

## **Ensure U.S. agricultural resources contribute to enhanced global food security**

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** In collaboration with other Federal partners, USDA is working towards reducing global food insecurity and increasing agriculture-led economic growth in developing countries. USDA's capacity-building, technical assistance and food assistance programs are effective tools for improving the capacity of countries to produce what they need and to make that food accessible to those who need it. In FY 2015 USDA provided over 5 million individuals in food insecure countries assistance through our McGovern-Dole, Food for Progress and Cochran and Borlaug Fellowship Programs. Additional accomplishments from FY 2015 include:

- With the support of the McGovern Dole program, the United Nations World Food Program provides a daily breakfast of rice, canned fish, vitamin A-fortified vegetable oil, and yellow split peas to feed pre- and primary school students in Siem Reap and two other provinces in Cambodia. The project also provides food scholarships, in the form of take home rations, to poor students as an income-based incentive to encourage poor food-insecure households to send their children to school regularly. This is expected to increase student attendance and retention rates and is directly supporting the Government's vision of achieving basic education for all.
- In Malawi, the USDA McGovern Dole project implemented by World Food Program has developed 90 partnerships with farmer group associations that provide a diverse selection of local produce, such as maize, beans and vegetables to their local primary schools as part of the Government of Malawi-supported pilot Home Grown School Feeding model.
- Through USDA's partnership with the National Cooperative Business Association under the Food for Progress program, 11,857 men and 7,434 women in Uganda have adopted conservation farming practices to their maize, pulse and soybean cultivation. Adopting these practices has led to an average increase in yields of about 47 percent.
- In USDA's Food for Progress project implemented by Counterpart International, in coordination with the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture's formal extension agents, over 83 trainings have been provided to agricultural producers in Huehuetenango and San Marcos on topics such as soil conservation, water management, integrated pest management, and postharvest management. While still early in the project, these trainings have resulted in over 2,426 hectares of land cultivated under USDA-promoted improved techniques and technologies.
- In Mali, as part of USDA's partnership with Catholic Relief Services, over 2,000 people have been trained in basic health and nutrition practices such as child growth and development, malnutrition, and how to prepare nutritious foods using locally available foods such as millet, peanuts and beans.
- The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is supporting several systematic reviews to learn from the existing research and rigorous evaluation literature about which interventions have the greatest impact and incorporate these Reliability of Data: Data are accurate and reliable and reflect the actual number of beneficiaries assisted in a given fiscal year for all active projects and fellowship exchanges. Data are verified by project managers through review of performance reports and site visits. Data for McGovern-Dole and Food for Progress are certified by the grantee staff through annual submission. Quality of Data: Estimated data are provided by the grantee to FAS in September of the current fiscal year and finalized in the subsequent fiscal year. FAS developed a template and performance

indicator reference sheet to ensure all grantees are reporting using the same definition and report format. FAS also developed an SOP to ensure that data are collected consistently each year for all three program areas. FAS monitoring and evaluation staff analyze and verify the data. AGENCY PERFORMANCE REPORT AND PLAN 52 findings in Food Assistance program funding decisions. FAS is also supporting the development of a Learning Agenda for both the Food for Progress and McGovern Dole Programs. The Learning Agendas will identify key gaps in the knowledge base and a set of research questions that will be used by FAS over time to prioritize rigorous impact evaluations supported by FAS. FAS hosted a roundtable of global researchers from universities, research institutes, and multilateral organization's to discuss the McGovern Dole and Food for Progress Learning Agenda; and

- In FY 2015, FAS implemented a Signature Improvement Process in an effort to streamline, consolidate, and improve efficiencies in its solicitation process. USDA's goal was to ensure that the application process was efficient and did not create unnecessary time burdens for applicants. USDA consulted with potential applicants about improvements and implemented these actions prior to the opening of the application process in June 2015.

#### EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE FY 2017 PROPOSED RESOURCE

LEVEL/CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE: Technical assistance and capacity building will be provided through training programs both in the United States and in foreign countries through the Cochran Fellowship Program, the Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program, and Faculty Exchange Programs. FAS is working to continue expanding this valuable network of influential agricultural specialists that make valuable contributions to improving national trade policies and regulatory frameworks that can and do increase market access for U.S. agricultural products. In FY 2017, the Cochran and Borlaug Fellowship Programs are expected to train an estimated 655 participants from over 75 countries to support food security and trade. FAS' exchange programs enhance global food security through the annual training of hundreds of scientists, policy-makers, educators, farmers, extension agents, food industry professionals, and many others. FAS is currently making major contributions towards global food security through capacity building efforts in support of the Administration's Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative. FAS has conducted training programs in past years that have benefitted agricultural specialists in all 19 of the FTF focus countries, and will continue to train participants from FTF countries in FY 2017. In FY 2017, the Food for Progress Program will provide more than \$120 million of food assistance, which will help support agricultural development in countries that are taking steps towards democracy and private enterprise. The program will benefit more than 2 million farmers, agribusinesses, and their families. The projects will seek to increase agricultural productivity and expand markets and trade by focusing on such areas as improved agricultural techniques, marketing systems, farmer education and cooperative development, expanded use of processing capacity, and development of agriculturally related businesses. The McGovern-Dole Program will continue to help improve the literacy and the nutrition of children in FY 2017 through the provision of school meals, teacher training, improvements in sanitation, and improved school infrastructure. The Program will continue to build the capacity of national governments and communities so that they can

continue school feeding after USDA support ends. AGENCY PERFORMANCE REPORT AND PLAN 53 USDA will do the last installment of a special, food-assistance initiative in FY 2017. This initiative is developing and field-testing new products to improve nutrition for school children and mothers under the McGovern-Dole program. Two commodities from this program have been added to the commodity list. The FY 2016 Agriculture Appropriations Act provides \$5 million to support the Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement (LRP) program, authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. The \$5 million is expected to benefit nearly 68,000 beneficiaries in the first year. FAS is working on regulations for the LRP program, with a final rule expected to go into effect in FY 2016.