



## Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/article/investing-agriculture-it-makes-dollars-and-sense>

# Investing in Agriculture: It Makes Dollars and Sense



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*It's been a busy year for Feed the Future and September was no exception. From Capitol Hill to the [African Green Revolution Forum](#) to the U.N. General Assembly, there was a lot of buzz about food security, agriculture and nutrition.*

And for good reason: With continued effort and [progress](#), a world without hunger (and poverty, for that matter) is truly within our reach. In fact, the United Nations recently released [new data](#) with encouraging news: The number of hungry people in the world continues to fall. Our task now is to accelerate this progress.

A few of the highlights from September are below. As we look forward to the rest of this autumn and to 2015, we'll bring you more on how the United States is leading the fight against hunger and poverty—and how our [new approach](#) through Feed the Future is working.

## Ending Extreme Poverty

Growth in agriculture is one of the best ways to spur economic growth that can reduce poverty. Last month at USAID's [Frontiers in Development Forum](#), we hosted a panel that explored the intersection of poverty, hunger and food security and how we can take to scale tools, know-how and partnerships to end extreme poverty by 2030.

The takeaway was clear: If we want to improve food security and generate growth that pulls people out of poverty and builds a more stable, secure world, we need to continue to [invest in women](#). This isn't just the right thing to do, said Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., in her opening remarks, but the smart thing economically too. As she put it: "Food security is global security."

Panelists emphasized the need to reach out to and engage more youth in agriculture as well, especially if we want the gains we make in food security to last.



sectors, from agriculture to health, education and humanitarian assistance.

Through its leadership of the Feed the Future initiative, USAID is already building partnerships and evidence around how we can integrate agriculture and nutrition. This strategy builds on that work, elevating nutrition across all our development efforts. Much like investing in women, nutrition is also both the right thing to do to help children survive and thrive and it's a good economic investment for long-term success.

## Leading the Way

Also on Capitol Hill this September, leaders in the [U.S. Senate](#) and [House of Representatives](#) introduced global food security legislation. Feed the Future's approach is showing exciting [progress](#) early on, pioneering a new model for development—one that sets the standard for how the United States leads around the world. It's encouraging to see such strong bipartisan support for and commitment to improving global food security and nutrition.

"Food insecurity knows no boundaries, but the good news is it is preventable and we are in a position to help," [said](#) Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark.

"Investing in agricultural development and improving nutrition is essential to confronting hunger," [noted](#) Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn. "Defeating hunger, helping smallholder farmers, and keeping children fed and healthy is an investment the American people understand and support."

Indeed, as USAID's Administrator Rajiv Shah has said, America is at its best when we lead with our values and when we partner with others to achieve common goals. What better way to lead than through evidence-based, results-oriented and country-led approaches to ending global hunger and poverty?

We're honored to be doing this important work on behalf of the American people through Feed the Future.

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*Stay tuned in October for more on food security and how science and technology can help us feed the world and fight climate change.*

### Related Resources:

- [Read Feed the Future's September newsletter](#) for more stories and updates on climate and food security
- [View Feed the Future's climate fact sheet](#) for additional information on our approach
- [Learn more](#) about Feed the Future's progress and results this past year