



United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Accomplishments 2009-2011

Secretary Tom Vilsack

Global Food Security

Today, almost 1 billion people around the world do not have access to a sufficient supply of nutritious and safe food. Tackling this problem to help establish global food security is important not only to hundreds of millions of hungry people, but also to the sustainable economic growth of these nations and the long-term economic prosperity of the United States. As we help countries become more food secure and raise incomes, we also expand markets for American producers.

- For example, over the past five years, U.S. agricultural exports to developing countries in Southeast Asia, Central America, and Sub-Saharan Africa have grown at more than twice the annual rate as compared to developed countries. U.S. poultry meat exports to Sub-Saharan Africa expanded 180 percent from 2009 to 2011.
- Given population growth and rising incomes, it is estimated that the demand for food will rise by 70 to 100 percent by 2050. To meet this need, the United Nations estimates that production in developing countries will need to almost double.

Feed the Future – A Government-Wide Effort to Combat Global Hunger

- In 2009, G8 nations committed to “act with the scale and urgency needed to achieve sustainable global food security” and to be accountable and coordinate with country development plans.

- President Obama committed \$3.5 billion over three years to address global food security, and launched his Feed the Future Initiative. In 2010, the U.S. helped launch the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, an international, multilateral trust fund that has already awarded \$481 million to finance country development plans in 12 low-income countries, with 7.5 million beneficiaries.

Building Local Capacity, Increasing Productivity, and Improving Markets and Trade

- USDA staff is strategically placed in over 80 countries constantly monitoring agricultural matters globally.
- Between 2009 and 2012, USDA’s international food aid programs will benefit about 33 million individuals globally with assistance valued at nearly \$1.5 billion.
- Between 2009 and 2012, USDA’s McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program supported the education, child development, and food security of almost 15 million of the world’s poorest children. The program provides U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education.
- Between 2009 and 2012, USDA’s Borlaug Fellowship Program will bring 248 scientists to the U.S. to research topics including food safety, soil fertility, post harvest technology, biotechnology,

animal health, and rural development. During those same years, USDA's Cochran Fellowship Program will train 1,363 individuals worldwide in topics such as regulatory and certification systems, agricultural production, biotechnology, and plant and animal disease control.

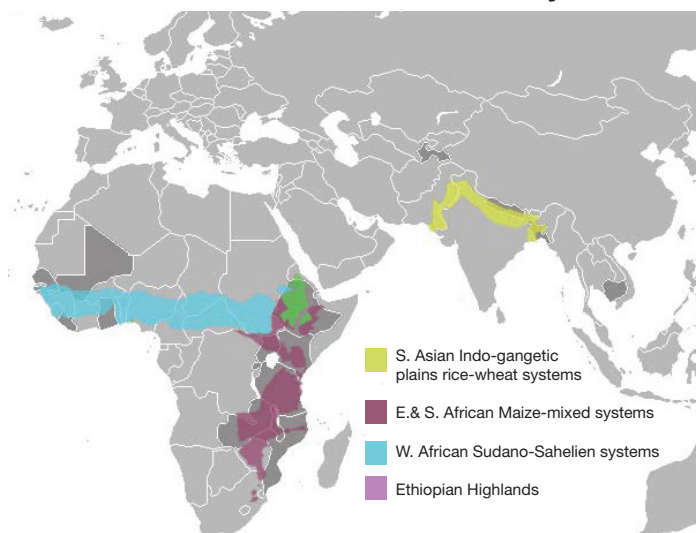
- Since 2010, USDA has aligned appropriate programs to Feed the Future plans to support agriculture development in target countries and regions: Ghana, Kenya, East Africa, Bangladesh, Haiti, Guatemala and Central America. USDA supports global food security through in-country capacity building, basic and applied research, and support for improved market information, statistics and analysis.
- USDA undertook significant efforts to build local in-country capacity to confront food security. This included: training small farmers and foreign officials on plant and animal health systems, risk analysis, and avoiding post harvest loss; completing assessments on climate change; and increasing agricultural productivity. Just last year, in the targeted Feed the Future countries and regions, nearly 60,000 individuals received USDA agricultural productivity or food security training, seven critical policy reforms were adopted or implemented with USDA assistance, and \$20 million in microloans were disbursed.
- USDA expanded analysis and reporting that increased core data, statistics, and analysis of global agricultural systems. We expanded an annual food security assessment to include 77 countries; completed assessments of agricultural statistics and market information in 10 Feed the Future countries and identified key areas where improvement is needed; and conducted in-depth assessments of the capacity of the statistical systems of Ghana, Haiti, Tanzania, and Bangladesh.

Driving Innovative Research and Technologies

- Under Feed the Future, research investments specifically designated for global food security have more than doubled, from \$50 million in 2008 to \$120 million in 2011. The Feed the Future Research Strategy, developed by USAID and USDA, focuses in the four agro-climatic zones where global

poverty and hunger are most concentrated, and targets two-four major problems in each zone to maximize impact on poor families.

Feed the Future Research Focal Systems



- In 2010, the USDA and USAID Norman Borlaug Commemorative Research Initiative launched a new era of partnership on research. Under this initiative, USDA is: implementing research to combat wheat rust, a major threat to wheat production worldwide, and aflatoxin, a toxic fungus that infects many crops and causes illness; developing a vaccine for East Coast fever, a major killer of cattle in East Africa; and supporting enhanced food animal and grain legumes production. In Guatemala, Haiti, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Ghana:
 - USDA has 17 new technologies under research;
 - 4 new USDA-supported technologies were introduced locally; and
 - 12 new technologies are under field testing.
- USDA researchers sequenced the genome of the wheat stem rust pathogen which threatens to destroy wheat crops worldwide, distributed new wheat germplasm globally to ensure productive harvests, and released 1,575 genetic variations in beans.

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