



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRICA LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM
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MEASURING RESULTS: “Fill the Pot, Feed the Child” Motivational Power

Africa Lead has trained over 2,000 Champions for Change in Food Security” and facilitated no fewer than 156 others to attend workshops, trade shows and the like. One measurement of results lies in numbers such as these. Yet, we learn far more when we seek feedback on how such experiences apply to future work in food security.

Africa Lead used two images during the training to create a personal connection to the effects of food security in Africa and their community. The first image is a photograph of a little African girl to help highlight the urgency of achieving food security and the second is the traditional African grain pot that is cracked and empty, symbolizing the problem of food insecurity in Africa. In interviews in the months after Africa Lead training, Champions report these two symbols have enduring power.

The **little girl**, who is introduced in the early stages of the training, helps the participants focus on the urgent need for change. Working in small groups they construct a story for the child, giving her a name, discussing her future, her challenges as a woman, her economic status, health and

availability to food. Each group then shares her story and everyone contemplates the effects of poverty, malnutrition, degraded environment and climate change on her life. This sharing naturally leads to the discussion about food insecurity and the resources and investments that are needed to support agriculture in Africa.



The Image of the Little African Girl

“...[she] reminded me of my responsibility as a citizen of this country that I need to look out for others and that little girl could be my sister, could be a neighbor...”

Moses Osiru, Deputy Executive Secretary at Regional Universities Forum For Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), Uganda

The image of the **broken African grain pot** is, if anything, a more visceral symbol of the problem of food insecurity. Given that the grain pot is used in many cultures to store the household’s surplus food, it literally represents food security.



The African Pot represents the problems with food security.

If the pot is broken, the safety net of the stored grain is gone, and there becomes a need to mend the “break” to restore food security.

Mending the pot is a theme throughout the trainings where participants brainstorm ways to improve agricultural practices, establish new markets, and align government policies. Chants of “fill the pot” and “mend the pot” echo long past the training experience leading them to engage in direct action with their communities. The African pot serves as a reminder and a talisman to many of a sense of “duty”, an “obligation” to be an agent for change. Champions are reporting actions they have taken from organizing pig farmers, introducing crop diversification, creating radio programming in native languages, to implementing irrigation and making presentations about climate change attributing their motivation to “filling the pot”.

“Until we work as a team, we will never fill the pot.”

Mary Munene, Kenya Dairy Sector Competitiveness Program (KDSCP)

By their own estimation, champions are empowering people across communities to see for themselves that they have a role to play in

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filling the broken pot. The pot has been used to demonstrate the additional value of crop diversification. Maize, seeds and grains are thrown into the pot to illustrate the potential of multi-seasonal yields of staple and cash crops. The pot has also been the tool for teaching farmers and others what not to do such as fill the pot with an inappropriate crop thereby advancing health and nutrition.

"I will never forget about the broken pot; the broken pot meant that we have a long way to go and we have a lot to do in regard to our land, our people."

Christine Muhongerwa, Executive Secretary of Safer Rwanda, a national NGO

These interventions become the "repairs" for the broken pot so that it can hold the grain which signifies the return of strategic food reserves and hence food security.

Both these symbolic images have taken on lives of their own reinforcing the message that the goal is not just to feed people, but to protect, connect, and sustain lives and livelihoods, through initiatives on capacity-building, leadership, good governance, and improved agricultural techniques. ■

Visit us on the web at
www.AfricaLeadFTF.org

for the latest news, training descriptions, and our online database of upcoming short courses relevant to African agriculture professionals.

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What is Africa Lead?

A USAID-funded program – and part of the Feed the Future global food security initiative – that builds the capacity of African agriculture professionals to lead change in food security

Africa Lead supports the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) by providing 4 main services to participating countries and regions:

- Developing and delivering **training modules**:

CAADP Champions for Change: a 5 day course about CAADP and leading change, **Module 1**

A second 4 day course, tailored to each country, has been developed to equip CAADP leaders to operationalize investment plans, **Module 2**

- Providing logistical and financial support for other trainings and **innovative learning partnerships** that connect participants with institutional hosts, such as the *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)*, the *World Food Programme*, and private sector agribusinesses.
- **Assessing capacity needs** of national and regional institutions, CAADP Country Teams, and National Agriculture Investment Plan implementation.
- Developing an **online database** of short courses relevant to African agriculture professionals.

RESULTS TO DATE

- ✓ **1,310** trained CAADP "Champions" from 29 countries (Module 1):
 - 545 in East Africa
 - 375 in West Africa
 - 390 in Southern Africa
- ✓ **273** trained in Module 2 from 3 countries
 - 73 in East Africa (USAID/Forward)
 - 200 West Africa
- ✓ **73** trained in short courses from CORAF and CILSS and **10** professional Interns
- ✓ **7** professional interns trained in agriculture show management and agribusiness management
- ✓ **12** national non-state actor workshops held to mobilize NGOs and private sector actors to participate in CAADP –with **546** participants
- ✓ Facilitation and logistics preparation for various conferences and meetings
- ✓ **43** institutional capacity assessments
- ✓ **2** assessments of CAADP Country Team processes ; **2** CAADP/NAIPs implementation case studies: Ethiopia and Rwanda
- ✓ A short course database featuring over 480 upcoming offerings relevant to African