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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

USAID and DuPont Work with Government of Ethiopia to Improve Food Security



Khalid Bomba, CEO, Agriculture Transformation Agency, Ethiopia, James Borel, Executive Vice President, DuPont, and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah Credit: Ingrid Helsing Warner

Last week, on the margins of the [World Economic Forum Annual Meeting](#) in Davos, Switzerland, USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ethiopia and DuPont to boost maize harvests through increased use of hybrid maize seed, improved seed distribution, and post-harvest storage.

This agreement will implement one of DuPont's commitments in the Letter of Intent it signed as part of the [G-8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition](#),

specifically to improve productivity and profitability of smallholder maize farmers by scaling up a network for sustainable hybrid seed distribution in Ethiopia. The collaboration will advance agricultural development and food security goals set by the Government of Ethiopia and supported by USAID through Feed the Future, which is part of the U.S. contribution to the New Alliance. As a result, more than 30,000 smallholder maize farmers are expected to increase their productivity by up to 50 percent. [Read more.](#)

[Jump to News & Media](#) in this issue to find blog posts on food security progress at the World Economic Forum in Davos or [click here](#) to read more Global Food Security Highlights!

FIELD STORIES

Feed the Future Groundnut Grants Improve Local Value Chains at the Grassroots Level

With grants provided by Feed the Future through the U.S. African Development Foundation, 1,800 smallholder farmers in Zambia's Eastern Province are strengthening their capacity to supply groundnuts to oil and nut butter processors, translating into improved food security, nutrition and economic opportunities. [Read more.](#)

Learn more about [USADF-Zambia](#) or follow USADF on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for photos of USADF groundnut projects in Zambia.

[Click here](#) to read more Field Stories!



Small-scale farmer Regina Mwale poses in front of her groundnut crop, which she intends to sell to her local association for profit thanks to Feed the Future. Credit: USADF

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GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

In Ethiopia, First Feed the Future Peace Corps Volunteers Sworn In



In Ethiopia, 52 new Feed the Future Peace Corps Volunteers will support food security programming. *Credit: U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia*

On December 14, U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth administered the oath of service to 52 new Feed the Future Peace Corps Volunteers. The group is comprised of 36 Health Volunteers and 16 Agriculture and Environment Volunteers. Under Feed the Future, both sets of Volunteers will receive technical training to support food security programs in Ethiopia and will work to improve nutrition, agricultural production, livelihoods, and disaster resilience at the grassroots level, especially for women and children. Feed the Future will also support training for Volunteers' partners in regional training centers and will provide grant funding for small projects. [Read the full press release.](#)

Under Feed the Future, and with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Peace Corps is providing enhanced food security training to [more than 1,000 Peace Corps Volunteers](#) around the world. [Jump to Field Stories](#) in this issue to learn more about a recent training workshop for Peace Corps staff held in Tanzania!

U.S. Ambassador David Lane Leads Food Security-Focused Media Tour to Tanzania and Malawi

From January 7 – 15, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome David J. Lane led a [media tour to Tanzania and Malawi](#) that focused on food security. Seven international journalists accompanied him on the tour, which included visits to Feed the Future and World Food Program projects. As part of this tour, Ambassador Lane visited the farm of Augustino Olturia (pictured right) who, along with the other 39 members of the Oitera Village Farmer's Group, is practicing new planting methods introduced by a Feed the Future program in Tanzania. These practices help him improve the yield on his tomato, pepper and onion fields in Tanzania.

[Learn more](#) about Ambassador Lane's media tour or follow the U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for photos of his visits to Tanzania and Malawi.



Augustino Olturia is improving his yields with assistance from Feed the Future. *Credit: Sharon Ketchum, USUN Rome*

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[REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: FEED THE FUTURE FOOD SECURITY INNOVATION LAB – COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ON SORGHUM AND MILLET](#)

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[FEEDING THE WORLD: ACCELERATING GLOBAL COLLABORATION ON FOOD SECURITY](#)

[MANAGING RISK IN THE 21st CENTURY: AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FORUM 2013](#)

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USAID Partners with Nigerian Government to Increase Private Financing for Nigerian Agriculture



Dr. Akinwumi Adeshina, Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture, hands a bag of rice to Administrator Rajiv Shah. Credit: U.S. Embassy in Nigeria

This month, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah visited Abuja, Nigeria and met with government officials to launch a groundbreaking partnership that is expected to leverage up to \$100 million in commercial lending for the country's agriculture sector.

Under the agreement, USAID's [Development Credit Authority](#) will mobilize private financing through local lenders to help first-time

borrowers in Nigeria access credit. The Central Bank of Nigeria will provide risk mitigation, financing, trading and other strategic assistance to agribusiness in Nigeria to spur lending in agriculture. [Read more.](#)

U.S. and India Partner to Improve Agricultural Productivity in African Countries

On January 16, U.S. Department of State Special Representative for Global Food Security (Acting), Jonathan Shrier, and the Indian Ministry of Agriculture's Joint Secretary for Information Technology and Extension, Sanjeev Gupta, visited the first agricultural training program of the India-U.S.-Africa triangular partnership. This partnership aims to improve agricultural productivity, strengthen agricultural value chains, and support market institutions in Kenya, Liberia and Malawi. The U.S. Government is funding this training program through Feed the Future. [Read the full press release.](#)



U.S. Special Representative for Global Food Security Jonathan Shrier delivers remarks at the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management in India. Credit: U.S. Department of State

[Read Jonathan Shrier's remarks](#) at the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management during his recent trip to India.

New Pesticides Law Promotes Trade in Central America and the Caribbean

On December 13, the Central American Customs Union (CACU) signed a new law on biological pesticides that standardizes minimum and maximum levels for the presence of microorganisms and specifies requirements for food safety. Bio-pesticides help manage pests by using other microorganisms (rather than synthetic pesticides) to protect plants.



The Central American Customs Union will implement a new law on biological pesticides starting in June 2013. Credit: SIECA

This law, set to go into effect in June 2013, is critical to improving the viability of businesses in Central America and the Caribbean that are part of the horticulture value chain. Export-oriented horticulture is a major focus of Feed the Future in this region, where many smallholder producers rely on horticulture for their livelihoods. [Read more.](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

Feed the Future Support for Pest Management Pays Off for Papaya Farmers in Asia



Papaya plantation infected with mealybug.
Credit: Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Laboratory: Collaborative Research on Integrated Pest Management

A new impact assessment on a Feed the Future research project shows benefits of over \$104 million in controlling the papaya mealybug, a major economic pest, from destroying papaya crops in India. USAID's investment in the Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Laboratory: Collaborative Research on Integrated Pest Management (commonly referred to as IPM) has paid for itself through a single biological pest intervention, which is also reaping benefits that are

saving the papaya industry and spurring private sector growth in South Asia.

The Feed the Future IPM Innovation Laboratory was established in 1993 as the Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program and is a consortium of U.S. land-grant universities and national partners like USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, funded by USAID. The Laboratory raises the standard of living of people in developing countries, including Feed the Future focus countries and strategic partner countries like India, by working with them to develop the best solutions to the agricultural challenges they face. [Read more.](#)

USDA Grants Will Support Research to Improve Common Bean

As part of the U.S. Government's efforts to help smallholder farmers lift themselves from poverty, Feed the Future is supporting five new research projects on the common bean, an important staple crop produced throughout food-insecure areas of the world, including East and Southern Africa.

In December, in partnership with USAID under Feed the Future and as part of the [USAID-USDA Norman Borlaug Commemorative Research Initiative](#), USDA awarded five grants totaling \$4.5 million to support research on improving the common bean.

Cornell University, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, and the University of Nebraska will conduct research that aims to make the common bean more resistant to soil-borne pathogens and will develop new methods to improve and transform the common bean through better breeding practices. [Read more.](#)

Nutrition Training Builds Skills and Expertise in Nepal

The Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Laboratory: Collaborative Research on Nutrition is advancing Nepal's capacity to address food insecurity and undernutrition by designing and implementing training programs for individuals across sectors.

With input from partners and the Government of Nepal, the Laboratory has trained participants from government, academia and the NGO community, increasing their skills in areas ranging from grant writing to advanced methodologies for applied research and nutrition programming. Nearly half of the trainees have been women. [Read more.](#)



Sujay Bhattacharya participated in the Johns Hopkins Summer Institute of Epidemiology and Biostatistics with support from Feed the Future. Now he works in Nepal's Ministry of Health. Credit: Amod Poudyal / JHU

FIELD STORIES (cont.)

Innovative Loan Program Increases Financial Access for Kenya's Poorest Farmers



After participating in a Feed the Future loan program, Robai Nyongesa drastically increased her maize yield and is selling the surplus to improve the house she lives in with her children. Credit: Stephanie Hanson / One Acre Fund

Robai Nyongesa is a smallholder farmer living in Western Kenya. In years past, Nyongesa struggled to grow enough to feed her three children. Despite her best efforts, she could only harvest four bags of maize on her acre of land.

Today, Nyongesa is a beneficiary of a Feed the Future project that addresses risk aversion among smallholder farmers by providing inputs like seeds and fertilizer on loan, training in new farming methods, and market linkages. [Read more.](#)

Feed the Future Provides Tanzania Horticulture Association with \$4 Million Grant

In December 2012, Feed the Future awarded a four-year, \$4 million grant to the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) to help develop the country's horticulture sector. This commitment is part of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition launched at the G-8 summit in May 2012.



Mr. Ngalo, the TAHA chairman, and Mission Director Rob Cunnane shake hands after the signing of the TAHA Grant, while SAGCOT CEO Geoffrey Kiregna (left), Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture Mohammed Muya (Center), and TAHA CEO Jacqueline Mkindi (right) observe. Credit: USAID/Tanzania

TAHA provides technical support, market analysis and political advocacy services to a wide range of Tanzanian businesses in the horticulture sector. The Feed the Future grant will support TAHA in expanding its membership and services to the [Southern Agriculture Growth Corridor of Tanzania](#) (SAGCOT), a region identified by the Government of Tanzania as having great potential for growth in horticulture. [Read more.](#)

Cambodian Minister of Women's Affairs Visits Feed the Future Projects



Cambodian Minister of Women's Affairs Ing Kantha Phavy (left) hears from Mrs. Ly Touch (right) about the training she received from Feed the Future. Credit: USAID/Cambodia

In December, the Cambodian Minister of Women's Affairs Ing Kantha Phavy saw firsthand how Feed the Future is helping Cambodian women become better farmers, successful entrepreneurs and forces for positive change in their communities.

During site visits to Feed the Future projects, she heard directly from women whose lives had been changed by improved agricultural practices and income generation skills they learned from Feed the Future. [Read more.](#)

Dollars to Results: Feed the Future Investments in Agriculture Yield Results in Ghana



Did you know that every one percent increase in agricultural income per capita reduces the number of people living in extreme poverty by between 0.6 and 1.8 percent? In Ghana, Feed the Future investments in 2011 helped more than 12,000 vulnerable households through project activities and

trainings, and resulted in over \$46 million in incremental sales of crops.

Click on the image above to check out USAID's pilot "[Dollars to Results](#)" project and see how Feed the Future is making a difference for smallholder farmers in Ghana and other developing countries around the world.

Peace Corps Staff Receive Training on Food Security in Tanzania

Peace Corps staff came together in Tanzania recently to strengthen their work in food security. In collaboration with Feed the Future, the four-day workshop held November 12-16 included staff from over 25 overseas posts and aimed to strengthen the Peace Corps' work in food security by fostering collaboration and building synergies, both within each country team and across posts. [Read more.](#)

HEARD ON THE HILL

Feed the Future Deputy Coordinators Testify on Progress to Date

On November 28, Acting Special Representative for Global Food Security Jonathan Shrier and Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Development Tjada McKenna served as witnesses for a hearing in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection. Senators Ben Cardin, Richard Lugar, and Bob Casey presided over the hearing, titled "Evaluating Current U.S. Global Food Security Efforts and Determining Future U.S. Leadership Opportunities." [Read more.](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Request for Applications: Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Lab – Collaborative Research on Sorghum and Millet

USAID recently released a request for proposals to manage the Feed the Future Sorghum and Millet Innovation Lab. Applications may only be submitted by eligible U.S. colleges and universities. The closing date for applications is March 8, 2013. [Read more.](#)

Request for Applications: Powering Agriculture

[Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development](#) has released its first request for proposals. Powering Agriculture is currently offering awards of between \$300,000 and \$1,500,000 for innovative, market-based, clean energy solutions for farmers and agribusinesses at all points along the agricultural value-chain – from growing and harvesting to processing and storing food. The closing date for applications is February 6, 2013. [Learn more or apply.](#)

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 29 – 31 (Accra, Ghana)**
[Food Across Borders: Improving Food Security through Regional Trade in West Africa](#)
- **January 30 (Amsterdam)**
[Feeding the World: Accelerating Global Collaboration on Food Security](#)
- **February 21 – 22 (Arlington, Virginia)**
[Managing Risk in the 21st Century: Agricultural Outlook Forum 2013](#)

NEWS & MEDIA

News

['World needs to work together to feed itself' – Cargill's Greg Page](#)
January 24, 2013 (BBC News Network)

[Kerry Offers View of U.S. Role in More Interconnected World](#)
January 24, 2013 (IIP Digital)

[Anti-hunger campaign 'If' launches with call for G8 to act](#)
January 22, 2013, Liz Ford (Global Development)

[UN and Partners Launch Global Campaign to Reduce Food Waste](#)
January 22, 2013 (UN News Center)

[Video: Feed the Future: An Updated From the Field](#)
January 10, 2013 (Center for Strategic & International Studies)

[For the First Time 136 Ghanaian smallholder farmers receive insurance claims](#)
January 05, 2013, Ekow Quandzie (Ghana Business News)

Op-Eds

[Bill Gates: How to Fix World's Biggest Problems](#)
January 25, 2013, Bill Gates (Wall Street Journal)

[Tackling the Food Security Nexus: Achieving More with Less](#)
January 22, 2013, Gordon Conway and Liz Wilson (Guardian)

Blogs

[Principles and Practice for Resilience, Food Security and Nutrition](#)
January 25, 2013, Ertharin Cousin, Jose Graziano da Silva and Kanayo F. Nwanze (Huffington Post)

[Why Davos Can Nourish Conversations, Partnerships...And People Too](#)
January 24, 2013, Stephan Tanda (1,000 Days)

[Reporting on the U.S. Fight Against World Hunger](#)
January 23, 2013, David Lane (U.S. Department of State DipNote)

[Can Partnerships Feed the World?](#)
January 18, 2013, Lisa Dreier (World Economic Forum)

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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