

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Regional Center for Southern Africa
Program Title:	Improved Rural Livelihoods
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	690-015
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$7,544,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$924,000 DA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$7,300,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2004
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2010

Summary: USAID's program to improve rural livelihoods and diversify agricultural production in southern Africa includes research, training, and technical assistance to encourage and help emerging commercial farmers to produce high-value agricultural commodities for regional and international markets; help vulnerable communities and families to diversify their sources of income; and support agriculture research and policy agendas at the regional level.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Increased high-value agricultural exports (\$3,500,000 DA). This program will take a market-led approach to agricultural development and will help emerging commercial farmers in the more traditional farm areas of southern Africa to produce high-value products that the market demands. Technology packages for selected products will be prepared that, among other things, take into account quality control, food processing, sanitary-phytosanitary (SPS), and environmental concerns. In order to facilitate the export of such products to the United States and other markets, USAID will collaborate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in creating a program to build technical and institutional capacity to operationalize the SPS certification process. Working through the Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub (the "trade hub"), USAID will also promote the development of commercial linkages to wholesalers, distributors, exporters, and others in the agricultural marketing chain. Principal contractor or grantee: To be determined.

Diversified rural income opportunities for vulnerable groups (\$2,576,000 DA; \$924,000 prior year DA). USAID will help vulnerable communities improve their food security by diversifying beyond high-risk monoculture systems (primarily maize). USAID will create diversification strategies for vulnerable communities, especially those located in areas noted for food insecurity, that include both agricultural and non-agricultural activities (such as community enterprises based on natural resource management). USAID will also address the emergency aspect of food security by helping national governments develop emergency preparedness plans and networks. In order to address the nutritional aspects of food insecurity, USAID will conduct liaison activities with potential partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Program, and others to formulate priorities and avenues of shared intervention. Principal contractor or grantee: To be determined.

Regional research and policy coordination (\$1,468,000 DA). Improved coordination of regional research and policy issues is important to make agriculture more efficient and competitive in domestic, regional, and world markets. USAID will help establish and support research networks needed to distribute and sell proven agricultural technologies. USAID will also foster strategic partnerships among research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), regional policy networks, farmer and producer organizations, large commercial agribusinesses and others, to influence the agenda for research and development as well as the regional policy agenda. At the policy level, USAID will promote reforms that support market-led agricultural growth within an overarching strategy that balances income growth, food availability, and food utilization. USAID will also support information and knowledge management activities of regional networks. Principal contractor or grantee: To be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Increased high-value agricultural exports (\$3,000,000 DA). Within the broad regional approach to promote the adoption of high-value crops by emerging farmers, USAID plans to make country-level adjustments as needed. For example, further work may be needed on the technology packages for selected agricultural products to adjust them to the country conditions of each of the focus countries. Depending upon the chosen service delivery mode, USAID may also arrange for training of public and private sector agricultural outreach specialists so they are ready to work with the farmers when product promotion begins. Work begun on SPS certification should continue. In line with current efforts to develop commercial linkages, the trade hub may begin to develop regional public-private consortia to link large private sector firms with local programs for inputs such as seeds and fertilizer. Principal contractor or grantee: To be determined.

Diversified rural income opportunities for vulnerable groups (\$3,000,000 DA). Diversification activities are expected to begin in at least one-third of target communities during FY 2005. USAID may also facilitate collaboration between farmer associations, NGOs, and for-profit firms to reduce marketing, extension, and credit costs. In addition, USAID plans to introduce appropriate processing and storage technologies and, if feasible, find a local entity to produce the equipment. USAID may forge partnerships with health and nutrition institutes to strengthen linkages between agriculture and nutrition and to identify food-based solutions to treating HIV/AIDS victims. Finally, USAID expects to continue working in the area of emergency preparedness programs. Principal contractor or grantee: To be determined.

Regional research and policy coordination (\$1,300,000 DA). In its efforts to help establish institutional and political mechanisms for regional research collaboration in southern Africa, USAID may organize annual or biannual meetings of the relevant regional partners to discuss ongoing research of importance to the regional food security strategy and policy agenda. In this regard, USAID plans to work with partners to create an action plan for addressing policy reforms across the region and a web-based network for sharing research results, discussing best practices for creating linkages, and disseminating this information to producers. Principal contractor or grantee: To be determined.

Performance and Results: Since this program is just now beginning under the new RCSA strategy, there are no results to discuss. However, by the end of the strategy results are expected as follows: there will be increased dynamism in the production-for-export part of the agriculture sector; southern Africa will be exporting more agricultural products to the United States and other markets; and thousands of farmers in pilot communities will have succeeded in jumping from low-value agriculture to high-value, profitable farming. Among more subsistence-level farmers, thousands of families will have diversified their incomes and reduced their vulnerability to external shocks, and others will be following their lead. More important, the region's planning for, and reaction to, food security crises will be more mature, and more will be done in between such shocks to move the basic situation away from continual teetering on the edge of disaster. Barring severe disasters, the region will be more food-secure.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Regional Center for Southern Africa

690-015 Improved Rural Livelihoods	DA
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	924
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	7,544
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	8,468
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	7,300
Future Obligations	43,562
Est. Total Cost	59,330