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Feed the Future 2012 Milestones

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Now in its third year of implementation, President Obama's signature global hunger and food security initiative has made critical progress over the course of 2012 thanks to coordinated efforts from across the U.S. Government, as well from our partners around the world and across multiple sectors. In this issue, Feed the Future looks back at some important highlights from the past year, while also looking to the challenges ahead as we continue the fight to end poverty, hunger and undernutrition.

Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index Launched

In February, Feed the Future launched the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index, the first-ever measure to directly capture women's empowerment and inclusion levels in the agriculture sector.

FEBRUARY

U.S. African Development Foundation Reaches 32,000 Beneficiaries

In 2012, the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) reached 32,000 smallholder farmers and processors involved in agricultural services through Feed the Future grants. This year, USADF funded 57 new Feed the Future projects aimed at directly empowering communities in 10 African countries to improve production and economic outcomes.

Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth Launched in Nairobi

In April, USAID joined the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, African partners and other members of the international community in announcing a new global partnership to

APRIL

Feed the Future Fully Integrating SUN Principles in Fourteen Countries

In September, USAID Administrator Shah announced that USAID is working to ensure that the principles and programmatic priorities of SUN are fully integrated across all relevant programs in the areas where Feed the Future and the Global Health Initiative jointly operate.

G-20 Establishes Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists

In September, the G-20 convened the first Meeting of the G-20 Agricultural Chief Scientists, who will meet annually to identify global research priorities and targets, facilitate collaboration, and track progress on established goals.

Secretary Clinton Announces \$1 Billion Commitment from Civil Society Organizations for Food Security

In September, on the margins of the 67th UN General Assembly, Secretary Clinton announced that InterAction, an alliance of 198 U.S.-based international NGOs, would pledge more than \$1 billion in private, non-governmental funds over three years to improve food security and nutrition worldwide.

Feed the Future Meets 2009 L'Aquila Pledge

At the 2009 G-8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, President Obama announced at least \$3.5 billion in U.S. investment in global food security, helping to leverage more than \$18 billion from G-8 governments and other donors and laying the foundation for Feed the Future. In December 2012, the U.S. announced that, thanks to Congressional support, the United States met President Obama's pledge by obligating over \$3.7 billion toward food security.

New Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Center to Scale Up Agricultural Research and Development

The new Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Center was highlighted in a speech at the International Food Policy Research Institute. The Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Center enables strengthened coordination across seven programmatic areas of the Feed the Future research portfolio to help maximize impact against global hunger, poverty, and undernutrition.

Wheat Genome Sequenced in Breakthrough for Global Food Security

Sequencing the wheat genome, which was unusually daunting because it is five times the size of the human genome, is expected to increase wheat yields, help feed the world and speed up development of wheat varieties with enhanced nutritional value.

DECEMBER

SEPTEMBER

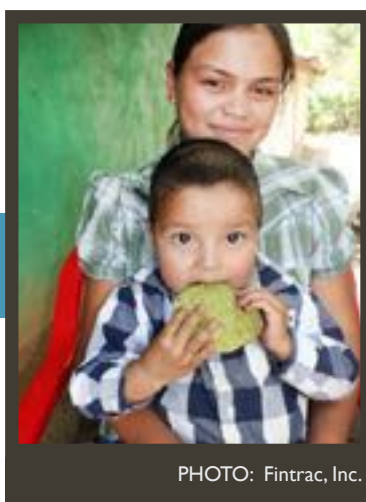


PHOTO: Fintrac, Inc.

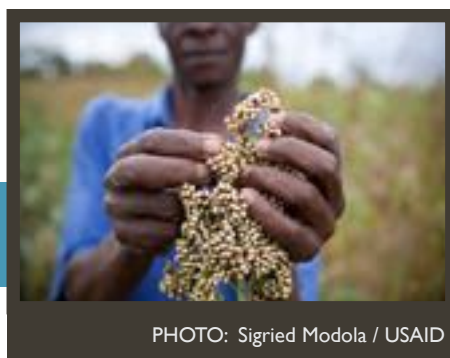


PHOTO: Sigried Modola / USAID



PHOTO: USADF



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PHOTO: Fintrac, Inc.



PHOTO: Fintrac, Inc.

MAY

Feed the Future Monitoring System Promotes Transparency, Accountability

The Feed the Future Monitoring System helps Feed the Future remain transparent and accountable by capturing performance information against key indicators. In 2012, data collected from five different U.S. Government agencies on activities that took place in FY 2011 formed the basis for the first Feed the Future Progress Report and Scorecard released in October; this is the first time the interagency has reported into a common monitoring and evaluation system on food security.

President Obama Launches New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition to Raise 50 Million Out of Poverty

In May, on the eve of the 2012 G-8 Summit, President Barack Obama announced that G-8 and African leaders would commit to the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which aims to achieve sustained and inclusive agricultural growth and raise 50 million people out of poverty over ten years.

Committee on World Food Security Endorses Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure Governance

The guidelines were the result of an unprecedented inclusive negotiation process that was chaired by the United States and involved 96 national governments, more than 25 civil society organizations, the private sector, nonprofits and farmer associations. Secure tenure rights create better environments for investments in agriculture, reduce land-related conflicts, promote improved natural resource management, and address challenges related to global climate change.

Peace Corps Adds 1,000 Feed the Future Volunteers

In May, the Peace Corps reaffirmed its commitment to food security at an event in Washington, DC highlighting plans to provide enhanced food security training to more than 1,000 Peace Corps volunteers in support of Feed the Future. In partnership with USAID, the Peace Corps is increasing the capacity of its volunteers to make sustainable changes to the ways in which local people cultivate their food, address water shortages and feed their families.

Overseas Private Investment Corporation Quadruples Agriculture Portfolio, Sees Bumper Year for Sustainable Agriculture

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) reported a bumper year in the sustainable agriculture sector for 2012 after its agriculture portfolio skyrocketed to nearly \$400 million for the year, up from less than \$50 million the year before.

U.S. Announces New Pledge to Global Agriculture and Food Security Program

In October, Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner pledged additional support for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), announcing that the United States is prepared to contribute \$1 to GAFSP for every \$2 committed by other donors, up to a total U.S. contribution of \$475 million.

First Feed the Future Progress Report and Scorecard are Released

In October, Feed the Future released its first Progress Report, which highlights progress the initiative has achieved on food security and nutrition from May 2009 through May 2012, as well as the first Feed the Future Scorecard, which tracks how well the U.S. Government is improving our development and engagement process to more effectively meet our goals.

Millennium Challenge Corporation Releases First Five Agriculture Impact Evaluations

In October, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) released its first set of independent impact evaluations for farmer training activities in five countries that hold MCC compacts. The impact evaluations monitor MCC progress in meeting project targets and test how project outcomes translate into farm income and ultimately household income.

OCTOBER

2012



FEED THE FUTURE

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

Connect with us:



Feed the Future in the Field

In 2012, we featured dozens of stories about the difference Feed the Future is making in people's lives around the world. Read on to look back on some of the year's exciting progress on food security in our partner countries.

Click on the underlined text in each snapshot to read full stories.

In July, President Otto Pérez Molina of Guatemala officially launched the nation's "[Zero Hunger Plan](#)," the first long-term national food security strategy in Guatemala to commit to measurable objectives. Feed the future is working in tandem with the Government of Guatemala to combat food insecurity among the country's most vulnerable households.

In Mali, what started as Maimouna Sidibé Coulibaly's home-based seed business has grown into [Faso Kaba Seed Company](#), which produces and sells enough seed to feed an estimated half a million Malians each year. In 2012, with assistance from Feed the Future, Faso Kaba produced and sold more than 1,000 tons of seed – ten times what the company sold when it was started in 2007.

During the last planting season in Senegal, Feed the Future supported almost 4,000 producers with a [new high-yielding rice variety](#). Smallholder farmers who were once unable to grow enough rice even for household consumption are now growing enough to sell surplus crops and seeds, generating extra income for things like sending their children to school.

In West Africa, new [insect-resistant varieties of cowpea](#) are helping to reduce significant losses in yield due to better technology to combat pest and diseases. Cowpea is an important staple in the diet of more than 200 million households in sub-Saharan Africa.

In Nicaragua, the support from Feed the Future, [two new varieties of sorghum](#) were released in July that will be used to feed grazing livestock. The new varieties make the sorghum more digestible for animals, resulting in higher quality meat and milk that can boost the nutrition and earnings of smallholder farmers.

In April, the United States and Brazil formalized a [partnership to improve food security in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), beginning with a trilateral agreement with the Government of Haiti to improve agricultural practices and technologies. A recently established trilateral agreement with the Government of Honduras will increase agricultural production, decrease undernutrition, and promote renewable energy.

In August and September, the Governments of Ethiopia, Ghana and Tanzania [launched the first set of Cooperation Frameworks](#) under the New Alliance for food Security and Nutrition.

In October, [136 farmers in Ghana received claims](#) under a Feed the Future drought-index insurance scheme, marking the first time in the history of Ghana that the agriculture sector has received compensation for losses due to a shortfall in rain through such a program.

Across Eastern and Southern Africa, Feed the Future is [linking poor farmers with local, regional and international research partners](#) to better identify and integrate technologies that will help transform agricultural production on a wide scale.

In October, in Ethiopia, the African Union Commission launched the [Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa](#), which will help smallholder farmers in Africa combat contamination of crops. Aflatoxin make crops unsafe for human and livestock consumption.

In July, [President Joyce Banda of Malawi officially launched Feed the Future](#) in the country, noting the initiative's close ties to her own Presidential Initiative on Hunger and Poverty Reduction. Both initiatives focus on diversifying Malawian agriculture sector, with special emphasis on the legumes and [livestock value chains like dairy](#).

Tajikistan's Ministry of Agriculture recently released a crop assessment showing that farmers in Khatlon Province harvested a [record 553.8 thousand metric tons of wheat grain](#) during the 2012 season, thanks in large part to a new seed variety with strong disease resistance that produces high-quality flour for baking bread.

In Nepal, a Feed the Future program that started as a disaster recovery program for flood victims in 2008 has transitioned into improving the affordability, accessibility, and availability of nutritious food to rural households, enabling 7,600 farmers in commercial agriculture to [increase their net sales by 800 percent](#).

In Bangladesh, Feed the Future is working with the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia to [overcome challenges to agricultural production](#) with small-scale and appropriate machinery, and crop management practices that save time, soil moisture, and money.

In Cambodia, Feed the Future is working with the Global Climate change Initiative to [improve nutrition, income and resilience for 70,000 rural, smallholder households](#). Since the program began in 2010, it has better equipped 20,000 farmers to adapt to extreme weather events and generated income, food and employment for 8,500 households.

In Kenya, Feed the Future is working with financial institutions to support rural microenterprise, working closely with [USAID's Development Credit Authority](#) to expand commercial finance for smallholder farmers in key agricultural value chains. [New loan products have helped dairy farmers and increased investments have supported flower growers](#).