



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## POLICY GUIDE OVERVIEW

### Supporting Sound Policy Environments

Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, works with partner countries, development organizations and agencies, the private sector, universities, research institutions, and civil society to tackle global food security challenges. To more fully support this initiative, USAID released a Feed the Future Policy Guide to align investments, partnerships, and collaborations across U.S. Government (USG) agencies, partner countries, and regional and global institutions that further reform policies and build policymaking capacity to reduce hunger and poverty.

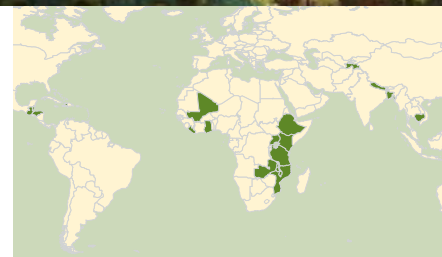
The Feed the Future policy approach to advance food security focuses on countries with policy priorities that aim to reduce poverty and hunger. Using evidence-based research, the guide sets forth a framework for USG support using principles of good governance, efficient markets, attention to rural livelihoods, risks to vulnerable people, better coordination, and greater accountability.

The comprehensive policy approach underscores both the U.S. and global commitment to achieving food security benefits through partnerships with countries, the private sector, and civil society.

### Background and Purpose

Despite significant increases in agricultural spending and productivity in recent years, the 19 Feed the Future focus countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America still have a variety of agricultural policies that inhibit the effectiveness of agricultural investment in accelerating inclusive growth and achieving impact at scale. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) estimates that with the right policies in place, public agricultural investments could be 20 to 30 percent more efficient, allowing countries to leverage their investments to accelerate growth and poverty reduction.

Recognizing the importance of addressing these binding policy constraints, Feed the Future countries have identified a set of key policy actions that need to be advanced to maximize returns on agricultural investments and accelerate the achievement of their Millennium Development Goals (MDG) poverty and hunger reduction targets.



### A Framework for Improved Policy

A Policy Guide has been released that provides guidance to U.S. Government agencies active in policy investments to strengthen partner-country policy institutions and processes through coordinated actions that support:

- Country ownership of sustainable policy change processes and outcomes; and
- Greater civil society and private sector participation in policy systems.

A series of policy briefs explores topics critical to advancing food security.



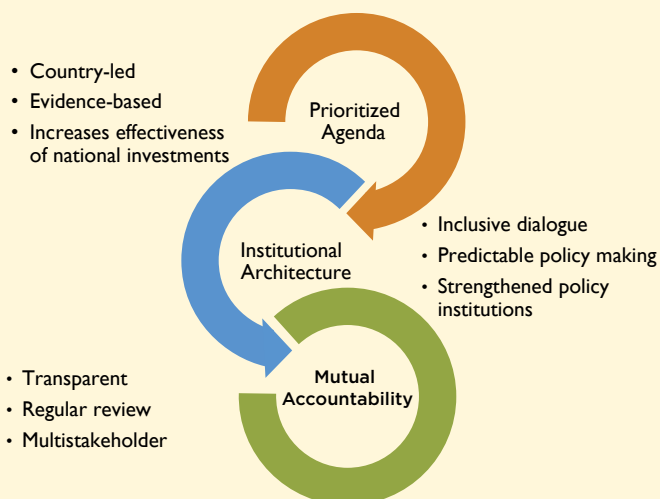
In Africa, under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), governments, development partners, and private companies have prioritized the policy and regulatory reforms needed to enhance the performance of national agricultural investments and improve incentives for private sector investment. The Feed the Future Policy Guide incorporates these CAADP policy priorities and builds on country-led processes that involve the African Union, regional organizations, national governments, the private sector, civil society, and non-state actors in a dialogue to establish clear national agricultural policies and joint accountability for accelerated reductions in poverty and hunger.

## Policy Elements

Policy consists of laws, regulations, and administrative actions that are formulated to direct and induce actions in pursuit of long-term goals. Policy includes the approaches, processes, and activities that are coordinated to achieve the policy objectives. Effective policy formulation and institutionalization is constructed with three basic building blocks to achieve impact at scale. No single building block can succeed in achieving sustainable policy change, but together they can have greater impact on reducing hunger than has been seen before.

1. A prioritized agenda of key policy actions needed to maximize the food security impact of agricultural programs and stimulate greater private investment in the sector. Using country policy priorities and evidence-based analysis, Feed the Future has identified seven priority areas likely to have the greatest impact on reducing poverty and hunger.
2. An institutional architecture for predictable, transparent, inclusive, and evidence-based policy formulation and implementation. Institutions (public, private, and civil society) are the fundamental drivers of policy change. Strengthening and reforming key policy institutions is critical to achieving improved policy outcomes. This approach builds on and deepens host country and regional capacity for data collection and evidence-based policy analysis, while also building stronger platforms for inclusive policy dialogue, decision-making, and monitoring of policy impacts.
3. Mutual accountability is a transparent, inclusive, and continual process of managing for development results through stakeholder commitment to actions aligned with the National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (NAFSIP), and reporting

### Feed the Future Policy Elements



on the execution of those commitments and their joint impact on poverty and hunger. A key element in the mutual accountability process is the annual Joint Sector Review which assesses commitments and progress made in the past year. More importantly, it provides an inclusive forum for refining plans and commitments to accelerate progress in the coming year.

## Feed the Future Priorities

SECTORS	OBJECTIVES
Institutional Architecture for Improved Policy Formulation	Develop predictable, transparent, inclusive evidence-based policy.
Enabling Environment for Private Sector Investment	Increase competitiveness and reduce barriers to stimulate investment in agriculture.
Agricultural Trade Policy	Increase efficiency, stability, and transparency in domestic and cross-border trade.
Agricultural Inputs Policy	Enable the private sector to develop, commercialize, and broadly disseminate improved inputs.
Land and Natural Resources Tenure, Rights, and Policy	Establish effective institutional arrangements, rules, and mechanisms that recognize the legitimate land and resource rights of all users.
Resilience and Agricultural Risk Management Policy	Enable smallholders, communities, and countries to mitigate and recover from risks, shocks, and stresses to agriculture.
Nutrition Policy	Reduce undernutrition with a focus on women and children, especially children younger than 2 years.

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