

BORLAUG 21ST CENTURY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Developing the Next Generation of Agricultural Leaders

Nearly one billion of the world's seven billion people suffer from chronic food insecurity, and global food production will need to increase by 60% over the next 40 years to feed our growing population. To respond to the global challenge of food insecurity, it is critical to develop the next generation of agricultural leaders. Through Feed the Future's Borlaug 21st Century Leadership Program, the U.S. Government and its partners honor the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug with a major new effort to train individuals and strengthen developing country public and private institutions. This will enable them to take advantage of scientific and technological breakthroughs to promote innovation across the agricultural sector.

"I am but one member of a vast team made up of many organizations, officials, thousands of scientists, and millions of farmers – mostly small and humble – who for many years have been fighting a quiet, oftentimes losing war on the food production front."

– Dr. Norman Borlaug

The Vision: Promoting Innovation Using Dr. Borlaug's Inspiration

Dr. Norman Borlaug worked alongside scientists from all over the world to test the scientific breakthroughs that led to the Green Revolution. He is credited with saving millions of people from starvation. Later in his life, Dr. Borlaug dedicated himself to inspiring young people in the U.S. and around the world to join "the war on the food production front." He appreciated that it takes more than good science to reach farmers and consumers with new technologies, and that it is a process to inspire people and organizations to be receptive to different ways of thinking and working. In the 1990s, Borlaug worked closely with African leaders to convince them to invest more in agricultural research and extension and to adopt policies that would encourage private sector investment. He also encouraged businesses and banks to help develop seed and fertilizer networks, lend to farmers and small agribusinesses, and develop processing industries. In this spirit, the Feed the Future Borlaug 21st Century Leadership Program provides opportunities for individuals and institutions across the agricultural innovation system – in research, extension, education, agribusiness, and policy – to acquire the critical knowledge and skills they need to be successful agents of change.

Recognizing that innovation in agriculture requires increasing capacity for individuals at all levels – ranging from technicians and extension agents to advanced researchers in bioengineering – the Feed the Future Borlaug 21st Century Leadership Program offers a variety of learning opportunities. It also supports long-term university partnerships and other efforts to strengthen institutions, including post-secondary institutions, which play an important role in shaping the professionals needed to drive growth in rapidly changing food and agricultural systems.

Like all Feed the Future programs, the Borlaug 21st Century Leadership Program supports country-led, evidence-based priorities. It leverages additional resources through strategic partnerships with the private sector and with multilateral and bilateral organizations. The program will also create a platform for shared learning on best approaches to training and institutional development.

The Feed the Future Borlaug 21st Century Leadership Program will:

- Provide short-term training to over 2,500 students, researchers, and agricultural leaders
- Provide fellowships and mentoring to nearly 1,000 agricultural researchers
- Provide full fellowships to 75 M.S./Ph.D. students
- Improve more than 60 institutions in Africa, which will affect over 250,000 students

Graduate Research Fellowships

In partnership with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and Dr. Borlaug's home at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center – or CIMMYT – in Mexico, Feed the Future is developing a new program to train M.S. and Ph.D.-level researchers from developing countries through long-term degree programs. With initial activities in up to four Feed the Future focus countries, the program will expand graduate research training opportunities to advance food security.

Transforming Agricultural Education and Training

Post-secondary vocational and technical schools and universities play a critical role in preparing extension agents, technicians, agronomists, plant breeders, food scientists, nutritionists, applied engineers, agribusiness specialists, policy analysts, entrepreneurs, and other professionals to drive change and robust growth in developing country food and agricultural systems. The Feed the Future Borlaug 21st Century Leadership Program is working to reform and strengthen these institutions.

In partnership with the World Bank and other donors, Feed the Future is also supporting “TEAM Africa” – an Africa-led initiative aimed at building a network of world-class agricultural universities in Africa.

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)

The majority of those who produce, process, and market Africa's food are women, but only one in four agricultural researchers is female. Through a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Feed the Future supports AWARD, 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. The AWARD Fellowship includes a series of career development resources designed to:

- Strengthen science skills
- Augment leadership abilities
- Enhance visibility and networking
- Increase opportunities to share newly acquired skills



“When I won the AWARD fellowship in 2009, I was volunteering as a research assistant at the Department of Food Science and Technology, Makerere University, and was a Human Nutrition master's student with limited expectations for my career. At the AWARD orientation workshop, I discovered the potential I had as an African woman scientist to fight poverty, hunger, and malnutrition on the continent if I enhanced vital skills through training, mentoring, and dedication to working holistically with other professionals.” – *Esther Wamono, AWARD Fellow, Uganda*