

Feed the Future Innovation Labs

Overview

The Feed the Future Innovation Labs are USAID-funded research programs that advance U.S. innovation leadership in agriculture and global food security. The 17 Innovation Labs are primarily led by land-grant universities with collaborations across 29 states to develop pioneering solutions to agricultural challenges at home and abroad. These Labs grow and harness scientific capacity to generate discoveries that help solve challenges facing U.S. farmers, companies, and—through the labs' extensive global partnerships—help improve agriculture for partner nations, ensuring growing markets for U.S. products and promoting U.S. national security. Over the lifetime of the universities-USAID partnership, the labs have returned \$8 of impact for every \$1 dollar invested, in total yielding over \$8 billion in impacts.¹

Scope & Impacts

The Labs focus on leveraging the advanced capacities of U.S. research universities—primarily land-grant institutions—to solve challenges facing agriculture globally ranging from production practices, livestock, soils and water, and addressing emerging threats. Innovation Labs focus on solving the issues that hold back agricultural progress in developing countries; countries where improved agriculture is a critical step towards broad-based economic growth. Growing economies increase the demand for U.S. goods and services: richer societies consumer more meat, import more U.S. grain as livestock feed, and as farmers adapt modernized agricultural practices, they become customers for U.S.-produced agricultural machinery and inputs.

- Innovation Labs' work directly supports **foreign market development for U.S. commodity and agricultural input companies**.
- The Labs' research directly **advances global food security through domestic investments** which support scientists at U.S. research universities.
- Investments in agriculture development through **Feed the Future Innovation Lab university partnerships have delivered an 8-to-1 return on investment** for the U.S. taxpayer.

Status

Of the 17 Innovation Labs, 16 received cancellation notices from the Department of State/USAID, while one—the Climate-Resilient Cereals Lab at Kansas State University—received a resume work order on April 7, after a three month freeze in operations.

Despite the uncertainty around the future of this program, the importance of U.S. investment in international agricultural research and development remains steadfast. It is vital that federal support and investment in these activities continue, whether at USAID, the Department of States, or other agencies such as the Administration and Congress may deem appropriate.

¹ Dalton, Timothy J., and Keith Fuglie. "Costs, benefits, and welfare implications of USAID investment in agricultural research through US universities." *Journal of agricultural and applied economics* 54, no. 3 (2022): 461-479.

List of Feed the Future Innovation Labs with Leader Awards from USAID

Institution	Innovation Lab	District	Status
Cornell	Crop Improvement	NY-19	Cancelled
Kansas State	Climate Resilient Sustainable Intensification	KS-01	Cancelled
Kansas State	Climate Resilient Cereals	KS-01	Resume work order received 4/7/2025
Michigan State	Food Security Policy Research, Capacity & Influence (PRCI)	MI-7	Cancelled
Michigan State	Legume Systems Research	MI-7	Cancelled
Mississippi State	Fish	MS-03	Cancelled
Penn State	Current and Emerging Threats to Crops	PA-15	Cancelled
Purdue	Food Safety	IN-04	Cancelled
Tufts	Food Systems for Nutrition	MA-07	Cancelled
UC Davis	Markets, Risk & Resilience	CA-04	Cancelled
UC Davis	Horticulture	CA-04	Cancelled
University of Florida	Livestock Systems	FL-03	Cancelled
University of Georgia	Peanut	GA-10	Cancelled
University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign	Soybean Value Chain Research	IL-13	Cancelled
University of Nebraska	Irrigation and Mechanization Systems	NE-01	Cancelled
Washington State	Veterinary Vaccine Development	WA-05	Cancelled
Washington State	Animal Health	WA-05	Cancelled