ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC & LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LABS ARE CRITICAL TO GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

ABOUT

Innovation Lab (IL) researchers at U.S. universities work with USAID missions and developing-country agricultural institutions to address issues that disrupt the global food supply, including post-harvest losses, food safety and quality, and pest and disease management.

Twenty-one USAID ILs are led by 13 U.S. universities in partnership with over 70 other U.S. colleges and universities, including 14 Minority Serving Institutions. In 2021, the ILs partnered with 130 international institutions of higher education in 40 countries.[i]

IMPACT

U.S. government investments closely track with economic growth. The economic benefit of the Innovation Lab investments over the past 40 years are *at least* $8.4 B, eight times total program costs. A partial analysis of the return on investment of the ILs indicates that 80% of the benefits go to individuals with incomes under $5.50/day.[ii]

Innovation Experts

U.S. Innovation Lab experts provide reliable, science-based information on food production, access, processing, distribution, and supply chain challenges. Experts have:

* Generated climate-resilient, nutritious varieties of key crops in Haiti, Senegal, Uganda, and Malawi.
* Convened a Secretariat across several African countries for veterinary and regulatory authorities.
* Developed Extension systems in 339 institutions around the world.
* Improved services for 12.8 M rural farmers, entrepreneurs, and consumers in developing countries.
* Designed post-harvest bags that kill detrimental insects which have been purchased by 3 million farmers in 58 countries.
* Identified strategies to increase the number of farms with risk protection and insurance.
* Provided varieties that have pest resistance benefits for west African and U.S. growers alike.
* Strengthened resilience to food disruption and supply chain shocks.

Workforce

The 21 Feed the Future Innovation Labs provided 42,096 individuals with short-term training in one year, half of which took place in Africa. The same year, Innovation Labs provided long-term, primarily graduate degree training, to 408 individuals.[iii]

Trade

Developing country economies contributed to two-thirds of U.S. agricultural exports on average and over 800,000 U.S. jobs over the last three years. Investment in agricultural research, and the development of novel innovations, is part of a U.S. strategy to promote economic development in low-income countries for future U.S. export markets.[iv]

Science Networks

Innovation Lab programs advance human capital development in agriculture and long-term relationships between U.S. scientists and future leaders in developing nations.

Soft-Power

The IL program is critical for furthering national economic and diplomatic interests.

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[i] https://www.feedthefuture.gov/feed-the-future-innovation-labs/

[ii] Dalton, T.J. and K. Fuglie. "Costs, Benefits, and Welfare Implications of USAID Investment in Agricultural Research through U.S. Universities." Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics (2022). https://doi.org/10.1017/aae.2022.18

[iii] https://www.usaid.gov/reports/title-xii/fy-2021

[iv] Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS), FAS/USDA