

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In response to the global food crisis in 2008, the U.S. Government launched Feed the Future, encompassing a \$3.5 billion pledge to address the root causes of global poverty and hunger. Through Feed the Future, a Presidential initiative, the U.S. Government aligns its funding with partner country-led plans and coordinates with development partners and other stakeholders to tackle global food security challenges.

Through Feed the Future, the United States is helping countries transform their own agricultural sectors to make a larger contribution to sustainably meeting their food security goals.



Credit: Fintrac

The U.S. Government is also partnering with private sector firms to broaden economic growth in Feed the Future focus countries. In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Feed the Future has formed strategic alliances with companies such as Walmart and Coca-Cola to help accelerate sustained growth in agriculture.

Within the LAC region, poverty – or lack of household purchasing power to acquire sufficient nutritious food – is the root cause of food insecurity in most cases, not the lack of availability of food.

Investments in agriculture are helping to create jobs and raise the productivity, quality, and income-earning potential of high-value and staple food crops. At the same time, investments in nutrition aim to reduce undernutrition, especially in children under 2, through more effective delivery of health and nutrition education services to ensure that increased household incomes result in improved household nutrition.

Feed the Future investments in the LAC region target poor rural areas in three focus countries: Guatemala, Haiti, and Honduras. Between 2011-2015, Feed the Future programs will help over one million food-insecure people to become sustainably food secure.

### Haiti



(Target corridors in red)

Feed the Future's Multi-Year Strategy for Haiti invests in activities to increase agricultural productivity of crops, such as mango, corn, and rice; stabilize key watersheds; strengthen agricultural markets; and deliver nutrition messages and services.

Feed the Future is targeting 567,000 people in rural areas. To date, we have helped nearly 8,000 farmers adopt improved practices, including fertilizers and improved seeds, and rehabilitated 135 km of irrigation systems. Yields in target areas have increased significantly: plantains (21%), beans (85%), rice (118%), and corn (368%), while incomes have quadrupled since 2009.

## Guatemala



(Western Highlands)

Feed the Future's Multi-Year Strategy for Guatemala supports activities to increase agricultural productivity and market development of horticultural crops and coffee; encourage private sector investment and create jobs in targeted value chains; and improve access to health and nutrition services to prevent and treat undernutrition.

Feed the Future is targeting 219,000 people in rural areas. In 2011, new production and marketing of coffee and horticultural crops, combined with sustainable tourism, contributed to \$43.2 million in sales and 15,345 jobs. Feed the Future helped 4,812 families in 42 producer organizations expand their food cropping systems into high-value horticultural crops, generating sales of \$5 million and creating 1,200 jobs.

## Honduras



(The West in red)

Feed the Future's Multi-Year Strategy for Honduras is investing in activities to enhance the competitiveness of coffee and horticultural value chains; strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations; and improve nutrition, especially of women and children.

Feed the Future is targeting 284,000 people in rural areas. To create the employment and income needed to purchase food, Feed the Future provides technical assistance, training, and basic tools to increase rural micro, small, and medium enterprise productivity, and to help these enterprises gain access to technologies, inputs, and market opportunities. For example, Feed the Future has trained 30,327 beneficiaries to increase small business productivity and access to market opportunities.

## The USAID Regional Mission for Central America and Mexico (ECAM)

ECAM supports bilateral Feed the Future programs in the region to better integrate Central American regional markets for agricultural products and facilitate trade both within the region and to overseas markets through private sector alliances. Through ECAM, capacities of governments for policy formulation, analysis, monitoring, evaluation, and learning will be enhanced.

## Brazil

Brazil is a Feed the Future Strategic Partner country and a leader in the region on food security issues. The U.S. Government and the Government of Brazil recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on food security cooperation in third countries. Building on its trilateral partnership in Mozambique, the Brazilian aid agency and Feed the Future are exploring potential new partnerships in Haiti and Honduras.