In his 2013 State of the Union address, President Obama called on the United States and its partners to accelerate efforts to end extreme poverty in the next two decades. Through targeted investments in agricultural growth, Feed the Future is helping to create a new era of global food security and nutrition in which all people in the world lead healthy, productive lives.

The U.S. Government invests more than $1 billion in food security-focused activities each year. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) leads these efforts, working in 100 countries. USAID works with local farmers, smallholder businesses, the private sector, universities, and organizations to increase productivity and incomes, reduce food insecurity, and advance good governance. This work is integrated with efforts to improve health and education, increase women’s economic opportunities, and build the institutions that sustain long-term, inclusive growth.

Feed the Future’s rigorous approach to bipartisanship has yielded impressive results.

In 2013, the USAID Mission in Peru performed a gender audit that identified bottlenecks to women’s participation in the agricultural sector. The audit, along with targeted investments, increased the number of women receiving training from 3% to 70%.

At the 2013 Global Food Security Conference, leaders committed to developing an interagency nutrition strategy to be completed by 2014. The strategy will ensure that Feed the Future is better integrated with nutrition programming to improve health outcomes for the world’s most vulnerable populations.

In 2013, Feed the Future signed major new agreements with Syngenta, Walmart and DuPont to improve global agriculture and food security. These public-private partnerships will drive private sector growth and help smallholder farmers overcome challenges. Since then, the U.S. Government has released new data sets and evaluation results, saving assistance in times of crisis or natural disaster.

Agriculture Fast Track Initiative (AGI) Investments in Africa

In May, the Agriculture Fast Track Initiative (AGI) committed $225 million to food and livelihood investments in four priority countries – the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Nigeria. The investments will support efforts to develop and scale up promising new crops and technologies that can help Africa expand its food production.

In June, USAID and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa launched a $47 million partnership to scale up promising agricultural technologies in 10 countries and regions across Africa. The partnership will support research, development and dissemination of high-value agricultural technologies and support high-potential smallholder farmers in scaling up their farms to help meet the needs of Africa’s growing population.

In June, USAID Administrator Shah announced 10 new Feed the Future Innovation Labs that will draw on the expertise of top U.S. universities and developing country research institutions to advance global food security. A total of 23 Innovation Labs representing nearly 70 university and evaluation experts launched a new Food Security Learning Framework that identifies key questions whose answers can greatly improve the effectiveness of global food security programming.

The U.S. Government is providing more than $1 billion for nutrition-specific interventions over fiscal years 2012-2014. This includes efforts to improve the diets of vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas, expand breastfeeding programs, and improve complementary feeding practices for young children.

In May, the G-8 launched a new program to promote open data for agriculture and nutrition, which will help to advance efforts to fight global hunger and poverty and connect students to Feed the Future Innovation Labs across the country.

In March, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) submitted a set of recommendations on how Feed the Future can broaden its impact through collaboration with civil society. A Feed the Future civil society working group was launched in June focused on civil society engagement under Feed the Future. In September, the working group submitted its findings to USAID Administrator Shah.

In March, the USAID Mission in Nigeria launched the first-of-its-kind multilateral fund that facilitates private financing for projects in emerging and developing markets. The Africa Fast Track (AFT) is a $25 million fund that is expected to mobilize $150 million in private investment.

In January, the U.S. Government and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa launched a $180 million partnership to accelerate development of maize varieties that are resistant to the corn borer in eight countries in East and Southern Africa. The project will expand to include rice and soybean.

In December, the USAID Mission in Indonesia launched the first-of-its-kind multilateral fund that facilitates private financing for projects in emerging and developing markets. The Indonesia Fast Track (IFT) is a $25 million fund that is expected to mobilize $125 million in private investment.

In January, the U.S. Government announced its first major agreement with South Sudan for Feed the Future. The new initiative will focus on advancing private sector growth, building capacity, and supporting the government’s efforts to build an enabling environment for long-term economic growth.

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) set new finance and renewable energy records in 2013, committing $3.75 billion in support of clean renewable energy projects.

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