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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

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Launches Second Public Call for Proposals for Private Sector Window



The [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#) (GAFSP) has issued a second public call for proposals under its [Private Sector Window](#). GAFSP is a multilateral mechanism to assist in implementing pledges made by

the G-8 at the L'Aquila Summit in 2009, with the intent of making investments in agriculture and food security more strategic in developing countries. The Private Sector Window, implemented and managed by the International Finance Corporation, supports new and innovative financing designed to increase the commercial potential of small and medium sized agri-businesses and farmers in low-income countries by bringing them into local, national and global value chains. [Read more.](#)

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FIELD STORIES

Women Cash In with Traditional African Crop in Senegal

According to legend in some parts of West Africa, the universe began from a single grain of fonio, a type of millet and one of Africa's oldest and fastest growing cereal crops. Now, in Senegal, the highly-prized and nutritious millet is the focus of a \$190,000 Feed the Future grant from the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) to improve community members' incomes and household food security.



Caption: Members of Koba Club present U.S. Ambassador to Senegal Lewis Lukens with fonio products. Credit: USADF

Koba Club is a female-run economic interest group created in 1989 in the remote town of Kédougou in the Tambacounda region of southeast Senegal. Nearly 90 percent of local women in this region are involved in the production and processing of fonio, which grows easily in poor soils and is drought-resistant, but is extremely time-consuming to produce. Koba Club purchases fonio from local producers and transforms the cereal grain into a value-added product, but it has struggled to meet the market demand in terms of quality and quantity due to insufficient workspace and outdated production methods. [Read more.](#)

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GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

Millennium Challenge Corporation Releases Impact Evaluations for Farmer Training Activities

Last month, the [Millennium Challenge Corporation](#) (MCC) released its first set of independent impact evaluations for farmer training activities in five countries that hold MCC Compacts, including Feed the Future focus countries Ghana and Honduras. The impact evaluations monitor MCC progress in meeting project targets and test how project outcomes translate into farm income and ultimately household income.

The evaluations revealed a significant increase in farm income in three of the five countries, including improvements in project farmers' annual crop income relative to the control group in the northern region of Ghana. MCC is using the findings of these impact evaluations to test traditional assumptions about what works, learn lessons, adapt business practices, and improve effectiveness. Impact evaluations are an important part of MCC's commitment to using data and evidence to guide decision-making for selection of country partners, investment decisions, and measuring results. [Read more.](#)

Secretary Clinton Joins USAID Administrator Shah to Inaugurate Higher Education Solutions Network



Secretary Clinton and Administrator Shah deliver remarks at USAID's Higher Education Solutions Network event at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. *Credit: U.S. Department of State*

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah inaugurated a new Higher Education Solutions Network at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., on November 8. The Higher Education Solutions Network – or HESN – is a constellation of seven Development Labs that will harness the intellectual power of great American and international academic institutions and catalyze the development and application of new science, technology and engineering approaches and tools to solve some of the world's most challenging development problems.

One of these Labs, housed at Michigan State University's Global Center for Food Systems Innovation, will develop a sophisticated understanding of mega-trends affecting global food security, including population growth, rapid urbanization, climate change, pressures on land, and skills gaps in the food system workplace. These efforts align directly with Feed the Future's focus on reducing global poverty, hunger and undernutrition.

"Working with USAID's field mission experts and Washington staff, scientists and researchers in these labs will apply the latest science and technology to some of the biggest challenges in development," Secretary Clinton said. "In many parts of the world...rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall patterns are making it harder for farmers to grow enough food, putting a strain on entire agricultural systems." [Read full remarks.](#)

[Learn more](#) about the Higher Education Solutions Network.

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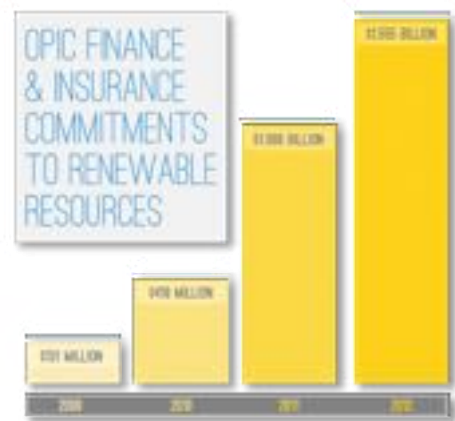
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OPIC Has Another Record-Setting Year for Renewable Resources

On October 16, the [U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation](#) (OPIC) announced that its commitments to renewable resources projects rose 41 percent in FY2012, totaling \$1.55 billion. This dollar amount marks a new record for the U.S. Government's development finance institution and continues a sharp and steady increase in OPIC's support for projects in clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and other renewable resource projects that aim to improve food security in developing countries. [Read more.](#)



FIELD STORIES (cont.)

Cambodian Fish Farmers Save Ponds and Fish through Climate Change Adaptation Techniques



In Cambodia, Feed the Future works with fish farmers to improve their aquaculture techniques for better harvests. Credit: Fintrac, Inc.

When record seasonal floods hit Cambodia's Battambang Province in late 2011, fish farmer Khel Khem feared the worst. Water levels reached 2.5 meters – higher than Khem's head – and enough, she worried, to wash out her recently stocked pond, where she breeds fish to generate income. But with the help of climate change adaptation techniques learned under Cambodia's flagship Feed the Future project, Khem was able to save her pond. Since then, she's done more than merely survive; she has thrived. As of February 2012, her fish weighed an average of 0.7 kilograms, more than four times the 0.15 kilograms of years past. The bigger fish will lead to higher profits at the local market, allowing Khem to expand her business and improve her family's living standard. [Read more.](#)

New on FeedtheFuture.gov



Check out the newest pages on our website!

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Feed the Future Transforming Lives of People Living with HIV in Kenya

Irine Zippy Kalamai is a 62-year-old retired nurse in Nandi County, Kenya who has drawn on both her nursing and farming knowledge to transform her rural agricultural community. In 2010, Irene formed the 42-member Chepterit Horticultural Growers Organization to help women living with HIV set up income-generating activities, contributing \$1,000 of her own money towards the purchase of 4,000 passion fruit seedlings for planting. In October 2011, Feed the Future and the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture helped Irine's group set up a certified passion fruit nursery, introduced them to various agricultural technologies such as drip irrigation and integrated pest management, and linked them to a reliable market.



Irine Zippy Kalamai inspects the grafted passion fruit seedlings at her group's nursery. The group's members have been trained in grafting and nursery management and are using their knowledge and skills to benefit the whole community. Credit: USAID/Kenya

Since then, Irine's group has established a nursery with the capacity to produce 75,000 seedlings a year. The nursery has been registered by the Horticultural Crops Development Authority and certified by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services. [Read more.](#)

Did you know that December 1st is World AIDS Day? An estimated 33.3 million people globally are living with HIV. [Learn more](#) or find out [what the U.S. Government is doing to address AIDS](#) around the world.

In Honduras, Eggplant Exports Raise Incomes of Producers, Create New Employment Opportunities in Rural Village

Producers in La Jigua, Copán, are reaping the benefits of a lucrative new crop. A small group of growers is now exporting eggplant to the United States, earning significantly higher incomes than they ever imagined and creating more than 100 new jobs in rural communities.

In this western region of Honduras, Feed the Future production and marketing specialists began assisting a group of seven farmers in February 2012, helping them identify eggplant as a new, high-value crop. With the project's help, the farmers obtained seeds and inputs, targeted a market, and planted their crop using good agricultural and post-harvest practices they learned from project technicians. [Read more.](#)

Feed the Future Civil Society Partner Receives Award from Kofi Annan at Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

The [Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa](#) (AGRA) recently awarded a Tanzanian nonprofit organization, [Rural Urban Development Initiatives](#) (RUDI), a prize for outstanding performance in supporting and advocating for smallholder farmers' development in Tanzania. AGRA Chairman Kofi Annan presented the award to the CEO of RUDI, Abel Lyimo, at a dinner hosted by Tanzanian President Jakaya M. Kikwete and attended by 1,500 delegates from all over the world in Arusha. [Read more.](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

African Union Commission Launches Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa



IITA Plant Pathologist, Dr. Ranajit Bandyopadhyay, provides instruction to farmers who will field test Aflasafe™ in Nigeria. Credit: USDA

On October 31, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the African Union Commission (AUC) launched an important new partnership to address the threat of aflatoxin in Africa. Aflatoxins are among the most common types of mycotoxins, poisonous substances produced by toxic fungi that frequently colonize crops in the field and during storage, making them unsafe for human and livestock consumption. In Africa, aflatoxin contamination is a

major cause of post-harvest losses and constitutes a significant threat to food security and livelihoods. It also poses a major public health challenge to consumers all over the continent. [Read more.](#)

Kenyan Youth Poised to Feed the Future through Banana Micro-Processing

As climate change makes traditional crops like potatoes or maize more difficult to produce, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) estimates that bananas may become an increasingly important food source in Kenya. Looking ahead to an evolving agricultural market, an entrepreneurial group of youth in Kenya's high-altitude Kisii County is investing in value-added banana processing and tissue culture technology, positioning them to meet a potential increase in demand for this crop.



Members of the Nyangorora Banana Processing Group washing, peeling and slicing bananas for processing. Credit: USAID/Kenya

The Nyangorora Banana Processing Group, a youth-owned company, is receiving assistance and technical support from Feed the Future to expand banana micro-processing activities and boost the incomes of Kisii's banana farmers and the community as a whole. [Read more.](#)

Did you know that USAID recently released a new Policy on Youth in Development? As part of this policy, USAID will mainstream youth participation in Feed the Future and other Presidential initiatives. [Learn more.](#)

In Tajikistan, New Wheat Variety Yields Record Harvest

Tajikistan's Ministry of Agriculture recently released a crop assessment showing that farmers in Khatlon Province harvested a record 553.8 thousand metric tons (MT) of wheat grain during the 2012 season. Feed the Future works in 12 districts in the southwest Khatlon Province to increase production on smallholder farms and family plots, increasing food for both household consumption and sale at market while improving nutrition and health outcomes for families. [Read more.](#)

Sustainable Intensification in East and Southern Africa: Participatory Research Enlists Farmers in New Food Security Efforts

Across Eastern and Southern Africa, poor farmers struggle to grow enough food to feed their families, generate income and escape poverty. But declining soil fertility and a changing climate are eroding crop yields, while increasing threats from weeds, pests, and plant and animal diseases leave smallholder farmers vulnerable to catastrophic losses.

To find innovative, sustainable farming strategies that address these challenges, a recently initiated Feed the Future program led by the [International Institute of Tropical Agriculture](#) is linking poor farmers across Tanzania and Malawi with local, regional and international research partners. Through their participation in research, these farmers are helping USAID-sponsored scientists identify and integrate the multiple technologies needed to transform agricultural production in key agro-ecosystems, and dramatically reducing the time between the development of research innovations and their widespread adoption by farmers. [Read more.](#)

Tanzanian Statisticians Travel to U.S. for Training on Measuring Agricultural Growth

During the month of October, Feed the Future sponsored 11 statisticians employed by the Government of Tanzania to travel to Washington, D.C., and West Lafayette, Indiana, for two weeks of training on effective strategies for developing robust agricultural statistics systems. Through sessions on proper organization, methodology and program management, the statisticians gained skills that will better enable them to accurately measure agricultural growth in Tanzania.



Feed the Future Team Member Alphonse Kyariga (3rd from the left) and Mission Director Robert Cunnane (center) meet with statisticians before their study tour begins. Credit: USAID/Tanzania

In Washington, the statisticians attended lectures hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and then traveled to the NASS office in West Lafayette to tour and study USDA agricultural operations in the field. The trip was part of Feed the Future's strategy in Tanzania to build the capacity of individuals and institutions to support and measure growth in the agriculture sector. [Read more.](#)

Virginia Tech Receives Feed the Future Award to Improve Agricultural Training and Education

Last month, USAID awarded Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) \$6.2 million to improve food security in the developing world. Virginia Tech will lead this Feed the Future project, partnering with Pennsylvania State University, Tuskegee University and the University of Florida to strengthen the capacity of institutions responsible for educating the next generation of agricultural professionals. [Read more.](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Request for Applications: Feed the Future Agriculture Technology Transfer Project

USAID is seeking applications for Assistance Agreements from all U.S. and non-U.S. qualified organizations for funding to support the \$15.5 million Feed the Future Agriculture Technology Transfer Project in Ghana. The overall goal of the project is to provide technical assistance and capacity building for increasing the availability of agricultural technologies to increase and sustain productivity in Northern Ghana. Applications are due by December 14, 2012 at 11:00am. [Read more.](#)

Funding opportunities listed in the Feed the Future Newsletter are not exhaustive. To view other opportunities, please visit [Grants.gov](#) or [FedBizOpps.gov](#).

Twitter Town Hall on Hunger



Join the **Millennium Challenge Corporation**
and **Bread for the World**
for an interactive Twitter Town Hall!
The event will focus on innovative efforts to address hunger
around the world.

To participate, follow the conversation at **@MCCtweets**
and **@bread4thworld** and tweet your thoughts using
the hashtag **#HungerHall**.

Date: Tuesday, November 20
Time: 12:00 – 1:00PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 15 - 16 (Johannesburg, South Africa)**
[Feeding the World: Africa's Role in Solving the Global Food Crisis](#)
- **November 19 - 21 (South Africa)**
[Innovation System Perspective in Agriculture and Rural Development for Smallholder Farmers](#)
- **November 28 - 29 (Milan, Italy)**
[4th International Forum on Food and Nutrition](#)

NEWS & MEDIA

News

[New Feed the Future Program Supports Transformational Approaches to Agriculture-Led Growth](#)

November 14, 2012 (USAID)

[A 'DARPA' Approach to U.S. Foreign Aid](#)

November 08, 2012, Erik Stokstad (Science Magazine)

[Food processing plants to save money](#)

November 06, 2012, Darlington Mwendabai (Zambia Daily Mail)

[Uganda: Agriculture Sector Grows By Three Percent](#)

November 05, 2012, Joan Akello (AllAfrica)

[The path through the fields](#)

November 03, 2012 (Economist)

[Sandy Beyond Borders](#) (video)

October 31, 2012 (Huffington Post Live)

Op-Eds

[Forward with Feed the Future](#)

November 07, 2012, Roger Thurow (Global Food For Thought)

[Anansi: America is missing in action in Africa](#)

November 05, 2012 (The Africa Report)

Blogs

[The Biggest Experiment in Evaluation: MCC and Systematic Learning](#)

November 05, 2012, William Savedoff (Center for Global Development)

[Africa: leading the way for women](#)

November 05, 2012, Hannah Pool (The Guardian)

[All in a Week's Work – Fighting Hunger](#)

October 27, 2012, Jonathan Shrier (DipNote)

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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