

INNOVATION LABS AT UC DAVIS

Feed the Future Innovation Labs draw on the expertise of top U.S. colleges and universities in collaboration with developing country research and educational institutions to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges in agriculture, food security, and nutrition. Led by U.S. universities, the Feed the Future Innovation Labs are on the cutting edge of efforts to research, develop, and take to scale safe and effective technologies that address current and future challenges posed by a changing climate and the need to feed a growing global population.

Background

The bipartisan Global Food Security Act of 2016 determines it is in the U.S. National Security Interest to accelerate growth that reduces poverty, hunger and malnutrition. By promoting global food security, the United States receives many benefits, including:

- Greater security of partner countries due to reduced food shortages and hunger; both of which, when unchecked, are drivers of international conflict
- A cleaner more sustainable global environment due to greater capacity to manage agricultural resources effectively
- Increased market opportunities due to increases in incomes, and livelihoods of small-scale farmers that expand producer access to local and international markets
- Reduced reliance on emergency food assistance



Touring Wheat Fields in Egypt.

More than 80% of the world's 570 million farms are less than 2 acres in size. These small-scale farm communities are home to over 70% of the world's poor. Yet despite their size, these farms are key for food production – both for home and for others:

- In Africa, small farms produce about 90 percent of all agricultural production in the region.
- In Asia, over 200 million small rice farms produce the bulk of the rice in the region.

Around 70% of the world's 1.3 billion poor live in rural areas and rely on agriculture for a living. Improving small-scale farming not only creates more food to eat, but impacts people's income, helping to pull them out of poverty. It is well documented that growth in the agriculture sector is one of the best ways to spur the kind of economic growth that reduces poverty and creates more stable and resilient societies.

Feed the Future Innovation Labs

There are 24 Feed the Future Innovation Labs; UC Davis manages five of the labs, and is a primary partner on the sixth.

- Horticulture Innovation Lab
- BASIS Assets and Market Access Innovation Lab
- Genomics to Improve Poultry Innovation Lab
- Climate Resilient Millet Innovation Lab
- Climate Resilient Chickpea Innovation Lab
- Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab

Other USAID / UC Davis involvement includes:

- The Borlaug LEAP program, managed by UC Davis
- Integrating Gender & Nutrition in Agriculture Extension Services (INGENAES), of which UC Davis is a major partner