Champions of Change](#) who have committed to strengthening food security in the United States and around the



world. Spanning multiple sectors and a wide variety of ages, backgrounds and expertise, the honorees were recognized for their innovative contributions to ending hunger and their commitment to empowering communities to do the same. Among those honored was Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation, for his efforts to elevate the prestige of the World Food Prize and inspire efforts to alleviate hunger around the globe. Ambassador Quinn also hosts the annual [Iowa Hunger Summit](#). [Read more.](#)

[Read about the other food security champions](#) or learn more about the White House [Champions of Change program](#).

### Secretary Clinton, Christina Aguilera, and David Novak Honored at World Food Program-USA's Annual George McGovern Leadership Award Ceremony



Secretary Clinton delivers remarks at the World Food Program-USA Awards Ceremony, in the Franklin Room at the Department of State. Credit: Michael Gross/DOS

On October 3, the [World Food Program-USA Foundation](#) hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> annual George McGovern Leadership Award ceremony to recognize policy makers and other leaders who have played a critical role in the fight against global hunger. This year's event, held at the U.S. Department of State, honored musical artist Christina Aguilera and David Novak, CEO of Yum! Brands Inc. Aguilera has served as global spokesperson for Yum! Brands' World Hunger Relief effort since 2009 and is a United Nations Ambassador for the World Food Program. Novak directs the Yum! Brands Foundation and sits on the board of World Food Program-USA. [Read more.](#)

### U.S. Announces New Pledge to GAFSP and Challenges Others to Commit New Funds

On October 12, Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner pledged additional support for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), announcing that the United States is prepared to contribute \$1 to GAFSP for every \$2 committed by other donors, up to a total U.S. contribution of \$475 million. At an event co-hosted by Japan and the World Bank at the IMF and World Bank annual meetings, Secretary Geithner called on donors from around the world to join in strengthening the Fund with additional financial support. [Read more.](#)



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## Committee on World Food Security Convenes 39<sup>th</sup> Session

From October 15–20, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its 39<sup>th</sup> Session in Rome, Italy, bringing together experts in food security and nutrition from around the world to discuss high-level policy in these areas. The CFS is an intergovernmental body funded by all three Rome-based food agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Program, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. [Read more.](#)

## African Green Revolution Forum Makes the Case for Investment in African Agriculture



Melinda Gates (left) attended the African Green Revolution Forum, hosted by President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania (center) and former UN Secretary-General and AGRA Chairman Kofi Annan (right). *Credit: AGRF*

The 2012 African Green Revolution Forum was held in Arusha, Tanzania, from September 26-28, bringing together more than 1,000 African heads of state, ministers, farmers, private agribusiness firms, financial institutions, NGOs, civil society groups, and scientists to discuss the best way to scale up investments and innovation for sustainable agricultural growth and food security on the continent. [Read more.](#)

## U.S. and Brazil Partner with Honduras on Food Security

In September, the governments of the United States and Brazil formalized a partnership with the Government of Honduras to increase agricultural production, decrease undernutrition, and promote renewable energy in Honduras, one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. The partnership builds on the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative and leverages the Government of Brazil's expertise in hunger eradication, poverty reduction programs, research, renewable energy, and agricultural technologies. [Read more.](#)

## G-20 Agricultural Market Information System Supports Sound Policymaking and Market Transparency

When global food prices rise, sound and coordinated policy responses from governments make the difference between exacerbating price volatility and developing effective strategies in the face of market uncertainty. To help equip policymakers with better information on market conditions that could lead to price spikes, the G-20 developed the [Agricultural Market Information System](#) (AMIS), which aims to enhance agricultural market transparency and strengthen collaboration and dialogue among main producing, exporting and importing countries. AMIS, which first convened in September 2011, monitors prices and the supply and demand situation for four commodities (maize, wheat, rice and soybeans) in 23 countries that represent the most significant producers and exporters of those commodities. [Read more.](#)

[Read Feed the Future's fact sheet on global food prices.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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[U.S.-AFRICA AGRIBUSINESS INVESTMENT FORUM](#)

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## HOT TOPICS (cont.): WORLD FOOD PRIZE EVENTS HIGHLIGHT PROGRESS AND INNOVATION IN FOOD SECURITY

*Each year in Des Moines, Iowa, World Food Prize Laureates are honored and officially presented with their award at the Iowa State Capital. Hundreds of leaders and experts in policy, industry, and research from all over the world convene in Des Moines for a weeklong series of events focused on agriculture and food security. This year's World Food Prize Laureate is [Daniel Hillel, an Israeli water and soil scientist](#) who pioneered microirrigation in arid and dry lands regions.*

### Feed the Future Advancing Big Ideas in Agricultural Research and Innovation

On the margins of the World Food Prize, Feed the Future hosted a side event in Des Moines on October 18 highlighting key aspects of the [Feed the Future Research Strategy](#) and how it has been implemented over its first year. Under the research strategy, the U.S. Government is investing in long-term research to address major global challenges around hunger, poverty and undernutrition. The event, headlined by renowned author and global food security expert Roger Thurow, featured notable progress and accomplishments under Feed the Future on climate-resilient cereals, sustainable intensification, nutrition, seed improvement, livestock insurance for pastoralists, and capacity building. [Read more.](#)



USAID Bureau for Food Security Chief Scientist Julie Howard (right) speaks at Feed the Future Research Side Event and is joined by Roy Steiner, deputy director of agricultural development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Credit: The QED Group

[Watch a video](#) on research and innovation under Feed the Future and [visit the new research page](#) on [FeedtheFuture.gov](#)! [Click here](#) to see this month's featured stories on research.

### At Iowa Hunger Summit, Open Data Showcase Highlights Food Security

The annual [Iowa Hunger Summit](#) gathers leaders from across Iowa representing a wide variety of sectors and organizations that lead or participate in projects to confront hunger. Among the sessions held at this year's Summit was the Open Data Showcase, organized by USAID and featuring the [Food Security Open Data Challenge](#) that was launched in May of this year. [Read more.](#)

### Peace Corps and USAID Highlight Feed the Future at Iowa State University

Acting Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet and USAID Administrator Shah visited Iowa State University on October 18 to discuss food security and agriculture in development as part of the school's World Affairs Seminar Series. Iowa State is the first land-grant university and a pioneer in agricultural extension. [Read more.](#)



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

### Focus on Women in Research

*This month, marking the critical role that both research and women's empowerment play in advancing global agriculture and food security, the Feed the Future Newsletter profiles three scientists whose research is supporting the initiative's goals and making a difference in the lives of smallholder farmers.*



Credit: C. Kakai, USAID/Kenya

#### Lusike Wasilwa

***"Meaningful agricultural research cuts across value chains and should extend all the way from high yields to processing."***

Wasilwa is a molecular plant pathologist with over 25 years of research experience. She currently serves as the assistant director in charge of the Horticulture and Industrial Crops Division at the [Kenya Agricultural Research Institute](#) (KARI), where she leads several projects. Her work stretches beyond research on plant diseases to developing strategies across the entire product value chain, from farm to market, for increased productivity, commercialization, and competitiveness. [Read more.](#)

#### Kimberley Lucas

***"Applying science and knowledge to practical problems – such as food insecurity – has always been the 'hook' for us, landing me and four generations of my family in the midst of agriculture and other human development issues."***

Lucas, director of USAID Cambodia's Office of Food Security and Environment, isn't the first woman in her family to be on the frontlines of agricultural research. Her grandmother, Marion Griffiths, was a plant pathologist and agro-botanical researcher who completed groundbreaking work on corn smut and wheat rust with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the 1920s, some of which is only now being recognized 80 years later! [Read more.](#)



Dr. Kimberley Lucas, Director of the Office of Food Security and Environment at USAID's Cambodia Mission, visits a newly-connected piped water system in Prey Veng. Credit: USAID/Cambodia



Credit: AWARD

#### Adey Melesse Yalew

***"I'm not locked in a lab. I know what my community looks like, where my food comes from, and how farmers struggle."***

Yalew is an associate researcher at the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and a 2011 AWARD Fellow. She holds a bachelor's degree in animal science from Alemaya University of Agriculture and a master's degree in applied microbiology from Addis Ababa University. At EIAR, she works on animal nutrition, aiming to help Ethiopian farmers produce improved fodder for their livestock. Yalew also works on poultry research and product quality, especially salmonella prevention. [Read more.](#)

## Disease-Resistant Cassava Increases Yields and Builds Resilience in Kenya

"The last time I harvested big cassava roots was in August 1996," says Mary Juma, a smallholder farmer from Busia, located in Western Kenya. "I could get 12 kilograms of the tuber from just one plant and feed my family for days!"



Sarah Makhilo, a smallholder in Busia, examines her crops for signs of disease.  
*Credit: USAID/Kenya*

These days, Juma's plants rarely produce more than one kilogram of tubers due to the invasion of Cassava Mosaic Virus (CMV), a disease resulting in stunted tubers and plants with deformed leaves bearing a yellow "mosaic" pattern.

Sarah Makhilo, another smallholder farmer, says cassava was once a favorite crop in Busia, particularly because maize does not perform well in their climate. This, coupled with the CMV invasion, has significantly impacted food security in Western Kenya. One of the many downsides has been a decrease in women's economic empowerment in the region. [Read more.](#)

## Sustainable Intensification in the Ethiopian Highlands

### First Year of New Program Lays Strong Groundwork for Research and Agricultural Development

In the Ethiopian Highlands, a massive mountainous area extending into parts of Eritrea and northern Somalia, smallholder farmers are facing serious threats to their livelihoods and food security. Crop yields and soil fertility are declining, while weeds, crop pests and disease, and fertilizer costs are all rising. To address these challenges, a Feed the Future program is conducting participatory research (which actively involves beneficiaries of the research) to empower farmers to implement sustainable intensification, meaning they will ultimately be able to generate more output from the same area of land while reducing negative environmental impacts. [Read more.](#)

## Building Capacity at Home and Abroad: U.S. Students Support Agricultural Development in Feed the Future Countries

Last month, a series of U.S. graduate students began traveling to Feed the Future focus countries to work on projects led by in-country organizations that will support smallholder farmers growing fruits and vegetables. These volunteer opportunities are made possible by the [Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program](#) at the



University of California, Davis, whose [Trellis Fund](#) is supporting 14 new capacity-building projects under Feed the Future. The projects match students pursuing advanced agricultural degrees with organizations that are engaged with local farmers. [Read more.](#)

An Eco Finder volunteer discusses weeds with Michael Wolff, UC Davis graduate student, in Kenya during the first round of Horticulture CRSP Trellis Fund projects in 2011-2012.

## FIELD STORIES

### With Investment from OPIC, U.S.-Owned Business Improving Harvests in Rwanda



Workers at the Jones' company in Rwanda begin planting new, virus-free banana plant seedlings. These seedlings seek to help farmers boost farm production yields, incomes and the local food supply.

Without good quality agricultural inputs, farmers were spending large amounts of time and energy tending crops while yields remained poor in quantity and quality. [Read more.](#)

Steven Jones, a horticulture wholesaler and retailer from Tennessee, witnessed widespread food insecurity years ago during a visit to Africa sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Visiting the continent on a trade mission to learn more about farming techniques in the region, he saw firsthand how deficient seed and plant stocks were hindering food production and impairing the health and nutrition of communities depending on locally produced food.

*This story originally appeared on the OPIC Blog. [Learn more](#) about how OPIC is helping transform agricultural development through innovative finance and investment solutions.*

### Feed the Future Commercial Sorghum Project in Nigeria is Win-Win for Smallholder Farmers and Private Companies

A Feed the Future project in Nigeria has enabled more than 42,000 smallholder farmers to increase their sorghum yields by 128 percent by helping them to improve production practices and better meet the requirements of buyers. Meanwhile, a major malting facility in the southeast region is now operating at full capacity thanks to increased availability of high-quality sorghum.



A sorghum farmer in Nigeria shows off his crops. Credit: USAID/Nigeria

In countries around the world, Feed the Future is increasing food security by improving agricultural value chains, targeting assistance in ways that strengthen the connection between private companies and the smallholder farmers who supply them with raw materials. This private sector-led project in Nigeria aimed to do just that, helping farmers grow commercial sorghum that would fit the demands of a specialized local market. [Read more.](#)

### Save More, Grow More, Earn More

In Bangladesh, Feed the Future is working with the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia to overcome challenges to agricultural production such as lack of irrigation and rainwater, increasing soil salinity, and costly farm inputs. A new video shows how some farmers are using transformational technology to increase their crop yields even during the dry season, when water availability is in decline and labor costs are on the rise. [Watch the video.](#)

## Reducing Poverty and Increasing Capacity for Rice Cooperatives in Liberia

Joe Wonzon, a rice farmer in Nimba County, Liberia, farms about one hectare of swampland to survive. Like the 84 percent of Liberians who live on less than \$1.25 per day, Wonzon struggles to afford one of Liberia's most important staple foods, rice.

Liberia, a West African nation of four million people, struggles with self-sufficiency in rice production. Though rice is the main staple crop of Liberia, with more than 80 percent of farmers growing it, Liberians rely on expensive imported rice for daily consumption. When food prices spike, the increased cost of rice puts the most vulnerable people in Liberia at risk for food insecurity.

To address this problem, the [U.S. African Development Foundation](#) (USADF) is working under Feed the Future to help 900 smallholder rice farmers, including Wonzon, to boost rice production, incomes, and household nutrition. [Read more.](#)



Kokoyah Multipurpose Cooperative Society supplies the World Food Program in Liberia with parboiled rice to support local school feeding programs. Credit: USADF

### Do You Work on Feed the Future Projects?

We would like to hear from you about how your projects integrate gender issues. If you help to design, implement, or manage any Feed the Future projects, please [take this short survey now](#) to provide valuable input to the **Gender Global Learning and Evidence Exchange**, a series of learning activities to help share best practices and learn of challenges related to gender integration in Feed the Future. The survey is open through October.

**[Take the survey!](#)**

## In Niger, Hope for Ending Hunger

*David J. Lane serves as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies in Rome. This post appeared last month in the Department of State's DipNote blog.*



Ambassador David Lane visits Niger. Credit: USUN/Rome

I have just returned from a thought-provoking visit to Niger, one of the largest countries in the Sahel – a region of Africa where close to 19 million people are at risk of severe food shortages.

Before I flew to Niger, I had expected the trip would leave me feeling depressed and hopeless. More than 3 million people in the country do not have access to sufficient food, and suffer—especially the children—from moderate to severe malnutrition. And for Niger, this is nothing new. For the third time in a decade, Niger is reeling from the repercussions of massive drought, this time compounded by high food and fuel costs, locust infestations, and conflict in bordering Mali.

But despite those dire statistics, I saw a more hopeful picture when I toured the country. Indeed, by the time I left Niger, I was filled with optimism and confidence in the multilateral assistance and development operations at work on the ground. Amongst their efforts, I saw the components needed to break Niger's relentless cycle of [hunger and malnutrition](#). [Read more.](#)



## HEARD ON THE HILL (cont.)

### CODEL Visits Kenya Agricultural Research Institute

A delegation of 15 Members of Congress, led by Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), visited Kenya in August to conduct congressional oversight related to food aid, U.S. policy and assistance for refugees, and related political and security issues in the region.



Congressional delegation visiting the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) met with farmers who have benefited from the adoption of new KARI technologies. *Credit: Peter Gichinga, USAID/Kenya*

As part of the trip, the delegation visited the headquarters of the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), where they were hosted by KARI Director Ephraim Mukisira, and Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Kareke Mbiuki. Kareke Mbiuki. Mukisira thanked the delegation for the U.S. Government's long history of support to KARI, which has enabled the Institute to conduct critical research to improve both food and horticulture crops in Kenya. [Read more.](#)

### USAID Fall Semester Highlights Food Security at U.S. Universities

During the months of September and October, USAID Administrator Shah traveled to eight universities around the United States to engage students on how to solve the most pressing global challenges in international development – poverty, hunger, violence, injustice, and environmental degradation. The campus tour is part of USAID's Fall Semester, a series of lectures, web-chats, and other activities that give students an opportunity to get involved in forging solutions to these critical challenges. Prior to his appearance at Iowa State University with Acting Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet, Shah also joined Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) at Mississippi State University and Clemson University respectively to discuss food security and agriculture issues. [Read more.](#)

[Learn more about USAID's Fall Semester.](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### New Request for Applications under Feed the Future Research Strategy

A new Request for Applications (RFA) focused on climate resilience, nutrition, and policy objectives under the Feed the Future Research Strategy was recently posted on Grants.gov. The RFA seeks applications from eligible U.S. colleges and universities (Title XII institutions) in the following program areas: high-yielding, climate-resilient legumes and cereals; increased livestock productivity; small-scale irrigation technologies and agricultural water management practices; reduced post-harvest losses and food waste; and food security policy. The closing date for applications is December 21, 2012. [Read the full announcement on Grants.gov.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October 29 – November 1 (Punta del Este, Uruguay)**  
[Second Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development](#)
- **November 12 – 14 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)**  
[U.S.-Africa Agribusiness Investment Forum: Private Sector Opportunities in Support of Inclusive Agricultural Growth](#)
- **November 15 – 16 (Johannesburg, South Africa)**  
[Feeding the World: Africa's Role in Solving the Global Food Crisis](#)

## NEWS & MEDIA

### News

[Arcadia Biosciences, USAID and CIMMYT to Develop Heat-Tolerant Wheat](#)  
October 19, 2012 (Business Wire)

[The Face of Food Security is Female](#)  
October 19, 2012, Busani Bafana (Inter Press Service)

[Purdue Center for Global Food Security awards research grants on U.S. student projects in 18 countries](#)  
October 17, 2012, Gary Burniske (Purdue University)

[MDG target to halve prevalence of hunger within reach, says UN](#)  
October 9, 2012, Claire Provost (The Guardian)

[One in eight of world population going hungry: UN](#)  
October 9, 2012, Catherine Hornby (Reuters)

### Op-Eds

[GM food: we can no longer afford to ignore its advantages](#)  
October 13, 2012, Robin McKie (The Guardian)

[Building Food Security in a Hungry World](#)  
October 11, 2012, Lisanna Finston (Huffington Post)

[Three keys to ending hunger](#)  
October 03, 2012, Rep. Michael Honda (The Hill)

### Blogs

[Politics and Foreign Aid: What Romney and Obama Can Learn from Huckabee and Lincoln](#)  
October 23, 2012, Tom Murphy (Huffington Post)

[Bangladeshi Farmers Reap Rewards from New Agricultural Techniques](#)  
October 18, 2012, Anar Khalilov (USAID IMPACT)

[Cooperatives can play key role in closing global hunger gap](#)  
October 17, 2012, Paul Hazen (The Hill)

[Hacking for Hunger? There's An App for That!](#)  
October 16, 2012, Maura O'Neill (Huffington Post)

[Climate Conversations – Supporting rural women is good for the environment](#)  
October 15, 2012, Kanayo F. Nwanze (AlertNet)

## 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](#).