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# FEED THE FUTURE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE # 3

OCTOBER 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: October Events Put International Spotlight on Global Hunger and Food Security Issues](#)

### Public and Private Sector Leaders Honor Gates and Buffett at WFP-USA Global Hunger Conference

On October 24, [World Food Program USA](#), a U.S.-based non-profit focused on building support for the UN World Food Programme (WFP), hosted 250 business and NGO leaders, members of the media, senior administration officials, Members of Congress, and other dignitaries at the George McGovern



Gates, Clinton, Buffett, & Sheeran at Global Hunger Conference  
Photo Credit: Michael Gross, U.S. Department of State

Leadership Award ceremony and Global Hunger Conference in honor of Howard G. Buffett, president of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, and Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. [Read more.](#)

### World Food Day 2011: Feed the Future Leadership Reaffirms U.S. Government Commitment to Combatting Global Hunger



Design Credit: Ted Ergi

World Food Day, which takes place every year on October 16 in recognition of the founding of the [UN Food and Agriculture Organization](#) in 1945, is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding, and informed, year-round action to alleviate hunger. This year, the event has particular significance in light of the severe drought in the [Horn of Africa](#) and famine in parts of Somalia that are threatening millions of lives. To help prevent such crises from happening in the first place, Feed the Future is advancing agricultural development to sustainably improve economic, environmental, and human security. Leaders from across the U.S. government took the opportunity this year on World Food Day to emphasize how critical these investments are, not only to save and improve lives all over the world, but to advance security and prosperity in the United States. [Read more.](#)

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## Agriculture and Food Security Take Center Stage at World Food Prize Week in Des Moines

*World Food Prize Week took place from October 10-14 in Des Moines, Iowa, where hundreds of leaders and experts in policy, industry, and research from all over the world convened to discuss global food security and agriculture.*

### Secretary Vilsack Moderates High-Level Panel on Sustainable

**Growth:** At the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [World Food Prize](#), U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack moderated a panel entitled, "Sharing Agricultural Knowledge to Drive Sustainable Growth." [Read more.](#)



*Photo Credit: Jim Heemstra, World Food Prize (Courtesy of USDA)*

**Research & Capacity Building Highlighted at BIFAD Event:** Ten representatives from the USAID's Bureau for Food Security (BFS) and the Department of State attended events and stakeholder meetings in Des Moines around the World Food Prize. On October 11, USAID's presidentially appointed [Board for International Food and Agricultural Development](#) hosted an event entitled, "The Next Generation: Global Food Security through Human and Institutional Capacity Building." [Read more.](#)

**U.S. Department of Agriculture Supports Future Scientific Leaders through Borlaug Fellowship Program:** Forty Borlaug Fellows from twenty-one countries as distant as Azerbaijan and Zambia were in Des Moines to attend the [Borlaug International Symposium and World Food Prize ceremony.](#) [Read more.](#)

### *Partnerships*

## Food Security Highlighted During USAID's Public-Private Partnership Week



As part of USAID's [50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#), the Agency celebrated [Public-Private Partnership Week](#) from October 17-21 to highlight the mutual benefit that development and business have in establishing public-private partnerships (PPP) and to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Global Development Alliance](#) program. [Read more.](#)

## USAID and Swiss Re Announce Partnership Around Feed the Future & Global Climate Change Initiative

On October 20, USAID and Swiss Re announced a three-year partnership to help vulnerable communities across the globe fight hunger, build resilience to climate change, and reduce the costs of natural disasters. The new partnership brings the expertise of [Swiss Re](#), an international leader in innovative risk management instruments, to both Feed the Future and the Global Climate Change Initiative. [Read more.](#)

[IBRAHIM FOUNDATION  
CONFERENCE,  
"AFRICAN  
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## *Science & Technology in Agriculture*

### Grants Awarded to Support Horticultural Research in Developing Countries

The [Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program](#)

(HortCRSP), funded by USAID, has awarded \$2 million to support two new comprehensive and wide-reaching projects to improve livelihoods through horticulture in the developing world. At \$1 million each, the three-year projects add a research-based approach to horticultural development by focusing on seed systems and African indigenous vegetables in seven Feed the Future focus countries. [Read more.](#)



### Feed the Future Hosts Research Symposia in San Antonio

From October 16-19, the [American Society of Agronomy](#), [Crop Science Society of America](#), and [Soil Science Society of America](#) held their [Annual Meetings](#) in San Antonio, TX, hosting more than 4,000 scientists, professionals, educators, and students. USAID's Bureau for Food Security (BFS) organized two symposia during the Annual Meetings to increase understanding of the strides being made under Feed the Future to improve agriculture through research and innovation. The first symposium, "Sustainable Intensification and the Feed the Future Initiative: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward," presented research and impacts from sustainable intensification efforts in several major agro-ecosystems in Africa and South Asia. The second symposium, "Feed the Future's Global Research Agenda," discussed [Feed the Future's Research Strategy](#) and was moderated by [USDA's Agricultural Research Service](#) Administrator Edward Knipling. Presentations were made at both events by BFS staff, members of the university community, international research centers, and the private sector.

## FROM THE FIELD

### Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potatoes Tripling Farmers' Incomes in Kenya



*Photo Credit: Fintrac*

Orange-fleshed sweet potatoes represent a great opportunity for smallholders in [Kenya](#) – they provide higher income potential than traditional crops, adapt well to variable climates, and can be grown year-round.

Feed the Future has partnered with Sunripe to facilitate the Bondeni Self Help Group's access to high-quality planting material and improve their knowledge in crop production and management practices needed to grow orange-fleshed sweet potatoes successfully. This technical assistance has allowed the group to diversify into nursery seed multiplication to meet the growing demand for Tainung seedlings. Through field visits, demo plots, and vines purchase, over 4,000 farmers are benefiting directly through the group. Sunripe is providing a guaranteed market for orange-fleshed sweet potatoes and helping farmers reach its export target of 20,000 tons per week to the Middle East.

Feed the Future in Kenya reports that access to the new Tainung variety of Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato has enabled a group of 18 smallholder farmers in the Kidongo village of Kwale County to triple its income. Within one month, the Bondeni Self Help Group sold sweet potato vines worth approximately \$348 from just 0.75 of an acre. Orange



## Feed the Future Implementation in Tanzania Supports Growth of Agriculture & Agribusiness

Kongera Bosoro and Abdallah Francis Bosoro (pictured below) are a sister and brother who farm small plots of land on the Horticulture Maharaka site in [Tanzania](#). During the wet season they farm only maize, but during the dry season (June through October), tomatoes are their main crop and source of income. Through a partnership with [TechnoServe](#), USAID is assisting farmers in the Bosoros' village to improve production and agribusiness. Kongera has improved her yield from farming and Abdallah is using his augmented income to support his family's needs and to construct a new house.



*Photo credit: Paul Weisenfeld*

The Bosoros' village is just one example of Feed the Future implementation in Tanzania, where capacity building and investments in infrastructure are laying the foundation for food security-related activities that can be brought to scale over time. Feed the Future is also emphasizing locally developed out-grower models for potential expansion. For example, this year 1,350 small rice producers will be linked as out-growers to a modern rice farm located in the Morogoro region. The Morogoro region is part of the [Southern Agriculture Growth Corridor of Tanzania](#) (SAGCOT), where 80% of Feed the Future investments in the country will take place. Linking these small rice producers to an out-grower scheme allows them easier access to agricultural inputs, improved technology, value addition services, and markets.

## Improved Agricultural Practices Boost Potato Harvests in Tajikistan

In the Tojikobod district of rural Tajikistan, most families grow potatoes on less than a half-acre of land. A lack of reliable seed potatoes and information about how to produce them results in poor harvests for many of these families. Through Feed the Future, agriculture volunteers in Tajikistan are receiving training on how to produce seed potatoes from true potato seeds, which can be found by the hundreds in the small, tomato-like fruit that a potato plant produces above-ground. Unlike actual potatoes, true seeds do not pass diseases from one generation to the next, resulting in a healthy potato crop from which potatoes can be kept for planting the next year with very little yield degradation. This improved agricultural practice is helping families in the Tojikobod district save money and become more self-sufficient as they increasingly produce their own seed potatoes rather than buy them.



*Photo Credit: Mercy Corps*

## HEARD ON THE HILL

### Chief Scientist for the Bureau for Food Security Joins African Ministers of Agriculture at Congressional Briefing on Feed the Future

On October 17, Dr. Julie Howard, USAID's Chief Scientist for the Bureau for Food Security, spoke at a Congressional breakfast briefing hosted by [ActionAid](#), the [Congressional Hunger Center](#), [ONE](#), the [Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa](#), the [UN Food and Agriculture Organization](#), and [World Food Program USA](#) at the Rayburn House Building. Dr. Howard was joined on the panel by Jumanne Maghembe, Minister of Agriculture for Tanzania; Florence Chenoweth, Minister of Agriculture for Liberia; and Sally Kosgei, Minister of Agriculture for Kenya. The group engaged in a panel discussion about implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and U.S. Feed the Future programs, and why such programs are crucial for Africa's continued agricultural development. They also discussed the necessity of private sector investments for sustainable growth in the agriculture sector.

While in Washington, Ministers of Agriculture from Liberia and Mali also joined Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Development Tjada McKenna for a panel discussion at the [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#) on food security in Africa and the potential of Africa's next generation of scientists working on agricultural research.

## DOING BUSINESS DIFFERENTLY

### USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Announces RFAs for Food Security and Related Challenge Areas

The [Fiscal Year 2012 Requests for Applications](#) (RFAs) for four of the major challenge areas under the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA's) largest competitive grants program – the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) – are now posted online. The available RFAs include projects under the program challenge areas of: Agricultural Science for Climate Variability and Change; [Food Security](#); Sustainable Bioenergy; and the NIFA Fellowships Grant Program. Deadlines to submit letters of intent and applications range by project from late October to mid-March. United States applicants may include international partnerships or engagement in proposals. For more information, please [visit NIFA's website](#).

### NEW FEATURE: "Ask the Expert"

Do you have a question about Feed the Future that hasn't been addressed in our monthly newsletter stories? Are you looking for more detailed, specific information about a certain issue or focus country? We want to hear from you! If you want to know more about what the people and organizations behind Feed the Future are doing every day to fight global hunger, poverty, and undernutrition, send us your questions at [FeedtheFuture@usaid.gov](mailto:FeedtheFuture@usaid.gov) and include "Ask the Expert" in the subject line of your email. Every month we will feature one question and ask an expert working on private sector engagement, country strategies, improved nutrition, research, gender, or climate change to personally respond with his or her insider's perspective.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## **Public and Private Sector Leaders Honor Gates and Buffett at WFP-USA Global Hunger Conference (continued from Page 1)**

Mr. Buffett and Mr. Gates were recognized for their leadership in establishing the [WFP's Purchase for Progress \(P4P\) initiative](#), which helps transition small-scale farmers from extreme poverty and chronic hunger into active participation in agricultural markets. The event, which was held at the U.S. Department of State, also featured [keynote remarks](#) from Vice President Joe Biden and a series of discussions on the importance of public and private sector efforts to address global hunger.

USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah joined Mr. Buffett, former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, and Cargill Chairman and CEO Greg Page on a panel focused on private sector contributions to food security moderated by Betty Liu from Bloomberg Television. A second panel on economic opportunities for small-scale farmers through efforts like P4P featured Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton with Mr. Buffett, Mr. Gates, and WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran. Their [conversation focused on U.S. leadership in food security](#) under Feed the Future and the unprecedented global effort that has united all sectors to eradicate global hunger and transform the lives of millions of small-scale farmers. USAID also announced the signing of a [Memorandum of Understanding with P4P](#) to partner with local private financial institutions in select African countries.

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## **World Food Day 2011: Feed the Future Leadership Reaffirms U.S. Government Commitment to Combatting Global Hunger (continued from Page 1)**

Looking ahead to World Food Day, Acting Special Representative for Global Food Security Jonathan Shrier and USAID's Senior Deputy Assistant to the Administrator Greg Gottlieb participated in a [live global web chat](#) on October 11 hosted by the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs. The web chat highlighted the U.S. commitment to food security under Feed the Future, U.S. response and recent delegations to the Horn of Africa, and broader themes around agricultural development. Shrier and Gottlieb responded to questions submitted by a live international audience, including viewing parties in Egypt and Ghana.

In a [press statement](#) on World Food Day, Secretary Clinton emphasized the U.S. government's commitment to food security as a foreign policy priority, noting that through Feed the Future, "we are teaching families how to ensure their own food security, so that someday help from donors will no longer be needed." Mr. Shrier and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture Ertharin Cousin co-authored a post on [DipNote](#) recounting their recent delegation to Ethiopia and Kenya with USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, where they met with government officials, civil society, and private sector representatives in the region to discuss improving food security over the short, medium, and long term. On USAID's [Impact](#) blog, Administrator Shah reiterated the importance of life-saving aid that the U.S. government is providing for millions of people and the long-term efforts that Feed the Future is supporting to build agricultural resilience and prevent future crises.

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## **Secretary Vilsack Moderates High-Level Panel on Sustainable Growth (continued from Page 2)**

Panelists included Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva, FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean; Hon. Prof. Jumanne A Maghembe, Minister of Agriculture for Tanzania; Hon. Jose Pacheco, Minister of Agriculture for Mozambique; and Hon. Kweisi Ahwoi, Minister of Agriculture for Ghana. Secretary Vilsack engaged the panelists in a discussion on how to meet the key challenges to agriculture and global food security, including transferring new technologies and management practices, and fostering private sector growth. While in Iowa, Secretary Vilsack also delivered an Iowa State University's World Affairs Series Lecture on the challenge of global food security.

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### **Research & Capacity Building Highlighted at BIFAD Event (continued from Page 2)**

At the event, BFS Director of the Office of Agricultural Research and Policy Rob Bertram presented on USAID and Feed the Future research programs. Assistant to the Administrator Paul Weisenfeld delivered remarks over a luncheon co-hosted by USAID/BFS and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and BFS Chief Scientist Julie Howard moderated a panel entitled, “Perspectives on Human and Institutional Capacity Development from the ‘Next Generation’ Perspective,” featuring young leaders in research.

Later in the week, Howard and Weisenfeld were panelists at a Chicago Council seminar on using Feed the Future and the [Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme](#) (CAADP) to scale up private sector investments in Africa. Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Development Tjada McKenna also spoke on a panel hosted by [ActionAid](#) entitled, “Financing Country-Owned Food Security Strategies: The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program.”

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### **U.S. Department of Agriculture Supports Future Scientific Leaders through Borlaug Fellowship Program (continued from Page 2)**

Accompanying the Fellows were sixteen mentors – professors, scientists, and researchers – from both the public and private sectors, including U.S. land-grant universities, international research centers, and non-profit organizations. These Fellows and their mentors are part of the [Norman E. Borlaug Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program](#) established by USDA in 2004 to honor Nobel Laureate Norman E. Borlaug. Since 2006, USDA has been bringing Borlaug Fellows to Des Moines annually for the Borlaug Symposium and World Food Prize.

During their visit, the Fellows met and heard current and former World Food Prize Laureates, international experts, policy leaders, and high-level officials from U.S. and foreign governments address the important agricultural issues facing our world today. USDA seeks to inspire the Borlaug Fellows in their future endeavors in the hope that someday one will receive the World Food Prize too. Following their attendance at the World Food Prize events, these fellows will spend up to twelve weeks at U.S. land-grant universities or U.S. government research centers, conducting collaborative research to help developing countries strengthen agricultural practices through the transfer of new science and agricultural technologies.

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### **Food Security Highlighted During USAID’s Public-Private Partnership Week (continued from Page 2)**

On October 20, USAID hosted a Partnership Forum on “The Strategic Value of Connecting Business and Development,” including a morning plenary session featuring Administrator Shah and senior business leaders in a conversation about emerging markets, international development, food security, and why development is important for business. The Administrator was joined by Richard T. Clark, Chairman of Merck; Walter Bell, Chairman of Swiss Re America Holding Corporation; and Greg Page, CEO of Cargill.

Assistant to the Administrator Paul Weisenfeld moderated a second panel entitled, “Market-Based Partnerships for Food Security.” Weisenfeld was joined by Amy Bell, Vice President of Social Finance at J.P. Morgan; Peter Erickson, Senior Vice President for Innovation, Technology, and Quality at General Mills; Jeff Morgan, Director of Global Programs at Mars Inc., and Priscilla Natkins, Executive Vice President and Director of Client Services at the Advertising Council. The participants discussed pursuing food security by using partnerships to expand economic opportunity, develop sustainable supply chains, and provide technical assistance.

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### **USAID and Swiss Re Announce Partnership Around Feed the Future & Global Climate Change Initiative (continued from Page 2)**

This partnership follows a recent announcement by USAID and Swiss Re that they will join Oxfam America and the WFP to expand the [R4 Rural Resilience Initiative](#) from Ethiopia to Senegal. It also builds on the two organizations' previous collaborations on pilots under the Agency's [Index Insurance Innovation Initiative](#), which invests in research and test innovations that are improving USAID's understanding of how best the poor and vulnerable can use insurance to manage risk.

Under this new partnership, USAID and Swiss Re will collaborate on demonstration projects, expand promising pilots, and strengthen the capacity of local entities and governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. Walter Bell, Chairman of Swiss Re America Holding Corp., and USAID's Mark Feierstein, Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the margins of USAID's Public-Private Partnership Week, marking USAID's decade-long collaboration with the private sector.

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### **Grants Awarded to Support Horticultural Research in Developing Countries (continued from Page 3)**

HortCRSP is located at University of California, Davis and supports U.S. and international partners to conduct research, training, and outreach to countries with the greatest need. These new projects build on the success and momentum of thirty completed and ongoing Horticulture CRSP projects.

The seed systems project, "Seed Systems – Improving Seed Quality for Smallholders," is led by Kent Bradford of UC-Davis and a team of scientists, innovators, and extension experts in Nepal, [Bangladesh](#), India, [Kenya](#), [Tanzania](#), [Uganda](#), [Rwanda](#), and Thailand. Their project will demonstrate and disseminate a new technology to dry seeds in humid climates, offering a sound, affordable, and adaptable method to preserve viable seeds where high temperature and humidity would spoil seeds that are stored using traditional practices.

In the second project, Stephen Weller from Purdue University is working to improve African indigenous vegetable (AIV) systems in Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia, targeting the entire value chain from production to consumption. This project boosts production and market-chain development of AIVs to improve nutrition, health and income among smallholder farmers. In addition to providing a much needed analysis of the nutritive value of these vegetables, the project links growers to better markets with a goal of not only improving livelihoods through income, but improving nutrition in the region.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **November 3-4 (Cannes)**  
[G-20 Leader Summit](#)
- **November 7-8 (Toronto)**  
[Agriculture 2.0 Global Investments Conference](#)
- **November 8-9 (Dar es Salaam)**  
[Grow Africa-CAADP-WEF Forum](#)
- **November 13-14 (Tunis)**  
[Ibrahim Foundation Conference, "African Agriculture: From Meeting Needs to Wealth Creation"](#)
- **November 13-15**  
[APLU Annual Meeting: Feed the Future and BIFAD Presentations](#)



## NEWS & MEDIA

### News

[Putting Spotlight on African Crisis – Dr. Raj Shah](#)

October 26, 2011 (FOX News)

[Dr. Jill Biden Joins USAID and Ad Council to Debut FWD Campaign for the Crisis in the Horn of Africa](#)

October 26, 2011 (PR Newswire)

[Extra billions can be fed, but who will pay the tab?](#)

October 25, 2011, Carey Gillam (Reuters)

[Howard G. Buffett and Bill Gates Receive McGovern Leadership Award. Call for Renewed Focus on Smallholder Farmers, Particularly Women](#)

October 25, 2011 (Market Watch)

[U.S. increases food aid to Horn of Africa](#)

October 24, 2011, JoAnne Allen (Reuters)

[Glickman: Farming's interests will continue to expand to wider audience](#)

October 24, 2011, Jerry Hagstrom (AgWeek)

[Gates Foundation donates millions to Horn of Africa relief](#)

October 18, 2011, Hal Bernton (Seattle Times)

[Emphasis on Science and Research Guides Feed the Future Staffing](#)

October 7, 2011 (USAID Press Release)

[Rajiv Shah heads to Kenya and Ethiopia](#)

October 3, 2011, Josh Rogin (Foreign Policy)

[Food and Consequences](#)

October 1, 2011, Jonathan Broder (CQ)

### Op-Eds

[National Food Day Shines Bright Light on Global Food Challenges](#)

October 24, 2011, Andrew Stout (Huffington Post)

[Hearing Dadaab's cries](#)

October 24, 2011, Michael Hill (Baltimore Sun)

[On Famine, Food and the 'F' Word](#)

October 20, 2011, Robert Walker (Huffington Post)

### Blogs

[Working with Our Partners to Lead the Fight Against Global Hunger](#)

October 25, 2011 (USAID Impact)

[Blog Action Day: Highlighting the Devastating Crisis in the Horn of Africa](#)

October 16, 2011, Courtney O'Donnell (White House Blog)

[Encouraging youth to feed the future](#)

October 14, 2011, Jenna Carter (ONE Blog)

## About This Newsletter

This newsletter is intended to enhance collaboration and information-sharing about implementation of Feed the Future. To subscribe or to find out more information about Feed the Future, please visit our website at <http://www.feedthefuture.gov/newsletter.html>.