



Fostering Strategic Partnerships | Building Political Will | Creating Global Connections

Hunger is an Agriculture Issue

Why?

- With the global population expected to top 9 billion people by 2050, farmers around the world will have to nearly double agricultural production to meet demand in the face of climate change, land and water scarcity and the demands for more protein-rich diets by populations with increasing incomes.
- Yet, since 1990, aggregate farm yield growth has stagnated and even reversed course in some areas. The USDA projects that growth in global farm yields will continue to fall, threatening the welfare of a large share of the world's population.
- 70% of the world's extreme poor in rural areas are farmers, mostly women, who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, yet they do not produce enough to feed their families.
- As economies develop, they become customers for US commodities, products and services, so it's in U.S. agriculture's interest to help develop more efficient food systems;
 - 11 out of 15 of our top agricultural trading partners are former U.S. aid recipients. (Source: [USAID Frontlines](#))
 - In the last 10 years, U.S. farm exports to Africa have increased by more than 200%. (Source: [USDA](#))
- No country does agriculture as well as the United States and therefore no nation is better positioned to help.
- The agriculture community has an important role to play in helping to develop more efficient food systems here in the US and abroad.

Hunger and Agriculture in the U.S.

- In 2015, 1 in 4 Americans participated in 1 or more of 15 domestic food and nutrition programs (WIC, SNAP, School lunch, etc.). (Source USDA)
 - 1 in 7 Americans received SNAP benefits
- In 2014, SNAP usage was approximately the same in urban and rural areas. 82% of all eligible participants received SNAP benefits in urban areas, and 84% received them in rural areas.
- There are 48 unique careers directly related to nutrition and food security in the U.S. (Source: [AgExplorer.com](#))
- Improving food systems and reducing hunger has a higher return on investment than many of the other investments our country readily makes.
 - SNAP dollars create a multiplier effect in terms of economic growth: Every SNAP dollar spent stimulates \$1.79 GDP growth
- Maintaining support for domestic nutrition programs adds value to American agriculture. USDA-ERS calculates \$1 billion in SNAP benefits generates:
 - \$92.6 million of agricultural production
 - \$32.3 million of agricultural GDP or value added



International Hunger and Agriculture

- Reducing global hunger and poverty is an important US foreign policy strategy for fostering long term economic opportunities, reducing political instability, advancing diplomacy and saving millions of lives.
- More people continue to die each year from starvation and other nutritional deficiencies than from HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB combined. Ironically, most of the extreme poor living in rural areas are smallholder farmers, and they do not produce enough to feed their families.
- Most of the population growth will occur in least developed countries that are already food insecure. (Up 126% in Sub-Saharan Africa, 56% in N. Africa and W. Asia, & 34% in South Central Asia.)
- Without sustained progress, recurring price volatility and food shortages will contribute to political instability as witnessed by food riots and related events since 2008. Malnutrition likely will lead to mass migration and intensifying health issues. Diplomatic efforts to maintain peace will be far more difficult wherever food shortages contribute to extremism and conflict. The hopes of the United States and other developed nations for economic development in poor countries will continually be frustrated if populations are unable to feed themselves.
- Efforts are needed to close the yield gap between rich and poor countries through the adoption of productive agriculture systems, to ensure that all people have access to affordable safe and nutritious foods from both domestic and international sources.
- Agricultural development is the most effective intervention to combatting hunger and poverty. According to the World Bank, every dollar invested in agriculture is twice as effective in reducing poverty as investing in non-agricultural sectors. Every dollar spent on Ag research yields a \$20 dollar return over time according to USDA.
- The economic opportunity spurred by agricultural development in emerging markets leads to growing demand for American agricultural exports and commerce in rural areas all over the world.
 - Nearly 50% of U.S. agricultural exports go to developing countries
 - For example: Nigeria is the third-largest U.S. wheat market, Angola is the four-largest broiler meat market, and Ghana ranks as one of the top 10 rice markets
- In aggregate: U.S. international food security programs serve more than 73 million beneficiaries each year, plus the 173 million people the Millennium Challenge Corporation has served since 2003.
 - These programs include food aid donations of U.S. agricultural commodities, school feeding programs, emergency relief, and long term economic and agricultural development.

For additional information please contact the Alliance to End Hunger at info@alliancetoendhunger.org or visit our website at www.alliancetoendhunger.org