FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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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

President Joyce Banda Officially Launches Feed the Future in Malawi, Pledges Support for Developing Agriculture

On July 12, President Joyce Banda of Malawi officially launched the Feed the Future initiative in Chiwamba, announcing the country's flagship Feed the Future project, which will focus on integrating nutrition into Malawi's agriculture sector. President Banda was joined by the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Professor Peter Mwanza; USAID Chief Economist, Dr. Steven Radelet; and U.S. Ambassador Jeanine Jackson.

President Joyce Banda joins USAID/Malawi Mission Director Doug Arbuckle and USAID Chief Economist Steven Radelet for the official launch of Feed the Future in Malawi. Credit: Oris Chimenya, USAID/Malawi

In her remarks, President Banda lauded Feed the Future's value chain approach to food security, which entails making focused investments in areas ranging from production to consumption in order to improve agriculture and nutrition. She noted that Feed the Future supports and complements her own Presidential Initiative on Hunger and Poverty Reduction; both initiatives focus on diversifying Malawian agriculture, with special emphasis on the legumes and livestock value chains. Read more.

Did you know that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton recently visited a Feed the Future site in Malawi? Read more about her trip to Africa!

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS

Global Hunger Event in London Urges Greater Action on Child Nutrition by 2016 Olympic Games

The 2012 Olympic Games in London featured more than two weeks of incredible athletic performances and true international sportsmanship, demonstrating in full force the tremendous feats that can be accomplished when athletes from around the world achieve their full potential. As the Olympics drew to a close, United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron and Brazil's Vice President Michel Temer hosted a Global Hunger Event to draw attention to the urgent need for the world to take action on the issue of undernutrition. There are 170 million children globally whose physical and cognitive potential is limited by undernutrition by the time they reach 2 years old. Read more.

Credit: www.olympic.org

Read blogs from Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator Tjada McKenna or USAID Assistant to the Administrator Paul Weisenfeld on the UK Global Hunger Event.

BRINGING TANZANIAN PRODUCE TO YOUR SHELF: FEED THE FUTURE HELPS ARUSHA'S FARMERS ACCESS INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

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Secretary Clinton Highlights Food Security, Gender Equity, and Economic Growth during Tour of African Continent

Margaret Chinkwenda, a smallholder dairy farmer in Malawi, explains to Secretary Clinton the challenges and opportunities that dairy has brought her. Credit: Oris Chimenya, USAID/Malawi

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton traveled to sub-Saharan Africa from July 31 through August 10 for an extensive tour of the continent, which included stops in Senegal, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, and Benin. The tour focused on numerous policy issues including democracy and governance, economic growth, peace and security, and women's empowerment.

Secretary Clinton also notably highlighted Feed the Future and food security issues during her visit to Malawi, where she discussed economic and political governance and reform with President Joyce Banda, who assumed office earlier this year. Between FY 2010 and 2012, $51 million in Feed the Future resources were invested to strengthen Malawi's agriculture sector. Read more.

Want to read more about Secretary Clinton's travel to African countries? Click here to visit the Department of State's trip page.

Administrator Shah Touts "Open Source" Model for Development, Food Security

In a speech at the Aspen Institute on August 1, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah outlined a bold new vision for international development, one that eschews a top-down institutional model and instead empowers problem-solvers and innovators across many fields to take on the world's toughest challenges.

USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah speaks at the Aspen Institute. Photo credit: Vanessa Cheeves/USAID

Delivering keynote remarks at the inaugural Madeleine K. Albright Global Development Lecture in Aspen, CO, Shah discussed the need for an "open source" development model that taps into the network of non-traditional development stakeholders (corporate leaders, faith leaders, philanthropists, youth, etc.) to discover creative solutions to global problems. The open source model, Shah said, involves harnessing the ingenuity and expertise of an increasingly diverse global development community. Read more.

Did you know that the 2009 L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, where President Obama first announced Feed the Future, envisioned a new way of doing development underpinned by five key principles, including mobilizing and aligning the resources of diverse partners and stakeholders?

HELPING DEVELOP CAPACITY IN PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

A SCIENCE AGENDA FOR FOOD SECURITY

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UPDATED PROCUREMENT AND GRANT SOLICITATIONS POSTED ON FEEDTHEFUTURE.GOV

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SECOND GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PCI'S "BE THE BANK" FORUM: SMALL SAVINGS, BIG IMPACT

67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION FORUM 2012

USDA and USAID Co-Host Annual Ramadan Iftar Celebration

The Iftar dinner on August 7 drew guests from the U.S. Government, humanitarian organizations, and faith-based groups, and was entitled, "Feed the Future: Together We Can." Credit: USDA

On August 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and USAID joined Islamic Relief USA to co-host the fourth annual U.S. Government Iftar celebration. This year's event focused on food security and was entitled, "Feed the Future: Together We Can." Iftar is the evening meal at which Muslims break their daily fast during Ramadan, a month of mindfulness and abstention in the Islamic lunar calendar.

The Iftar event featured remarks from Darci Vetter, Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, and Dr. Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator. Both speakers highlighted the U.S. Government's commitment to building food security internationally and the strides that Feed the Future has made since it was launched in 2009 to end global hunger. The keynote speaker and Creative Director for Islamic Relief USA, Ridwan Adhami, urged the more than 170 guests from government, humanitarian organizations, and faith-based groups to draw upon their personal experiences to inspire others around the world to join the fight against chronic malnutrition and famine.

Read more from Administrator Shah or *check out USDA's blog on the event*.

FIELD STORIES

U.S. Pledges to Support Government of Guatemala's "Zero Hunger Plan"

Guatemalan President Otto Pérez (center) and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Chacon (right) are joined by children at a ceremony announcing U.S. support for Guatemala's Zero Hunger Plan. Credit: U.S. Embassy Guatemala

On July 25, U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala Arnold Chacon joined President Otto Pérez Molina and private sector and youth leaders to officially join the "Pacto Hambre Cero" ("Zero Hunger Plan"), which President Pérez launched in February 2012. The plan is the first long-term national food security strategy in Guatemala to commit to measurable objectives. It calls for active and sustained involvement from all sectors of society and includes measures to significantly reduce mal- and undernutrition in six departments of Guatemala's Western Highlands. Read more.

Bringing Tanzanian Produce to Your Shelf: Feed the Future Helps Arusha's Farmers Access International Markets

HomeVeg Limited, a Tanzanian-owned fruit and vegetable producer, is using a Feed the Future economic expansion grant through the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) to connect smallholder farmers near Arusha, Tanzania with the profitable international export market for fresh vegetables. HomeVeg promotes sustainable horticulture, a Feed the Future priority sector in Tanzania, by building the capacity of 1,200 rural growers who are part of the vegetable supply chain. Read more.

Young Kenyan Mothers Work Together to Improve Food Security and Nutrition

Young mothers in Kenya grow and eat nutritious vegetables for better health. Credit: Joan Lewa/USAID

In Kenya, a group of young women are working collaboratively to put to use their knowledge of food and nutrition. The group is turning a profit while feeding themselves and their children by cultivating a shared urban farm in Mombasa.

The young mothers who make up the group knew from the staff at the local health clinic that consuming vegetables and legumes would improve their health and that of their infants. These foods, along with fruits, nuts, fish, dairy products, and whole grains are all excellent sources of key nutrients for breastfeeding mothers. Read more.

Did you know that August 12 was International Youth Day? Read Secretary Clinton's press statement on youth or view a video message from USAID Administrator Shah.

New Rice Variety Boosts Yields in Senegal

Coumbayel Coulibaly displays a calabash full of high-yielding rice. Credit: Rose Kane

Mamadou Coulibaly is one of thousands of rice farmers in Senegal whom Feed the Future is assisting to increase rice production, improving both their food security and household incomes. Under Feed the Future, USAID is working with grassroots NGOs and producer cooperatives on an economic growth project that aims to bring a high-yielding new rice variety up to scale across the country.

Rice is a staple food in Senegal; yet, in the south, irrigation for lowland rice is available in very few areas. Historically, traditional rain-fed rice varieties and poor seed stock have resulted in meager yields of about one ton per hectare, which means farmers couldn't grow enough to meet their family's needs, let alone enough to generate income. Read more.

From Disaster Recovery to Development: Feed the Future Builds Community Health and Nutrition in Nepal

Man Maya Lama has more than tripled her annual income through high-value crop production. Credit: USAID/Nepal

Feed the Future program in Nepal has built upon what started as a disaster recovery program for flood victims and is now delivering some impressive development results. Since the flood recovery program began in 2008, it has enabled 7,600 Nepalese farmers in commercial agriculture to increase their net sales by 800 percent, more than tripling household incomes; supported the establishment of 4,500 home gardens that produce fruits and vegetables for home consumption; and trained 6,000 people on health and nutrition. Read more.

A Brighter Future for Rural Women in Ghana

A women's farmer organization in Ghana is building members' skills and income with help from Feed the Future. Credit: USAID/Ghana

In Sorugu, Ghana, a small northern town near Tamale, many women lack basic literacy and small business skills. But with assistance from Feed the Future, these women are building their skill set and becoming equipped to improve their own well-being as well as that of their children and communities.

The 65 members of the Sorugu Tung-teeya (meaning "together we grow") Women Farmers Group joined together to form a smallholder farmer-based organization in 2009 to better address their children's health, nourishment, school fees, and other needs. The group produces and processes rice for the local market to improve their livelihoods and offer mutual support. Read more.

Deputy National Security Advisor Michael Froman Leads Interagency Delegation in Ethiopia

Deputy National Security Advisor Michael Froman (standing left) and U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Donald Booth (standing center) observe workers at Hilina Enriched Foods conducting quality checks on peanuts before they are processed for use in therapeutic food. Credit: Nena Terrell, USAID/Ethiopia

On July 17, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs Michael Froman led a U.S. Government delegation on a site visit to a food processing plant in Ethiopia that supports Feed the Future activities. The delegation included representation from the White House, the Department of Commerce, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, USAID, and the U.S. Trade Representative.

The group visited the Addis-based Hilina Enriched Foods plant in order to better understand the importance of private sector agro-processing as a driver of economic growth in Ethiopia, as well as the Government of Ethiopia and the U.S. Government's agricultural value chain approach from smallholder production to market sales. Read more.

Agricultural Development Empowers Women in Africa

By Karen Johnson

It's normal to think that food assistance is simply about keeping stomachs full. But, in fact, it's far more complex than that. It's also about empowering and enabling people to support themselves and their communities on a sustainable basis. A couple of weeks ago, I traveled to Zimbabwe and Mozambique to visit development projects supported by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in partnership with local authorities. It was there that I saw what a difference agricultural development efforts can make in people's lives. Read more.

Karen Johnson is the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Rome, Italy, where she works with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other UN agencies in Rome to support innovative and effective development projects. This article was originally posted in the Department of State's DipNote blog.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

From Best Practices to Best Outcomes in Ghana

For over 25 years, Mr. Paul Osei Kwame has operated a successful 25-acre farm in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. While Oseibros Farms originally ran on poultry, crops, and maize grit extraction, Mr. Osei decided to add aquaculture to his operation in 2008. He made a wise choice – he now has 20 ponds full of Nile tilapia fingerlings that he sells to other local fish farmers.

Mr. Paul Osei Kwame (right), owner of Oseibros Farms Company Limited, confers with AquaFish CRSP researcher Dr. Daniel Abjei-Boateng of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). Credit: USAID/Ghana

Mr. Osei's success lies in his belief in the application of science to agricultural production. He wants to "get it right" by learning and applying best management practices in his fishponds.

His transition began in 2009, when Oseibros Farms participated in a water quality study conducted by Feed the Future's Aquaculture & Fisheries Collaborative Research Support Program, housed at Oregon State University. The study led to the development of best management practices for reducing the negative effects of pond discharges into local streams. Read more.

Promising New Technologies to Improve Cowpea Production in West Africa

New insect-resistant varieties of the cowpea are helping to reduce significant losses in yield due to better technology to combat pest and diseases.

The cowpea (or black-eyed pea in the U.S.) is an important staple in the diet of more than 200 million households in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a robust plant able to withstand the low rainfall and poor soil conditions of the region, yielding protein-rich seed and providing valuable nutrition to its inhabitants, while also fixing nitrogen in the soil.

Undamaged, superficially damaged, and severely damaged cowpea pods. Credit: USAID

Unfortunately, African cowpea farmers suffer heavy yield losses (often over 80 percent) due to pests and diseases, and most significantly from an insect, *Maruca vitrata*, which destroys the seeds in the pods. Read more.

Helping Develop Capacity in Plant Protection and Quarantine

The capacity to trade is integral to economic growth – and the ability to trade safe agricultural products both within a country and for export depends upon a functional plant health system. Strengthening a country's plant protection and quarantine systems can have a major impact on producer incomes. Systems to monitor and reduce the risk of pest and diseases and the ability to respond to outbreaks can help support agricultural producers.

To help achieve these goals, Feed the Future is supporting USDA international training programs in select focus countries to train plant health officials on improving and maintaining plant protection and quarantine systems. In June and July 2012, six plant health officials from Haiti and Bangladesh completed training on these topics in North Carolina and Washington, DC. Read more.

A Science Agenda for Food Security

As the world population grows, agricultural science will play an important role in helping us combat hunger and malnutrition around the globe. Credit: Rein Skullerud/World Food Program via USDA

The world is not merely facing a challenge of sustainably producing enough food to feed a world whose population will exceed 9 billion by 2050, but also confronting the continuous challenge of ensuring that nutritious and safe food reaches needy families, so that every child can have a safe and healthy childhood.

Combating this urgent crisis requires a global collaborative effort. According to experts, by 2050 agricultural production will need to increase by 70 percent to meet increased demand for food, diet changes and additional demand for industrial uses for plants. To help meet this goal, USDA has developed a Global Food Security strategy, focused on research, development, education and extension. USDA's Office of the Chief Scientist prepared a series of white papers on USDA's research portfolio, which align USDA's food security research with the goals of President Obama's Global Food Security Initiative, Feed the Future. Read more.

Feed the Future Supports Tanzanian Students in Agriculture and Nutrition Sciences

Feed the Future grant recipients prepare to begin their studies in Tanzania and abroad. Credit: USAID/Tanzania

On July 23 at the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania, Ambassador Alfonso E. Lenhardt hosted a farewell program for 58 Tanzanian students receiving Feed the Future scholarships to study agriculture, nutrition, and related fields at universities in Tanzania and abroad. Several distinguished guests delivered remarks, including the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Futakamba, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education Gesimba, and Vice Chancellor of Sokoine University.

Over a 5-year period, Feed the Future will sponsor 120 Tanzanians for postgraduate studies in agricultural and nutrition sciences. Of the 58 students sponsored this year, 29 of them will pursue Master's and PhD degrees at six American universities – Ohio State University, Michigan State University, Virginia Tech, Tuskegee University, University of Florida, and Iowa State University. The other students will pursue degrees at Tanzania's Sokoine University of Agriculture or at African universities outside Tanzania. Read more.

Borlaug Summer Institute on Food Security Launched at Purdue University

Pictured above are the 31 students who attended the Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security at Purdue University, which was featured in last month's Newsletter. View the article on FeedtheFuture.gov.

HEARD ON THE HILL

Roadmap to End Hunger Launched

Credit: World Food Program

On July 24, Members of Congress and leaders from NGOs, advocacy groups, and faith-based organizations gathered on Capitol Hill to launch the Roadmap for Continued U.S. Leadership to End Global Hunger. The Roadmap celebrates the U.S. role in responding to humanitarian crises and alleviating chronic hunger. It also outlines six recommendations as part of a comprehensive strategy to ensure continued effectiveness of U.S. global food security programs. Read more.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development Fellowship Now Accepting Applications

The 2012 African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) fellowship is now accepting applications. AWARD is a professional development program that strengthens the research and leadership skills of African women in agricultural science, empowering them to contribute more effectively to poverty alleviation and food security in sub-Saharan Africa. Applicants have until September 7, 2012, to apply for an AWARD fellowship. Read more.

Updated Procurement and Grant Solicitations Posted on FeedtheFuture.gov

An updated list of open Requests for Applications and Requests for Proposals was posted on the Feed the Future website in July. It includes all Feed the Future solicitations currently listed on Grants.gov and FedBizOpps.gov. View this resource.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 3 – 7 (Hanoi, Vietnam)**
  Second Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security, and Climate Change
- **September 19 – 21 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)**
  PCI's "Be the Bank" Forum: Small Savings, Big Impact
- **September 24 – 28 (New York, NY)**
  67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
- **September 26 – 28 (Arusha, Tanzania)**
  African Green Revolution Forum 2012

NEWS & MEDIA

News

Advancing the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition
August 20, 2012 (USAID)

G20 plans response to rising food prices
August 12, 2012, Javier Blas (Financial Times)

As drought looms in India, fear for its cattle
August 12, 2012, Rajendra Jadhav (Reuters)

50 Takes On Hunger
July, 2012 (World Food Program)

First Lady Joins U.S., WFP in Food Security Visit
July 24, 2012 (U.S. Embassy Honduras)

USAID's Paul Weisenfeld Speaks with AAM
July 20, 2012 (Africa Agribusiness Magazine)

Op-Eds

Can't Afford Foreign Aid, of Can't Afford to Cut It?
August 20, 2012 (New York Times)

Africa's last famine
August 15, 2012, Thierry Tanoh (Business Day)

The 2012 hunger summit could be the real legacy of the Games
August 12, 2012, Justin Forsyth (The Guardian)

Blogs

The Global Hunger Event is Over: What Next?
August 17, 2012, Dr. Howarth Bouis (Chicago Council)

Investing in Africa's Smallholder Farmers
August 14, 2012, Paul Weisenfeld (USAID IMPACT)

Investing in Better Harvests
August 13, 2012 (OPIC Blog)

A Lasting Impact on Food Security
August 7, 2012, Jessica Hartl (USAID IMPACT)

The Paradox of Water in Senegal
July 30, 2012, Steve Kaufmann (MCC's Poverty Reduction Blog)

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.