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## FEED THE FUTURE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE # 2

SEPTEMBER 2011

*Feed the Future is the U.S. government global hunger and food security initiative.*

*Please visit [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov) for more information.*

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### HIGHLIGHTS

*Hot Topics: Global Leaders in Food Security Convene in NYC*

### Administrator Shah Announces FWD Campaign to Engage Public on Famine in the Horn of Africa



[www.usaid.gov/fwd](http://www.usaid.gov/fwd)

On September 19, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah announced USAID's FWD Campaign at Mashable's Social Good Summit in New York City. FWD, which stands for "Famine, War, Drought," aims to raise awareness among the American public regarding the urgent crisis in the Horn of Africa. It also aims to unite individuals, NGOs, and corporations in responding to the crisis and promote the kinds of long-term measures to prevent famine that characterize Feed the Future. Through the FWD campaign, the American public will have greater access to information on how to get involved in the drought response and become part of the solution. Watch the [video](#) or learn more about the [FWD Campaign](#).

### Secretary Clinton and Administrator Shah Build the Business Case for Investing in Women and Agriculture

Global food production must increase by 70% by 2050 to meet changing demand and the needs of a fast-growing population, and women farmers are up to 30% less productive than men due to unbalanced allocation of resources. With these statistics and many more in mind, Secretary Clinton hosted "Women and Agriculture: A Conversation on Improving Global Food Security" on the margins of the 66<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly on September 19. The discussion, moderated by *New York Times* columnist Nick Kristof,

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highlighted the growing evidence for women's critical role in agricultural development and productivity, as well as the remaining gaps in knowledge that need to be addressed to improve policies and programs that advance global food security. The panelists consisted of leaders from government, civil society, and the private sector, including Reema Nanavatay, Director of Economic and Rural Development for the Self-Employed Women's Association of India; Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever; Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania; Kathy Spahn, President and CEO of Helen Keller International; and Dr. José Graziano da Silva, Assistant Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and former Brazilian Extraordinary Minister for Food Security (pictured below).



*Photo Credit: Michael Gross*

To further investment in women agricultural producers, Secretary Clinton announced [a new \\$5 million grant solicitation](#) under Feed the Future that will help develop innovative ways to increase gender equality in agriculture and land use, and to integrate gender effectively into agricultural development and food security programs. Administrator Shah closed the event, highlighting the new Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index, a tool for monitoring and evaluation that will be used to track performance on promoting women's empowerment in the agriculture sector in Feed the Future focus countries. *Read the event [transcript](#) and watch the Feed the Future [video](#) narrated by Matt Damon.*

## *Partnerships*

### **USAID Partnering with PepsiCo and World Food Programme on Chickpea Production in Ethiopia**

At the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting on September 21, USAID, [PepsiCo, Inc.](#), the PepsiCo Foundation, and the United Nations [World Food Programme](#) announced a new public-private partnership aimed at increasing chickpea production and improving long-term nutritional and food security in Ethiopia, Africa's largest chickpea producer. The three-pronged initiative, dubbed Enterprise EthioPEA, aims to: 1) use modern agricultural technology to drive a two-fold increase in the chickpea yield of 10,000 Ethiopian farmers; 2) establish a local source of high-nutrient, ready-to-use supplementary food for distribution to undernourished children; and 3) scale up and fortify Ethiopia's chickpea supply chain and markets.

This partnership is closely tied to [Feed the Future's commitment](#) to strengthen strategic coordination among diverse partners and stakeholders, and to comprehensively drive agricultural-led growth and improved nutrition, bridging the gap between humanitarian relief and sustainable development.

[WORLD FOOD PRIZE](#)

[WORLD FOOD DAY](#)

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## USDA Reduces Post-Harvest Losses in Ghana



*Photo Credit: Brian Guse, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service*

Like many developing countries, [Ghana](#) suffers from an estimated 30 to 40 percent grain and legume loss after harvest. Poor storage and handling not only result in crop losses, but also degrade food quality, nutritional value, and economic returns to farmers. In response, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and experts from three U.S. land-grant universities partnered with private and public stakeholders to conduct workshops aimed at improving post-harvest cereal management at both the farm and commercial warehouse levels in Ghana. By promoting sustainable, local best practices and introducing new technologies and improved management techniques, this program has better equipped Ghanaian farmers, entrepreneurs, and extension agents to share information and implement changes to reduce post-harvest losses. In line with Feed the Future's whole-of government approach, USDA also worked closely with [Peace Corps/Ghana](#) on this program, which will contribute to the foundation of a market system that includes quality standards for agricultural products. The resulting system will improve returns to farmers and increase overall food security and nutrition.

## Feed the Future Transforming Rice Production in Northern Ghana through ADVANCE Project

An important component of [Feed the Future in Ghana](#) is USAID's strategy to boost production, productivity, and quality of rice in the northern part of the country, where many farmers cannot access lucrative southern markets that demand rice of quality similar to Asian imports. To address these constraints, USAID's ADVANCE project is supporting Samsford Enterprise Limited, a local rice producer providing services to smallholders, to expand production of higher quality aromatic rice that can compete with imported rice. ADVANCE has facilitated seed acquisition and will support a Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer to assess Samsford's business plan and develop crop and cash flow analysis. ADVANCE is assisting many agribusinesses in a similar way. The project is being implemented by private nonprofit partner [ACDI/VOCA](#).

### Science & Technology in Agriculture

## USDA Assesses Statistical Systems for Monitoring Food Security in Tanzania & Ghana

In July and August, representatives from USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) undertook USAID-funded assessments of the agricultural statistics systems in [Tanzania](#) and [Ghana](#). The objective of the assessments was to determine the extent to which the countries' information systems are capable of generating the data that is needed for their governments to effectively monitor their food security

situation and for the foreign donor community to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions aimed at alleviating food shortages. The team aimed to identify strengths and weakness of the countries' data collection systems and recommend steps that might be taken to help strengthen them. Following the assessments, the team determined that there is significant room for capacity building and systems improvement in both countries. Officials in the Tanzanian and Ghanaian ministries and statistical agencies are committed to strengthening their systems for data collection and analysis, which are critical components of Feed the Future's approach to long-term food security.

## **AWARD Announces 70 Women Scientists as 2011 Fellowship Winners**

On August 11, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) announced 70 fellowship winners as part of its [African Women in Agricultural Research and Development \(AWARD\) program](#). AWARD is 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. Funded by USAID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, AWARD offers two-year fellowships focused on mentoring partnerships, science skills, and leadership development.

African women working in agricultural research and development from [Ethiopia](#), [Ghana](#), [Kenya](#), Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, [Rwanda](#), [Tanzania](#), [Uganda](#), and Zambia who have completed a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in selected disciplines are eligible to apply. For more information about AWARD, visit [www.awardfellowships.org](http://www.awardfellowships.org).

## **USDA Hosts Officials from Feed the Future Countries for Course on Plant Health Systems**

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently welcomed 16 plant quarantine officials from 12 countries to a course on Plant Health Systems in Raleigh, NC, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia, PA. The group included officials from Feed the Future countries of Haiti, [Bangladesh](#), and Cambodia. The training was developed by APHIS in response to frequent requests from foreign Ministries of Agriculture for tours of U.S. facilities to better understand the U.S. quarantine systems, and gave an overview of how these systems function. This information-sharing will help officials improve their capacity to benefit from international trade opportunities without putting domestic commodities at risk from plant pests or diseases.

## **FROM THE FIELD**

### **Ethiopian Land Tenure Program Improves Food Security by Increasing Agricultural Investment Incentives**

Land tenure has been a controversial issue in [Ethiopia](#) for decades. Under the socialist Dergue regime of the 1970s and 80s, forced redistribution of land by the government was commonplace. Insecurity of land rights and conflicts over land have been an unfortunate and enduring legacy, reducing incentives to invest in land and presenting a major hindrance to agricultural productivity and regional food security.

Over the past decade, however, USAID has engaged with the government of Ethiopia (GOE) in taking significant steps to address these problems. USAID's ELTAP and ELAP programs, designed by the Bureau of Economic Growth and Trade's Land Tenure Unit, have supported important institutional and policy



reforms, and pioneered a land certification methodology that the GOE is currently preparing to scale up across the country. This methodology provides farmers with land certificates verifying their rights and the location and boundaries of their parcels, with certificates issued jointly in the names of both husbands and wives in order to ensure the rights of women are protected. Farmers who have received their certificates report substantially less concern over losing their land, and have responded by taking a longer term view of production decisions, investing more in soil conservation and planting higher-value perennial crops. One study demonstrated that such measures resulted in a 45% increase in agricultural productivity.

## HEARD ON THE HILL

### Administrator Shah Joins Foreign Policy Roundtable in Minneapolis with Members of Congress and Civil Society

In late August, Administrator Shah traveled to Minneapolis to participate in a foreign policy Roundtable discussion with members of Congress, NGO representatives, and Somali community leaders regarding the famine in East Africa. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Reps. Keith Ellison (D-MN) and Tim Walz (D-MN) participated in the event. As part of the event, Dr. Shah announced an increase in United States humanitarian assistance to East Africa. In total, the United States is now providing more than \$600 million in aid, helping more than 4.6 million people suffering from the drought and famine in the Horn.

### USAID's Bureau for Food Security and U.S. Congressional Representatives Engage Diaspora and University Communities in Seattle

On August 30, USAID's Assistant to the Administrator in the Bureau for Food Security Paul Weisenfeld participated in an event with Seattle Somali, Ethiopian, and Kenyan diaspora community leaders focused on the drought and famine in the Horn of Africa. The event was hosted by Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA). Attendees included staff from the wider Washington delegation, including the offices of Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA), and Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA) as well as representatives of the African Chamber of Commerce and major NGOs in the Seattle area.

At Rep. Adam Smith's (D-WA) request, Weisenfeld also spoke at an event at the University of Washington on foreign assistance reform, principles in effectiveness, and the effect of reform on global development work. Rep. Smith and Kent Hill, Senior Vice President of World Vision (and former USAID Assistant Administrator), also spoke. Approximately 50 attendees from civil society and the academic community attended the event. Weisenfeld's remarks focused on USAID's reform efforts and implementing cost-effective programs, highlighting Feed the Future as an example of why long-term investments are critical to cost-effective, high-impact results over time.

## New on FeedtheFuture.gov

- [Fact Sheet: Horn of Africa Food Crisis](#)
- [Fact Sheet: U.S. Investments in Global Nutrition](#)
- [Multi-Year Strategy: Ethiopia](#)
- [Multi-Year Strategy: Ghana](#)
- [Multi-Year Strategy: Kenya](#)
- [Multi-Year Strategy: Rwanda](#)
- [Multi-Year Strategy: Uganda](#)

## DOING BUSINESS DIFFERENTLY

### USAID Guatemala Mission Releases Rural Value Chains Project Solicitation

Last month, USAID/Guatemala released the \$40 million Rural Value Chains Project RFA at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). This will be the Mission's flagship value chain project(s) under Feed the Future for priority value chains in the Western Highlands. It seeks to leverage the private sector and to improve food crop productivity in the context of home consumption and risk mitigation. The project also includes explicit guidelines on collaboration and reporting practices. Only local organizations are eligible to apply as the prime partner for the cooperative agreement(s) as per the guidelines of [USAID Forward](#). Proposals are due on October 3.

### Feed the Future in Rwanda Integrates Implementation and Procurement Reform into Host Government-Managed Program

USAID's Mission in [Rwanda](#), which launched its Feed the Future Multi-Year Strategy earlier this year, is supporting the government of Rwanda (GOR) in implementing the Program for Economic Progress & Productivity Enhancement in Rwanda (PEPPER). This program, which is managed by the GOR, promotes a private sector-led approach to improving the country's agricultural practices and land tenure security. In line with USAID's broader [Implementation and Procurement Reform \(IPR\) initiative](#), USAID/Rwanda is encouraging the GOR to focus on more detailed annual planning and budgeting, as well as strengthened systems for monitoring and evaluation. PEPPER disbursements will be made annually through the GOR's own financial management systems based on achievement of pre-agreed benchmarks.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October 11-14 (Des Moines, Iowa)**  
[Iowa Hunger Summit](#)  
[Global Harvest Initiative](#)  
[World Food Prize](#)
- **October 16 (Washington DC)**  
[World Food Day](#)
- **October 17-22 (Rome)**  
[Committee on World Food Security](#) – Food Price Volatility and Land Tenure
- **October 24 (Washington DC)**  
[World Food Program USA](#) Award Ceremony and Conference

## NEWS & MEDIA

### News

[USAID and Impact Investors Capitalize new Equity Fund for East African Agribusinesses](#)

September 28, 2011, Business Wire (Market Watch)

[Social Good Summit: Digital Philanthropy Grows Up](#)

September 27, 2011, Anne Nelson (PBS)

[World Bank raises Africa aid to \\$1.88 billion](#)

September 24, 2011, CNN Wires Staff (CNN)

[Agricultural Innovations for Global Food Security](#)

September 23, 2011, Isobel Coleman (Council on Foreign Relations)

[Hope In The Face Of Hunger: Women, Micronutrients, Conservation Could Fend Off Food Insecurity](#)

September 22, 2011, Lynne Peeples (Huffington Post)

[Clinton Vision of Helping the World](#)

September 22, 2011, Peter Fedynsky (Voice of America)

[PepsiCo to Foster Chickpeas in Ethiopia](#)

September 20, 2011, Stephanie Strom (NY Times)

#### *Op-Eds*

[On Top of Famine, Unspeakable Violence](#)

September 24, 2011, Nicholas Kristof (NY Times)

[United effort needed on long-term food strategy](#)

September 20, 2011, Jan O'Sullivan, Bev Oda, and Raj Shah (Irish Times)

#### *Blogs*

[The Passing of Dr. Wangari Maathai](#)

September 26, 2011 (DipNote)

[The Horn of Africa's Last Famine?](#)

September 23, 2011, Sam Dryden (USAID Impact)

[ONE's commitment to the Horn of Africa at the Clinton Global Initiative](#)

September 22, 2011, Michael Elliott (ONE)

[Secretary Clinton Delivers Remarks at High-Level Meeting on Nutrition](#)

September 21, 2011 (DipNote)

[Scaling Up Nutrition: Supporting country-led efforts to promote healthier lives](#)

September 20, 2011, Paul Weisenfeld (USAID Impact)

[Investing in Women to Change the World](#)

September 20, 2011, Caren Grown (USAID Impact)

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<http://www.feedthefuture.gov/newsletter.html>.