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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

U.S. Partners with International Development Community to Promote Resilience in the Horn of Africa



USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah joined African and other international development leaders at a high-level forum on strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities to drought in the Horn of Africa. "Thanks to lessons learned, we are making key reforms in the way we respond to crisis, limiting the impact and helping to break the cycle of drought and famine," he said.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) joined the [Intergovernmental Authority on Development](#), African partners, and other members of the international community on April 4 in announcing a new partnership to promote resilience against disasters. Senior officials made the announcement at a two-day development conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The new Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth will strengthen coordination between development partners, increase economic growth, build new partnerships with the private sector, and reduce food insecurity. This partnership capitalizes on the great progress that has been made by African governments and international organizations in implementing agricultural strategies and investments. [View the full USAID press release](#) or [read more from the Department of State on this partnership](#).

[More resources on resilience can be downloaded here.](#)

U.N. Secretary-General Appoints 27 Global Leaders to Address Child Hunger

On April 10, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon appointed 27 global leaders from across the public and private sectors, donor organizations, civil society, and the international development community to a high-level working group tasked with addressing child undernutrition in the world's poorest countries. This series of appointments is a milestone in the global [Scaling Up Nutrition \(SUN\) Movement](#), which is helping countries achieve long-term reduction in undernutrition and realize the first Millennium Development Goal to halve poverty and hunger by the year 2015. [Read more.](#)



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At Virginia Military Institute, Secretary Clinton Highlights Feed the Future as Critical to International Security



Credit: Virginia Military Institute

Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered remarks at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, Virginia on April 3 to an audience of more than two thousand after receiving the institution's Distinguished Diplomat Award. In her discussion of the “three Ds” of foreign policy – diplomacy, defense, and development – Clinton noted that Feed the Future is contributing to

global development by helping countries lay the foundation for their own long-term agricultural productivity and stability. [Read more.](#)

USDA 2012 Food Assistance Programs to Benefit Nearly 10 Million Worldwide

On April 2, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that international food assistance in fiscal year 2012 will benefit more than 9.7 million people worldwide under USDA's Food for Progress and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition programs.

“These two international food assistance programs are important tools in the U.S. effort to support global food security and sustainable agriculture production through President Obama's Feed the Future initiative,” said Michael Scuse, Acting Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. “With the world's population expected to top 9.3 billion by 2050, these programs lay the foundation on which food-insecure nations can meet the needs of their citizens and build more vibrant economies.” [Read more.](#)

In Rwanda, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Sees Payoffs on Food Security Investments Firsthand

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Markets and Development Marisa Lago recently traveled to [Rwanda](#) to visit a variety of project sites in land husbandry, water harvesting, and hillside irrigation funded through Feed the Future and development partners including the World Bank, the [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program \(GAESP\)](#), the Canadian International Development Agency, and the Government of Rwanda. [Read more.](#)



Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Marisa Lago visits a tree nursery in Rwanda. Credit: U.S. Treasury

Chicago Council Releases 2012 Progress Report on U.S. Leadership in Global Agricultural Development



On April 26, the [Chicago Council on Global Affairs](#) released its second progress report on the U.S. Government's leadership in global agricultural development. The 2012 report positively rates five federal agencies,

Congress, and U.S. programs in the field for their strong leadership, funding, and unwavering focus in the face of other food security emergencies (namely the Horn of Africa crisis). Although adopting a different rating scheme than last year, this report indicates a substantial improvement over last year's analysis. [Read more.](#)

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[APLU SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR \\$3.8 MILLION BORLAUG AGRICULTURAL R&D PROGRAM](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[INTERACTION FORUM 2012](#)

[WEBINAR: USING LOW-COST VIDEO FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT](#)

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United States and Brazil Partner to Improve Food Security in the Americas

On April 9, the Governments of the United States and Brazil formalized a partnership to improve food security in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Memorandum of Understanding begins with a trilateral agreement with the Government of Haiti to improve agriculture practices and technologies.

"We are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with Brazil and take advantage of our countries' relative expertise in agriculture," said Mark Feierstein, Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean at USAID. "By combining our efforts, our countries can help others improve nutrition for rural communities and increase incomes for poor farmers." [View the full press release.](#)

[Read more about this partnership](#) or [learn about U.S. cooperation with other Western Hemisphere countries on food security.](#)

[Download the new Feed the Future fact sheet on Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)

Administrator Shah Delivers Keynote Address at SAIS "Year of Agriculture" Conference



Administrator Shah delivers remarks at SAIS. Credit: Kaveh Sardari / SAIS

On April 17, USAID Administrator Shah delivered keynote remarks at the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) conference, "Growing Food: New Places, New Technologies." The conference was the culminating event in [SAIS's Year of Agriculture](#), which examined the critical role of agriculture in international relations in the context of the challenge of feeding a growing population of more than 9 billion by 2050. [Read more.](#)

To learn more from other speakers at SAIS's Year of Agriculture, check out remarks from [Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture, Akin Adesina](#), and [U.S. food and agriculture expert, Catherine Bertini](#).

Food Security Roundtable Highlights Innovation as Key to Advancing Goals of Feed the Future and U.S. Exporters

The U.S. Department of State and Department of Commerce co-sponsored a roundtable conference on March 1, entitled: "Promoting Food Security through Innovation." The event, which aimed to advance goals of both Feed the Future and the [National Export Initiative](#), featured opening remarks from USDA Deputy Under Secretary Darci Vetter, along with other officials from State and Commerce. [Read more.](#)

FIELD STORIES

In Senegal, Cooking with Wild Ingredients May Help Improve Household Nutrition Outcomes



Community nutrition volunteer Boubacar Sow teaches women the nutritional value of grains indigenous to Senegal under Feed the Future's agro-nutrition program. Credit: USAID/Senegal

Feed the Future Senegal is working with rural women and men to boost household nutrition and cultivate better diets. Through a training program in the Kédougou region, Feed the Future has mobilized 147 community nutrition volunteers to help guide families in how to diversify their diets and use wild ingredients to fortify traditional dishes in rural households.

In Senegal, where women are typically responsible for preparing family meals, one of the best ways to improve nutrition is to integrate vegetables, fruits, and wild-growing foods into diets presently dominated by locally-farmed grains like rice, millet, and corn. In Senegal, these predominant cereal crops have driven some other foods out of style: wild fruits such as *madd* and *ditakh*; West Africa's oldest cereal, *fonio*; and *niebbe*, a traditional blend of beans, tomatoes, onions, and spices, are all local specialties. [Read more.](#)

Improved Cultivation Techniques Change Lives in Bangladesh

Until a year ago, Fakir Nurul Amin was a traditional vegetable farmer in Bangladesh, eating what he planted and making a small profit from selling his produce. Like many other smallholder farmers, Amin struggled with low productivity and low returns. Thanks to Feed the Future, he is now an example of how small changes in farming techniques and crop choices can make a big difference in agricultural productivity.

A 60-year old father of five in southern Bangladesh, Amin grew seasonal vegetables in his small yard for 40 years. Each year, Amin would invest roughly \$260 in seeds and supplies to grow vegetables like eggplant, tomatoes, cabbage, and cauliflower. In spite of his hard work, he would barely recover his costs. [Read more.](#)



With support from Feed the Future, Amin learned how to improve his farming techniques to produce a better yield.

Feed the Future Restores Irrigation Access to Agricultural Community in Haiti



Farmers gather around a canal for the long-awaited return of irrigation water to La Madele in Haiti. Credit: USAID/Haiti

The community of La Madele, a village of 18,000 residents east of Port-au-Prince, has relied on the Riviere Blanche irrigation system for access to water since it was built in 1950. Over the decades, the Riviere Blanche system has deteriorated due to a lack of maintenance, suffering from sediment buildup in the channels that has ultimately prevented villagers from accessing enough water to support their local agricultural economy. Feed the Future is changing the landscape of La Madele through a rehabilitation project that has restored local irrigation and put more than 5,000 cubic feet of canals back to work. [Read more.](#)

Feed the Future Asia Launches New Project to Improve Regional Food Trade

On March 29, the Feed the Future team from USAID's Asia Regional Mission joined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta to [publicly launch](#) a three-year project that will facilitate the trade of food commodities in Southeast Asia. This is the first project under the regional Feed the Future program.

The new project aims to increase ASEAN regional food trade and reduce market volatility by improving the enabling environment to reduce barriers to trade. It will also boost efforts to incorporate input from the private sector and civil society into dialogue on regional agriculture policy. "Private businesses and farmer organizations can make a strong contribution to ASEAN policy development, and show ways to bring down costs while adding value to the food production and distribution process," said Michael Yates, Director of USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia.

Much of the discussion at the launch focused on regional trade policy, though the topic of engaging women in agriculture was also raised, notably [in press following the event](#). [Read more](#).



Professor Tahlim Sudaryanto, representative of the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry; His Excellency Sundram Pushpanathan, Deputy Secretary General for the ASEAN Economic Community; and Dr. Michael Yates, USAID/Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) Director launch the first project under Asia's regional Feed the Future program. Credit: Nathan Associates Inc.

Feed the Future Tanzania Hosts Biannual Partners Meeting



A Feed the Future demo plot farmed by a water users cooperative in Morogoro, Tanzania. Credit: Megan Johnson / USAID

From April 11 – 13, Feed the Future Tanzania held its bi-annual partners meeting in Morogoro. The meeting included a field visit to three Feed the Future projects in irrigation, nutrition, and value chain development respectively, all of which are supporting improved food security for a water users cooperative comprised of nearly one thousand members. [Read more](#).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

Feed the Future Supports Food Safety through Research on Crop Contamination

Two new research projects in Tanzania aim to decrease contamination of key staple foods by helping scientists and policymakers to understand the extent of mycotoxin contamination in food and to develop a long-term solution for reducing mycotoxin in Tanzanian crops. Mycotoxins are poisonous substances produced by toxic fungi that frequently colonize crops in the field and during storage, making them unsafe for human and livestock consumption (aflatoxins are among the most common types of mycotoxins). With co-funding from the [Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa](#) (PACA), Feed the Future is supporting a six-month period of research to be carried out by the [International Institute of Tropical Agriculture](#) (IITA). [Read more](#).

Ambassador Betty King Gives Keynote Remarks at Conference on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Aid and Development Work

On April 4, Ambassador Betty King, U.S. Representative to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations, delivered remarks at a conference on [GIS for the United Nations and International Community](#) in Geneva, Switzerland. The conference, which was attended by more than 200 individuals from the United Nations, academia, NGOs, and the private sector, included 10 sessions focused on advancing the use of GIS and spatial analysis for international humanitarian aid and development work. A post-conference workshop demonstrated how organizations can utilize GIS technology to collaborate online and create and share mission-focused maps.



Ambassador Betty King.
Credit: Department of State

In her remarks, Ambassador King highlighted Feed the Future as a key area where technological innovations can make a difference in the lives of many people. "Through Feed the Future, the U.S. is working with countries to develop more resilient agricultural sectors so they can feed themselves over the long term," she said. "As part of this effort, we recognize the importance of providing critical humanitarian assistance to save lives and protect livelihoods. Technology and innovation, including GIS, are critical tools in this work." [Read more.](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

APLU Seeks Applications for \$3.8 Million Borlaug Agricultural R&D Program



April 16, 2012 – The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is seeking applications from a single university or a consortium of universities to implement a new \$3.8-million multi-institution effort to develop the human and institutional capacity in low-income countries and to create the knowledge and technologies essential for food security and economic and social development. The Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development Program (BHEARD) is part of the Borlaug 21st Century Leadership Program, which was announced in June 2011 as part of Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. The program honors the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug. Applications must be received by May 31, 2012. [Read more.](#)

Feed the Future Launches APS for Regional Learning Exchanges on Agriculture and Food Security in Asia

The Feed the Future team at USAID's Asia Regional Mission has launched an Annual Program Statement (APS) for a regional Feed the Future learning exchange activity. Support for this activity will provide opportunities for individuals and associations from South and Southeast Asian countries to share information and knowledge on agriculture and food security through regional exchange visits. The APS limits competition to local organizations and is in line with the IPR guidelines of [USAID Forward](#). The closing date for the APS is September 8, 2012; however, the first batch of applications will be due by May 8, 2012. To view this opportunity on www.grants.gov, please search APS-NUMBER-486-12-016. [Read more.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 30 – May 2, 2012 (Arlington, VA)**
[InterAction Forum 2012](#)
- **May 2 (Online)**
[Webinar: Using Low-Cost Video for Agricultural Development](#)
- **May 15 (Washington, DC)**
[USDA's 150th Birthday Celebration](#)
- **May 18 (Washington, DC)**
[3rd Annual Symposium on Global Agriculture & Food Security](#)
- **May 18 – 19 (Camp David, MD)**
[38th G8 Summit](#)

NEWS & MEDIA

News

[Doing Business Differently: Fighting Global Hunger through a Whole-of-Government Approach](#)

April 26, 2012, Tjada McKenna & Jonathan Shrier (FeedtheFuture.gov)

[US Gives \\$120 Million More to Drought-Stricken Horn of Africa](#)

April 25, 2012 (Voice of America)

[Why food security is not just a problem for the Third World](#)

April 24, 2012, George Grant (The Telegraph)

[2011 Global Food Policy Report](#)

April 23, 2012, (IFPRI)

[Building Resilience in African Nations is Paramount to Development](#)

April 3, 2012, (U.S. Africa Command)

Op-Eds

[A Post Earth Day Look at Growing Food Sustainably](#)

April 24, 2012, Kate Schneider, Monkia Zurek (Gates Foundation)

[Why nutrition matters](#)

April 24, 2012, J.P. (The Economist)

Blogs

[Putting the “Impact” in Investing](#)

April 25, 2012, (OPIC Blog)

[Responding to Acute Malnutrition in the Sahel](#)

April 20, 2012, Mark Phelan (USAID IMPACT)

[M&E Blog Series: Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index Twitter Chat Follow Up](#)

April 19, 2012, Tania Tam (Agrilinks)

[USDA Participates in the UN Commission on the Status of Women](#)

April 4, 2012, (USDA Blog)

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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://feedthefuture.gov/newsletter>.