



Food Security

The U.S. Role

USAID, the Departments of State, Agriculture, and the Treasury, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and five other agencies work to decrease hunger around the world, coordinating through the Feed the Future Initiative. This effort aims to **reduce poverty and under-nutrition** and the tragic effects that flow from them such as **child stunting**. Building on decades of U.S. investment in agricultural development, Feed the Future supports countries in the development and implementation of their own food security strategies.

(continued on back)

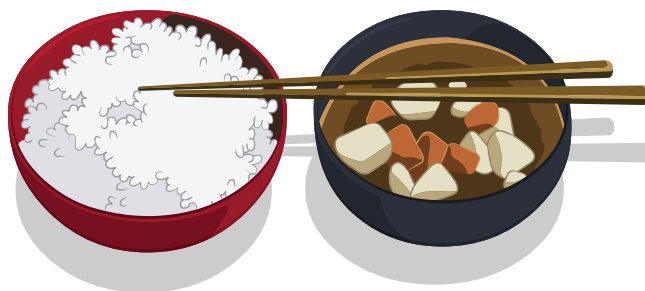
Achievements

- » In 2012, U.S. assistance reached **7 million farmers**, supporting them in applying new technologies or management techniques.²
- » In 2012, U.S. assistance generated more than **\$262 million** in additional farm-level sales by farmers in target countries.³
- » As a result of U.S. assistance through 2011, almost **4 million hectares of farmland** – an area greater than the state of Maryland – were being managed with improved technologies and practices.⁴

Between 1992 and 2013,
the proportion of
undernourished
people globally has
fallen dramatically,
from
1 in 5
to
1 in 8



Because of this progress, today
479 million fewer people
will go hungry.¹



Why it Matters

More than **three million children** under the age of five **die** each year because of under-nutrition.⁵ That's equivalent to 5 kids every minute.

About **842 million people** – **one out of eight** of the world's population – are still chronically undernourished,⁶ with women and children most at risk.

Food security contributes to better health for people, greater earning potential for households and communities, and **increased global stability**.

The U.S. Role *(continued)*

Feed the Future concentrates resources in focus countries whose selection is based on clear criteria. These include:⁷

- » Level of need.
- » Opportunities for partnership.
- » Potential for agricultural growth.
- » Opportunities for regional synergy.
- » Resource availability.

FTF investments address key constraints along the entire value chain – from improving on-farm productivity, to crop storage and handling, to increasing market access. **Programs are integrated** in order to capitalize on the synergies between agriculture, health, nutrition, water, and climate change work.⁸



Photo: Olivier Asselin

Success Story: Surplus in Senegal⁹

At harvest time, Hamidou Ly, a farmer in a remote village in Senegal had a surprise for his fellow cultivators: an increase in production despite the substandard precipitation.

▲ *Hamidou Ly, right, and son Mamadou work in their sorghum field cultivated with conservation farming techniques. They are wrapping the most promising of the plants for easier identification at harvest.*

Ly is one of a small group of farmers in the region who piloted conservation farming techniques in their sorghum fields in 2013. Conservation farming involves minimally disturbing the soil and other techniques that help retain organic matter, stop erosion, and prevent water loss, while saving time and labor. Tilling, once thought to increase soil fertility, is now understood to have the opposite effect

Introduced in Senegal by USAID in 2009, conservation farming has proved a boon to producers who previously succeeded by chance, depending on capricious rainfall of any given growing season.

"All through the region, village farmers have seen yields superior to those obtained using traditional methods," said Falilou Faye, regional director of rural development in Kaolack. "Despite the low rainfall, they have actually risen, dramatically in places."

In the 2011 season, yields increased 49 to 71 percent for rain-fed millet and maize grown using conservation farming techniques in Kaolack, according to data gathered by the Rural Development Agency. In other regions of Senegal where the techniques were applied, the same trend appears. In the Tambacounda and Kédougou regions, annual yields rose around a quarter for the 2011 rainy season.

Endnotes

- 1 World population: 1992 - 5.456 billion, 2013 - 7.098 billion. People undernourished: 1992 - 1.015 billion, 2013 - 842 million. Had % undernourished not changed, undernourished in 2013 would have been 479 million higher. "State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013," Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and World Food Programme. World population figures from U.S. Census Bureau.
- 2 "Growing Innovation Harvesting Results: Progress Report June 2013," USAID, 2013.
- 3 Congressional Budget Justification, Vol. 2 Foreign Operations, Fiscal Year 2014.
- 4 "Growing Innovation Harvesting Results: Progress Report June 2013," USAID, 2013.
- 5 Black RE, Victora CG, Walker SP, and the Maternal and Child Nutrition Study Group. "Maternal and child undernutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries," *Lancet* 2013; published online June 6. dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(13)60937-X.
- 6 "State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013," Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and World Food Programme.
- 7 "Approach," Feed the Future, accessed 3/26/14. www.feedthefuture.gov/approach/Inclusive – Agriculture – Sector – Growth.
- 8 Congressional Budget Justification, Vol. 2 Foreign Operations, Fiscal Year 2013, p. 88.
- 9 Excerpts and photo from Taylor, Zach. "Surplus in Senegal, Even without the Rains," *Frontlines*, January/February 2013, online edition, USAID. transition.usaid.gov/press/frontlines/fl_feb13/FL_feb13_SENEGAL.html.