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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.

FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS

UN Announces Appointment of Ertharin Cousin as WFP Executive Director

The United Nations recently announced the appointment of [Ertharin Cousin](#) as the new executive director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP). Ambassador Cousin, currently the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture (FAO), is expected to assume this position in April when outgoing WFP Executive

Director Josette Sheeran moves to her [new position](#) as vice chair for the World Economic Forum.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton expressed her confidence that Ambassador Cousin "will continue to be a powerful voice in the global fight against hunger and lend her energy, optimism and experience to the World Food Programme."

"I am proud to join Secretary Clinton in supporting Ambassador Cousin as she takes on this important role," said USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah. "Ambassador Cousin is building upon a strong legacy of leadership and accomplishment by the current executive director, Josette Sheeran, whom we congratulate as she prepares for her new role at the World Economic Forum."

[Visit FeedtheFuture.gov to read more on this story.](#)



Image credit: U.S. State Department

GAFSP Launches Third Public Sector Window Call for Proposals

The [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#) (GAFSP) is a multilateral mechanism to assist in implementing pledges made by the G8 at the L'Aquila



Summit in 2009, with the intent of making investments in agriculture and food security more strategic in developing countries. On January 10, the GAFSP Steering Committee launched the third [Public Sector Window Call for Proposals](#), funded by the U.S., South Korea, and Australia. [Read more.](#)

[for Proposals](#), funded by the U.S., South Korea, and Australia. [Read more.](#)

Feed the Future Highlighted at UNFCCC COP-17 Conference in Durban

At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP-17 conference in Durban, the United States delegation held a day of side events focused on agriculture and food security. USDA organized or co-organized three sessions, including one on Feed the Future, one on the [Famine Early Warning System Network](#) (FEWS NET), and one on public-private partnerships to promote sustainable agriculture. [Read more.](#)

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Image credit: <http://www.cop17-cmp7durban.com/>



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U.S.-Rwanda Meeting on Trade and Investment Discusses Feed the Future Programs

In December, senior officials from the Departments of Agriculture, State, and USAID highlighted Feed the Future programs in Rwanda during the U.S.-Rwanda Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council meeting, chaired by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The Agreement Council provides a high-level forum for advancing a cooperative partnership on bilateral trade and investment issues. In Rwanda, Feed the Future is focused on enhancing the value chains in beans, maize, and dairy to improve the production of these staples. [Read more.](#)

Interagency Agreement between Peace Corps, USAID to Strengthen Food Security in Nepal

Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams and USAID Assistant Administrator for Asia Nisha Biswal signed an interagency agreement to re-establish a Peace Corps program in Nepal after a seven-year absence from the country. The first group of approximately twenty Peace Corps volunteers is scheduled to arrive in Nepal later this year and will be trained as Agriculture-Nutrition Extensionists, working with rural communities to build capacity in Global Health Initiative and Feed the Future priority areas. [Read more.](#)



Signing ceremony at Peace Corps headquarters in Washington DC. Photo credit: Peace Corps

Japan and the U.S. Join Forces to Advance Fight Against Global Hunger

A new strategic partnership between Japan and the U.S. aims to deliver outstanding results in the fight against global hunger. Building upon their individual comparative advantages, expertise, and combined resources, Japan and the U.S. have signed an agreement to work together in order to maximize the impact of their agricultural development and food security assistance to Africa. This collaboration will begin in four Feed the Future focus countries: Tanzania, Ghana, Rwanda, and Senegal. [Read more.](#)

At 2011 Ibrahim Forum, OPIC Discusses Investments in African Agriculture



Image credit:
www.moibrahimfoundation.org

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) showed its [commitment to food security](#) this past year through support of two private equity funds that target investments in agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa. These investments aligned closely with concerns discussed at the [2011 Ibrahim Forum](#) in Tunisia this past November. OPIC Executive Vice President Mimi Alemayehou was a panelist at the forum. [Read more.](#)

Feed the Future on "Transforming the Food Production System"



Photo credit:
State Department

Jonathan Shrier, acting Special Representative for Global Food Security at the Department of State, was a keynote panelist at the Royal Institute for International Affairs ("Chatham House") conference in London on "[Transforming the Food Production System](#)." Addressing an audience of civil society members, the private sector, universities, and governments, Shrier discussed areas of consensus and disagreement in this effort, and the comprehensive nature of effective food security interventions, highlighting unique aspects of Feed the Future. [Read more.](#)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

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[VOUCHER SCHEMES FOR ENHANCED FERTILIZER USE WEBINAR](#)

[LEVERAGING AGRICULTURE FOR NUTRITION OUTCOMES](#)

President Obama Announces Additional Emergency Relief Assistance for Horn of Africa

On December 22, President Obama issued a statement on the Horn of Africa crisis, thanking Americans for their support and donations to those in need and announcing an additional \$113 million in [emergency relief assistance for the Horn](#). Noting that the U.S. has provided approximately \$870 million for relief purposes to date, President Obama also highlighted the long-term food security investments the U.S. is making through Feed the Future. [Read more.](#)

FIELD STORIES

At Harvard Business School, Tanzanian Farmer Shares Successes of Feed the Future Program

In November, two Tanzanians working in agriculture traveled to the Harvard Business School to present on the role of smallholder Tanzanian farmers in agriculture. Nakoli Mgaya, a Lead Farmer under a Feed the Future program in Tanzania, and Shukrani Biseko, a Business Advisor for [TechnoServe](#), were invited to the Private and Public, Scientific, Academic and Consumer Food Group



Biseko and Mgaya examine avocados in an American supermarket. Mgaya farms avocados in rural Tanzania. Photo credit: USAID / Tanzania

conference at Harvard to give conference attendees firsthand perspectives on the design and implementation of programs under discussion. [Read more.](#)

Ambassador Rice Gets Firsthand Look at Food Security Activities in Rwanda



Photo credit: Sierra Fogal/MINAGRI

U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Susan Rice, traveled to Rwanda in November to learn more about the agriculture sector there. She visited the Masaka Dairy Development Center and the Dairy Quality Assurance Lab, as well as crop intensification sites in Rwanda's Northern Province. [Read more.](#)

Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Launched in Ghana Feed the Future to Integrate Nutrition and Food Security Efforts

In December, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement was launched in Ghana, where 28% of children under five suffer from stunting and 14% are underweight. At the official launch event, Ghana's First Lady and Minister of Women and Children was joined by USAID/Ghana Mission Director Cheryl Anderson, who remarked on the scientific evidence for how crucial it is to provide proper nutrition to mothers and children during the 1,000 day window between pregnancy and age two. [Read more.](#)



Photo credit: Alda Kauffeld / USAID

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In Honduras, Connecting U.S. Government Resources to Strengthen Food Security Efforts

A Feed the Future project in Honduras is building upon a previous program funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to make a difference in the lives of rural farmers. [Fintrac Inc.](#), who implemented the MCC program, is now leading a Feed the Future project that aims to lift rural households out of poverty through a combination of on-farm income generation, off-farm business, and employment generation. [Read more.](#)



Farmers who participated in an MCC-funded project in Honduras learn good agricultural practices. Some of these farmers are now transferring the knowledge they gained to other Honduran farmers involved in a current Feed the Future project. Photo credit: Fintrac Inc.

Ambassador Cousin Sees Local Progress on Food Security in Guatemala



Members of cooperative Agrícola Integra Mujeres Cuatro Pinos plant vegetables in central highlands of Guatemala in December 2011. Photo credit: U.S. Department of State

Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies in Rome, was recently in Guatemala for a [media tour](#) on the global fight against hunger. While there, she visited numerous food security project sites managed by the U.S. Government and the United Nations in cooperation with the Government of Guatemala, including the [Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture's training center](#) in Chimaltenango and the Integrated Women's Agricultural Cooperative, Cuatro Pinos (pictured above). [Read more.](#)

Best Practices in Cultivation Help Plantain Farmers in Haiti Increase Yields

Wilhelm Emile does not fit the typical revenue profile of the average Haitian farmer. With half a hectare of land, he reaches revenues of approximately \$5,000 (USD) per year, ten times that of an average farmer in the same region with the same amount of land. Wilhelm's success is due not only the crop he grows, plantains, but more importantly to his understanding of best practices to increase yields. [Read more.](#)



Photo credit: USAID/Haiti

Feed the Future Tanzania Hosts Partners Meeting in Arusha

From November 28 – November 30, the Tanzania Feed the Future team hosted its semi-annual partners meeting in Arusha. The meeting brought together over 120 participants, including Government of Tanzania representatives, private groups, and Feed the Future core implementing partners. [Read more.](#)

PRIVATE SECTOR

Cargill Rice Donation to Feed One Million People in the Horn of Africa

On November 29, [Cargill announced a donation of 10,000](#) metric tons of rice to support the World Food Program (WFP) USA's relief efforts in the Horn of Africa. The rice is expected to feed nearly 1 million people for a month. The donation grew out of an appeal from USAID Administrator Shah to get involved in the [FWD Campaign](#), which raises awareness about the crisis in the Horn of Africa and about longer-term solutions to alleviate poverty and hunger through Feed the Future. [Read more.](#)

Agricultural Development Credit Authority to Increase Access to Finance in Ethiopia



DCA signing ceremony in Ethiopia. Photo credit: USAID/Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, a new \$7.3 million loan portfolio guarantee has been established to increase access to finance for leasing companies and equipment suppliers, cooperative unions, and medium-scale farmers in targeted areas. This program complements activities under Feed the Future and aims to contribute to the development of a broader array of products in the agricultural financial sector,

while also creating a more competitive market environment for agriculturally-directed banking services. [Read more.](#)

New Private Sector-Focused Program to Help U.S., ASEAN Deepen Food Security Cooperation

Building on the strong support for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that President Obama reaffirmed at the ASEAN-United States Leaders Meeting in November, Feed the Future is launching a new program to help strengthen the regional organization's ability to ensure food security for its 600 million citizens. [Read more.](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

Feed the Future Announces Funding Opportunity to Advance Climate Resilient Cereals

The Bureau for Food Security at USAID is making a special call for concept papers related to Feed the Future's Research Strategy to advance the deployment of new climate resilient cereal varieties. Please view the [addendum listing](#) on Grants.gov for more information. The closing date for submissions is February 29, 2012. [Read more.](#)

Investing in Micronutrient-Fortified Food Aid Products to Improve Nutrition for Vulnerable Populations

On December 6, USDA announced [more than \\$8.5 million in grants](#) to help six organizations develop improved micronutrient fortified food aid products under the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. Grant recipients will focus their efforts over the next three years in six countries, including five Feed the Future focus countries (Cambodia, Guatemala, Haiti, Mozambique, and Tanzania). [Read more.](#)

Science Envoy Travels to Bangladesh

U.S. Science Envoy Rita Colwell traveled to Bangladesh January 10-13, 2012, to meet with senior government officials and representatives from the scientific, education, nonprofit, and business communities. Dr. Colwell discussed cooperation on global health, climate change, Feed the Future, and women and youth in science. [Read more.](#)

Feed the Future Promotes Climate-Smart Agriculture through CAADP Workshop



Group photo of CAADP Workshop participants.
Photo credit: USAID

Representatives from eight Feed the Future focus countries recently gathered in Nairobi for a four-day workshop on climate change, water management, and natural resources management. The workshop participants received training on integrating climate-smart elements into the design of existing or proposed agricultural programs included in country and regional investment plans. [Read more.](#)

HEARD ON THE HILL

At Hill Briefing, Panel Discusses Food Insecurity and 1,000 Days

On December 8, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) hosted a briefing in partnership with the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Chairman Chris Smith. A panel of experts, including Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Development Tjada McKenna; 1,000 Days Executive Director Lucy Sullivan; Edesia Executive Director Navyn Salem; and Constituency Mobilization Manager for GAIN Adrianna Logalbo, discussed food insecurity and the critical 1,000 day window from pregnancy to age two. [Read more.](#)

DOING BUSINESS DIFFERENTLY

Feed the Future to Hold Consultative Knowledge Management Workshop with Stakeholders

Under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government is paying special attention to impact evaluation as a monitoring & evaluation tool. On June 27, 2011, a consultative meeting with Feed the Future stakeholders explored research gaps and best practices for designing impact evaluations. On January 30, 2012, a second consultation meeting with stakeholders will take place to elicit input on the impact evaluation process and results. [Read more.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 25 – 29 (Davos)**
[World Economic Forum Annual Meeting](#)
- **January 25 (Washington DC)**
[Voucher Schemes for Enhanced Fertilizer Use: Lessons Learned and Policy Implications \(Webinar\)](#)
- **February 2 (Washington DC)**
[Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition Outcomes](#)
- **February 22 (Washington DC)**
[Feed the Future Public-Private Partnership Technical Forum](#)

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[UN Announces Appointment of Ertharin Cousin as World Food Programme Executive Director](#)

January 17, 2012

[Howard G. Buffett Foundation, Borlaug Institute collaborate to advance African agriculture, fight hunger](#)

January 17, 2012 AgriLife Today

[Climate Proposal Puts Practicality Ahead of Sacrifice](#)

January 16, 2012, John Tierney

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January 12, 2012, Mark Feierstein

[Haiti – Two Years Post-Earthquake: What You May Not Know](#)

January 9, 2012, Cheryl Mills

Blogs

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January 10, 2012, Jonathan Shrier

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