

JUNE 2018

Feed the Future in Ghana

Promising Progress, Choices Ahead

A Trip Report of the CSIS Delegation to Ghana, February 2018

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INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

A Report of the
CSIS GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY PROJECT

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Founded at the height of the Cold War by David M. Abshire and Admiral Arleigh Burke, CSIS was dedicated to finding ways to sustain American prominence and prosperity as a force for good in the world. Since 1962, CSIS has become one of the world's preeminent international institutions focused on defense and security; regional stability; and transnational challenges ranging from energy and climate to global health and economic integration.

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Acknowledgments

This report is based on interviews conducted in Ghana in February 2018. The research delegation included six U.S. congressional staff members:

- Anna Yelverton, Legislative Aide, Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)
- Will Green, Majority Staff Associate, House Foreign Affairs Committee—Subcommittee on Africa
- Grant Mullins, Majority Counsel, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- Libby Foley, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
- Reyn Archer, Chief of Staff, Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)
- Marie Spear, Policy Coordinator, House Foreign Affairs Committee

This group, along with CSIS staff, met with an array of national and local government officials, implementing partners, and beneficiaries. The delegation met with senior U.S. government officials, and worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Peace Corps to learn about Feed the Future’s diverse portfolio in Ghana. The group spent time in Accra and traveled to USAID-funded project sites in the northern part of the country, near Tamale, which is in the Feed the Future zone of influence.

The delegation is grateful to everyone who shared his or her time and insights with us in preparation for and during our research trip.

The views expressed here are solely those of the author and are not attributable to the members of the congressional staff delegation or to members of Congress.

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Introduction: An Important Moment for U.S. Global Food Security Policy

The United States has played a pivotal role in the fight to end global hunger and malnutrition, responding to devastating crises as they arise and seeking to fortify the world's most vulnerable populations against future shocks. The flagship U.S. food security initiative, Feed the Future, has enjoyed consistently strong bipartisan support and has demonstrated that progress on ending hunger is possible. With food policy legislation and budget decisions pending,¹ the coming months offer lawmakers, administrators, advocates, and implementers an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of U.S. food security programming and to draw on experiences and lessons from the field to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of future endeavors.

To this end, in February 2018 the CSIS Global Food Security Project, under the leadership of Kimberly Flowers, led a bipartisan, bicameral delegation of congressional staff to Ghana, an important U.S. partner in West Africa and a Feed the Future focus country since 2010.

The delegation traveled from the Ghanaian capital of Accra to the northern city of Tamale and neighboring towns, connecting with farmers and community groups, entrepreneurs and researchers, national and local government officials, embassy staff and program implementers, and Peace Corps volunteers. The visit offered an opportunity to better understand Feed the Future's diverse portfolio of investments in Ghana and to hear directly from Ghanaian partners—both in and outside of government—what they perceive as the initiative's most important impacts and contributions.

The delegation site visits and interviews focused on three core areas of Feed the Future activity:²

1. *Strengthening select agricultural value chains with interventions that boost productivity and profitability.* Feed the Future programming in this area aims to increase the competitiveness of rice, maize, and soybean value chains, primarily in the initiative's main zone of influence in northern Ghana.³ Projects include support for an outgrower business partnership model; incentivizing financial institutions to engage in the

¹ Two legislative pillars of U.S. food security policy—the U.S. Global Food Security Act and the U.S. Agricultural Act (the "Farm Bill")—will expire this summer. The White House budget proposal for fiscal year 2019 envisions deep cuts to U.S. global development programs overall, including the government's flagship program on agriculture and food security, Feed the Future. The FY2018 spending bill saw support for Feed the Future remain level, but whether this will be sustained in the new fiscal year is as yet unknown.

² See Annex for a full roster of Feed the Future activities.

³ Northern Ghana, where the majority of Feed the Future investments are concentrated, includes three regions: Northern, Upper West, and Upper East. While the majority of value chain and resilience planning is in these areas, Feed the Future also has significant programming along the coast in Western Region, where it supports fishing communities and sustainable fisheries management. This is critical work—fish are currently the most important source of animal protein in Ghana—but because of time constraints the delegation was not able to travel to Western Region.

agricultural sector; and boosting productivity through application of technology in seed, soil, and water management.

2. *Reaching vulnerable communities in northern Ghana with interventions to strengthen resilience and nutrition.* In this sphere of activities, Feed the Future works with local government authorities to target some of the most vulnerable communities in Ghana, with the aim of promoting a more diversified and nutritious diet, generating sources of income and savings, and improving water and sanitation practices. These activities seek to help households and communities that are generally not able to derive immediate benefit from more market-driven, value-chain approaches.
3. *Investing in research partnerships to improve agricultural productivity and nutrition.* Here the delegation met with a range of Ghanaian institutions and researchers who are partnering with U.S. universities on issues related to productivity, irrigation, pest and disease control, diversifying sources of protein, and more. The delegation also met with beneficiaries from U.S. fellowship and award programs, which support talented young women and men to pursue a career in research and mentor the next generation of agricultural scientists and researchers.

The delegation did not conduct a comprehensive or in-depth assessment while in Ghana; rather, it sought broadly to identify achievements, challenges, and questions that arise from Feed the Future's experience in Ghana that can inform debates on U.S. global food security investments going forward. The views expressed in this report are not attributable to members of the congressional staff delegation or to the members of Congress for whom they work. Rather, they are drawn from reflections and discussions throughout the delegation visit.

01

Key Observations

Feed the Future investments in Ghana have yielded important achievements. Within its zone of influence, the initiative has seen poverty levels fall by 12 percent in its first five years. More than 900,000 children have been reached with Feed the Future nutrition programming, and child stunting in the country's north has fallen by 18 percent. Farmers reached by Feed the Future programs have increased the value of their agricultural product sales by \$40 million, and the project has leveraged \$16 million in new private-sector investments. U.S. firms are gaining traction in the agricultural sector, including Cargill, Hershey, and John Deere. The initiative has helped facilitate \$156 million in loans from Ghanaian financial institutions to date, to the benefit of farmers, processors, input dealers, and traders. Further, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other partner agencies were able to mobilize quickly against a potentially devastating invasion of Fall Army Worm in 2016–2017, working through existing relationships with Ghanaian government agencies, research institutions, businesses, and farmers to mitigate its worst effects.



Congressional staffer Grant Mullins, counsel for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, addressed a rural community in northern Ghana that benefits from U.S.-funded Feed the Future programs. He described the purpose of the delegation, emphasizing Congress's bipartisan support for global food security investments. Photo credit: Timothy Adei/Team 1000 Words.

In addition to these high-level results, delegation members came away with a strong impression of the significant impact that U.S. investments through Feed the Future can have on the lives and livelihoods of individual households and communities. Delegates heard stories from smallholder farmers of dramatic increases in yield and income, thanks to new and expanded partnerships that link them to new technology, inputs, and markets. In several communities, women explained how relatively small-scale interventions—a village savings and loan association, for example, or a low-tech irrigation system—had made them far less fearful for their children’s wellbeing and future and brought their communities—and in some cases their marriages—closer together. The delegation was consistently moved by expressions of gratitude for U.S. government partnership and by the hospitality and generosity of the communities visited.

At a more macro level, the visit brought home the value of returns on U.S. investments in agricultural growth and food security programming, as well as some of the challenges and choices that lie ahead. Among these observations are:

The Importance—and Challenge—of Reaching the Most Vulnerable

A core takeaway from the visit was the importance of reaching very poor populations with interventions that boost nutrition, income, and resilience. Child malnutrition can have significant long-term consequences on cognitive development and productivity. Yet despite significant gains in the last decade, it has remained a persistent challenge in Ghana, particularly in the country’s north. Food security approaches that strengthen value chains and agricultural systems are critically important in expanding economic opportunity for many, but their benefits do not necessarily trickle down—at least not immediately—to communities that lack resources required for market engagement, nor are they sufficient in maximizing nutrition outcomes.

By their nature, however, these resilience and nutrition interventions are more resource intensive and less easily brought to scale than value-chain interventions that facilitate systemic change. In Ghana, Feed the Future supports local government authorities in providing their surrounding communities with the services, training, and other interventions they need. A nutrition expert within the Ghanaian government told the delegation these efforts were Feed the Future’s most important interventions. But broader government buy-in for fiscal decentralization and empowerment of local officials to sustain this work is not entirely evident. Resource mobilization at a local level will be a challenge, and if the national government is committed to this programming and to strengthening local government structures, USAID might consider encouraging it to coinvest in Feed the Future’s resilience and nutrition programming to bring it to broader scale. The government could consider integrating these efforts with other nationally funded social protection efforts,⁴ to ensure longer-term sustainability and broader reach.

⁴ For examples, see Reid Hamel, *A Role for Social Protection Investments to Support Food and Nutrition Security: Lessons from Ghana* (Washington, DC: CSIS, February 2018), <https://www.csis.org/analysis/role-social-protection-investments-support-food-and-nutrition-security>.



Thanks to support from the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Small-Scale Irrigation, a program implemented by the CGIAR global network in collaboration with Texas A&M, Fatimah Abdullah made the transition from chopping firewood to farming, a less labor-intensive, more lucrative, and more nutrition-sensitive option for her family. Photo credit: Timothy Adei/Team 1000 Words.

Choices Ahead: Intensify Interventions or Reach More People?

With finite resources available, Feed the Future country teams will need to weigh the relative advantages of a more deliberate integration of interventions that maximize impact within a particular geography or subset of partners—or a more diffuse approach that more quickly reaches a wider swath of the population. This tradeoff is not new, nor it is unique to Ghana. Delegates debated the merits of both options in both resilience programming and agricultural growth interventions.

In Feed the Future's value chain interventions in Ghana, for example, an outgrower/nucleus farmer project, a financial services project, and a technology transfer project, each with different USAID-funded implementing partners, operate alongside each other. There is some overlap in the communities these three projects target, and individually they have been successful. But there may be opportunities for greater impact with more purposeful integration as part of the program design and planning. Building out the outgrower business model, for example, could provide an expanded vehicle through which new technologies, business and financial services, cultivation practices and more could be transferred. Greater integration may yield economies of scale and shared systems, and data aggregated across programs could be an important tool for analysis and evaluation.

A high-intensity approach, if it generates sustainable systemic change, may have greater chance of expanding to scale and creating a demonstration effect more broadly, though logistically it may be harder to plan and coordinate. An overly focused approach, on the other hand, may leave many vulnerable communities without support, and raises difficult questions of equity.⁵ It is a question that Congress, the administration, and USAID will need to explore going forward, drawing on insight and experience from the field.

There is a possibility that Feed the Future's zone of influence within Ghana will be significantly reduced as part of the new five-year country strategy. It currently covers all of the country's north, with a widely dispersed population of 5 million. But even within a reduced geographical scope, it is nonetheless worth considering how best to integrate and connect multiple lines of effort for maximum impact.

Agricultural Research: An Important Vehicle for Impact and Partnership

The delegation visit brought home the critical role that agricultural research plays in increasing productivity and mitigating shocks. Partnerships between U.S. universities and Ghanaian researchers—through Feed the Future Innovation Labs—help build future capacity, but they are also focused on very immediate challenges and opportunities—combating pests and animal viruses, for example; experimenting with low-tech irrigation and water conservation solutions in Ghana's arid north; and mitigating risks from food-borne diseases. These are not abstract concepts; they are real and present challenges that require research-derived solutions.

Mentoring programs and fellowships help nurture an up-and-coming cadre of Ghanaian scientists and researchers, building ready avenues for future research collaboration as new and more complex challenges arise. These interactions—and similar exchanges, including the USAID-led Farmer-to-Farmer program and the U.S. Peace Corps—are vehicles for information exchange and capacity-building, but are also powerful examples of citizen diplomacy, an important component of U.S. soft-power engagement in the world.

Access to Finance Remains a Major Constraint to Agricultural Growth and Productivity

Access to finance for farmers and agribusinesses is problematic in many Feed the Future focus countries and a major constraint to agricultural growth. In Ghana the challenge has been particularly acute. At a local level, village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) have been successful and well received, making microfinance available in very poor communities. On the commercial side, bank lending rates in the agriculture sector today average 30 percent⁶ and have risen as high as 42 percent in recent years. Rates for smallholders and small agribusinesses

⁵ Ibid. Hamel examines this tradeoff as it pertains to social protection programs and finds no clear consensus among Ghanaians themselves on the issue when it comes to social protection programs.

⁶ Bank of Ghana, "Average Percentage Rates and Average Interests Paid on Deposits as at 28 February 2018," Notice No. BG/Gov/Sec/2018/06, <https://www.sikasem.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Banks-APR-and-Average-Interest-Rates-on-Deposits-February-2018.pdf>. Rates for smallholders and small agribusinesses are generally higher than for larger enterprises.

are generally higher than for larger enterprises. At present, less than 5 percent of commercial lending in Ghana goes to agriculture. Feed the Future's Financing Ghanaian Agriculture Project (FinGAP) project has had impressive results in helping financial institutions overcome their aversion to agricultural lending, surpassing its initial targets by a wide margin.

Future programming should build on that success. But with an estimated \$2 billion financing gap in the agricultural sector, the government of Ghana and its development partners will need to step up their efforts to a much higher level of priority and strategy. For the United States, a proposed Development Finance Institution,⁷ which has won bipartisan support, may offer possibilities to plan more regionally and systematically about de-risking agricultural investments and changing long-held (and often outdated) perceptions of unreliable smallholders. An eventual strategy should ensure that it does not go around or "crowd out" private Ghanaian financial institutions, but rather work to strengthen their engagement in the agricultural sector.



Forty-one percent of Ghana's workforce is employed in agriculture, and despite high potential, growth in Ghana's agriculture sector has slowed in the last decade. The government of Ghana will need to be vigilant about reforming and investing in the seed sector, including creating an enabling environment for the private sector, to improve food security. Photo credit: Timothy Adei/Team 1000 Words.

⁷ The Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (S.2463, the BUILD Act) was introduced in February 2018 by Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE). Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL) and Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) introduced the House version of the BUILD Act (H.5105) in February 2018 as well. The texts are available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2463/text> and <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5105/text>.

Both Diplomacy and Technical Assistance Are Needed to Shore Up the Ghanaian Government's Commitment to Policy Reform

Delegation members felt strongly that more U.S. diplomatic engagement was needed to encourage and press the Ghanaian government to undertake critical policy reform. Feed the Future investments in agricultural growth and nutrition will quickly run up against diminishing returns in the absence of an enabling policy environment and strategically targeted government spending. The government of Ghana has signaled its commitment to agricultural transformation, announcing a new flagship Planting for Food and Jobs program and a Marshall Plan for Agriculture. The government will need to follow through with adequate resources and with commitment to complex policy reforms—including in seed production and distribution, fertilizer subsidies, land tenure, and land administration—and to creating a more business-friendly regulatory environment. Feed the Future's Ghana Strategic Support Program has worked with government and civil society to deepen understanding of these challenges and possible solutions. U.S. diplomatic engagement should encourage the Ghanaian leadership to follow through on its promising commitments to agricultural growth and employment, and ultimately chart a path that reduces Ghana's dependence on external assistance.

Abrupt Changes in U.S. Funding Risk Undermining Progress to Date

The Feed the Future global initiative has recently undergone changes, with the number of countries targeted by the initiative reduced from 19 to 12.⁸ A White House budget proposal envisions deep cuts to development assistance, including Feed the Future, although congressional champions have pushed back. During the delegation visit, the U.S. country team in Ghana was formulating its strategy for the initiative's next five-year phase, building in multiple contingency plans to accommodate potential funding changes that may cut available resources by almost half. These uncertainties filter down to program implementers, to host-country governments, and to beneficiaries of Feed the Future investments, some of whom are among the world's poorest and most vulnerable.

In many cases, capacities, linkages, and incentives created by Feed the Future programming will endure. But abrupt drops in levels of funding could put much of the important progress made to date at risk. To ensure sustainability of these programs, any major changes in resourcing or programming should be considered with care, phased in gradually, and planned in close coordination with the government of Ghana.

⁸ Current Feed the Future focus countries include: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mali, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, and Uganda. (Nigeria and Niger are new to the group; Malawi, Zambia, Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Haiti, Tajikistan, and Cambodia are no longer focus countries.)

02

Ghana Background: Promising Progress, Enduring Challenges

Located on West Africa's Gulf of Guinea, Ghana has a well-deserved reputation for stability and democratic consolidation. Despite political and economic tumult in its early decades of independence, the country has seen three successful party transitions since the 1990s and enjoys an active civil society and lively media sector. Ghana has been an important leader in preventive diplomacy and crisis resolution in West Africa, and it is the world's eighth-largest contributor of UN peacekeeping forces.

Economic performance has been generally positive as well. Political stability, the discovery of significant oil reserves, and an outward-looking economy have made Ghana an attractive investment destination. The economy is rebounding after a significant slowdown from 2011 to 2016 (and an International Monetary Fund bailout of \$918 million). The new government, in office since January 2017, has promised a strong focus on macroeconomic stability and private-sector-led growth. President Nana Akufo-Addo has laid out a vision of "Africa Beyond Aid," in which African leaders, through accountable management of their countries' riches and talent, build economies that are no longer dependent on "charity or handouts."⁹ In Ghana, big challenges persist, but the government appears to be making some headway toward reform, and economic growth in 2018 is forecast at 8.9 percent. Longer-term growth prospects will depend on strategic investments in infrastructure, particularly in the power sector, land reform, and continued economic diversification. Agriculture has big untapped growth potential.

Although Ghana has made important strides in health, education, and poverty reduction, progress at the national level masks deep regional disparities. The poverty rate in the north is nearly twice that of the country's south, and the three northern regions—Upper East, Upper West, and Northern—with just 17 percent of the population, account for more than half of the country's citizens living in extreme poverty.¹⁰ Only 5 percent of the population is considered food insecure, but more than a third of those living in Upper West region are food insecure; 15 percent in Upper East. Similarly, child health and nutrition indicators remain stubbornly poor in the north. While national rates of child stunting have fallen significantly in the Northern Region (from 34 to 19 percent between 2003 and 2015), an estimated 33 percent of children suffer

⁹ Government of Ghana, "Africa Is Beyond Aid: President Akufo-Addo," <http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php/news/4210-africa-is-beyond-aid-president-akufo-addo>.

¹⁰ Ghana Statistical Service, "Poverty Profile in Ghana 2005–2014," Ghana Living Standards Service Round 6, August 2014.

from stunting.¹¹ Eighty-two percent of children in the Northern Region suffer from anemia, compared to 66 percent nationwide.¹²



Feed the Future nutrition programming has contributed to an 18 percent reduction in childhood stunting in the areas where it works. Continued investments in childhood nutrition ensure stronger cognitive, educational, and economic outcomes at the individual, household, and community levels. Photo credit: Timothy Adei/Team 1000 Words.

The Ghanaian government has initiated social protection programs to reach the country's most vulnerable, including the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program that offers cash transfers to qualifying households. A publicly funded school feeding program has proved costly and problematic, but improved implementation could be an important vector for improved nutrition—and school enrollment—outcomes.¹³

The Agricultural Sector: Lots of Potential, Room for Improvement

Ghana's agriculture sector has enormous potential to drive growth, employment, and poverty reduction, but much of that potential—especially in the country's north—is as yet untapped.

¹¹ Ghana DHS 2014 *Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014*, Ghana Statistical Service, Ghana Health Service (GHS), and ICF International, 2015.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ For descriptions of the main social protection programs, see Hamel, *A Role for Social Protection Investments*.

Agriculture accounts for 19 percent of the Ghana's GDP,¹⁴ and agricultural products are needed as inputs in nearly two-thirds of the country's nonoil manufacturing sector. Yet, despite its significant potential, growth in the agricultural sector has slowed in the last decade, and Ghana continues to import significant quantities of rice, wheat, poultry, and fish. Chicken imported from Brazil is 50 percent cheaper than domestically produced chicken.¹⁵

Transformation of the sector will require greater and more strategic investment by the government, accelerated reform in areas such as seed, fertilizer, land administration, and transport,¹⁶ and a greater effort to attract and leverage private-sector engagement.

For equitable growth in the sector, policies will need to maintain a focus on improving productivity and opportunity for the country's many smallholder farmers. Agriculture employs approximately half of the country's workforce, the vast majority working on plots that average just 1.2 hectares. These smallholder farmers typically have little education or formal training, and generally are ill positioned to access inputs, financing, improved technologies, or markets.

The Ghanaian government's spending on agriculture has been among the lowest in Africa, averaging 5 percent of total spending between 2001 and 2014. Much of that spending has not gone to staple crops, but to the production of cocoa, the country's major export crop and source of foreign exchange, situated primarily in the country's south. Further, some two-thirds of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture's already limited budget was allocated to salaries and input subsidies in 2016, leaving only a small fraction for investments in research, extension services, irrigation, and other critical infrastructure.¹⁷ International donors have picked up much of the slack: in 2016 donors' funding accounted for 70 percent of the Ministry's investment spending.¹⁸

Successive Ghanaian governments have promised policies and programs to boost the agricultural sector, but change has been slow as resources, attention, and political will shift elsewhere. The onset of oil production in 2011, and the policy attention and resources it absorbed, proved a setback for agriculture. Ghana will need to remain vigilant to avoid Dutch Disease and the resource curse that has dramatically undercut agricultural sectors in other oil-producing African countries.

On coming to office, the new government announced its flagship agriculture initiative, Planting for Food and Jobs, a five-year strategy that will seek to reach 200,000 farmers in its initial pilot

¹⁴ Provisional 2017 Annual Gross Domestic Product, Ghana Statistical Service, Accra, April 2018, http://www.statsghana.gov.gh/docfiles/GDP/GDP2015/2015_AnnualGDP2018/2017%20Quarter%204%20and%20annual%202017%20GDP%20publications/Annual_2017_GDP_September_2015_EditionApril%202018%20Edition.pdf.

¹⁵ Delegation interview with UN official in Accra, February 23, 2018.

¹⁶ See, for example, World Bank, *Ghana: Enabling the Business of Agriculture 2017: Country Profile* (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2017), [http://eba.worldbank.org/data/exploreeconomies/ghana/2017/~media/WBG/AgriBusiness/Documents/Profiles/gha.pdf](http://eba.worldbank.org/data/exploreeconomies/ghana/2017/~/media/WBG/AgriBusiness/Documents/Profiles/gha.pdf).

¹⁷ World Bank, *Ghana: Agriculture Sector Policy Note: Transforming Agriculture for Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Food Security* (Washington, DC: World Bank, June 2017), <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/336541505459269020/pdf/119753-PN-P133833-PUBLIC-Ghana-Policy-Note-Ag-Sector-Review.pdf>.

¹⁸ Ibid.

phase. Central to the program is offering participating farmers deeply subsidized seed and fertilizer and deploying up to 6,200 agricultural extension workers.¹⁹ A follow-on “Marshall Plan for Agriculture” was announced in late 2017, envisioning ambitious investments in road and irrigation infrastructure, a grant financing facility for agribusiness start-ups, and an Agriculture Financing Scheme and Crop Insurance Scheme to de-risk the agriculture and agribusiness sector. Some analysts have expressed concerns about these ambitious plans: fertilizer subsidy schemes of the past have yielded decidedly mixed results and created unintended consequences and distorted incentive systems. In addition, further raising spending on subsidies and extension workers, without reductions elsewhere, will be difficult to sustain, particularly in a moment when the government is under pressure to rein in public spending.

These programs are in their early stages and will almost certainly be adjusted and refined over time. The government has every reason to strive to ensure their success. Agriculture affects the lives of so many in Ghana, and the president is keenly aware that unmet expectations and the broken promises of his predecessors helped propel him and his party to office. The incentive to deliver on agricultural transformation and job growth will remain high. In turn, the United States and Feed the Future will have a strong interest in helping the Ghanaian government succeed.

Box 1: The U.S.-Ghanaian Partnership: A Multifaceted Partnership

The United States has had a warm and longstanding relationship with the people and government of Ghana. Ghana hosted the very first deployment of Peace Corps volunteers in 1961, and more than 5,000 volunteers have served across the country in the years since.²⁰ In the wake of devastating economic crises in the 1970s and 1980s, the United States delivered food aid to Ghana through the Food for Peace program until 2006.

Today, Ghana is considered a strong security partner, and the Ghanaian security forces receive significant U.S. training and support for counterterrorism, drug interdiction, peacekeeping, and disaster response.²¹ The U.S.-Ghana trade and investment relationship is expanding: the United States is Ghana’s largest trading partner, and an increasing number of U.S. companies—in energy, agriculture, mining, and consumer goods—are investing in the country.

The United States has a broad development assistance portfolio in Ghana as well. Ghana is implementing a second five-year Millennium Challenge Corporation compact focused on the power sector. The majority of U.S. assistance targets the health sector, with significant resources supporting education and agriculture (through Feed the Future) as well.

¹⁹ Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Republic of Ghana, “Planting for Food and Jobs (FAQs),” http://mofa.gov.gh/site/?page_id=15114.

²⁰ Peace Corps, “Ghana,” <https://www.peacecorps.gov/ghana/about/>.

²¹ The two governments signed a Defense Cooperation Agreement in March 2018. The agreement stirred some public controversy as rumors flew that the United States was planning to establish a permanent military base—speculation that both the U.S. embassy and the Ghanaian government have since sought to dispel.

03

Feed the Future in Ghana and the Delegation Visit

The United States and Ghana have enjoyed a strong and enduring relationship, and the U.S. government has been eager to support the country's economic and political trajectory through multiple channels of assistance and partnership (see box 1).

Feed the Future was launched in Ghana in 2010, with annual resources averaging approximately \$40 million. The program targets specific zones of influence (see map), selected on the basis of poverty and nutrition indicators as well as on commercial potential. In Ghana, the primary zone of influence is large: it includes the country's entire northern half, comprising the Northern, Upper West, and Upper East regions. Poverty and malnutrition rates in these areas are well above national averages, yet with much of the population engaged in agriculture, the opportunities to leverage change through increased yields and access to markets are significant.



A female farmer and her baby work in a field improved by drip irrigation technology as part of the RING project. Water pumped in from a nearby water source allows farmers like her to grow crops year-round. Photo credit: Kimberly Flowers/CSIS.

FEED THE FUTURE

ZONE OF INFLUENCE



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■ = Zone of Influence

□ = District Boundary

The CSIS delegation traveled from the Ghanaian capital of Accra to the northern city of Tamale and neighboring towns to get a better sense of how Feed the Future programs operate and to hear firsthand from some of the participants.

Productivity through Partnership: Visit to ADVANCE Project in Zinindo

The CSIS delegation visited the community of Zinindo, in Gushedo District, some 40 miles north of Tamale, where an estimated 540 farmers have participated in the ADVANCE project.²²

ADVANCE seeks to support both smallholder farmers and emerging agribusinesses, strengthening productivity and linkages along the rice, maize, and soy value chains. The project is centered on a mutually beneficial business relationship between mid-size “nucleus” farmers or processors and smallholder partners. Nucleus farmers provide smallholder partners with inputs and services—seed, fertilizer, mechanized services, basic extension, for example—and are paid back in kind after the harvest. Many of these relationships predate ADVANCE, but the project seeks to strengthen both sides of these partnerships. ADVANCE works with smallholders to increase their yields. Nucleus farmers receive training in business management and marketing and are connected, with ADVANCE assistance, to buyers, input sellers, and financial services. Overall, the project has reached some 120,000 smallholder farmers and worked with some 400 outgrower businesses. As of 2016, sales of rice, maize, and soy by ADVANCE-trained smallholder farmers have tripled in value, compared to the pre-project baseline.²³

Participants in the program in Zinindo described the ADVANCE project and its impact on their individual circumstances:

- Nucleus farmer Alassane Alassane used to cultivate 40 hectares on his own with an annual harvest of 40 bags of maize. Eventually he found he couldn't adequately manage the land and at the same time provide services to partner outgrowers. With guidance from ADVANCE, he reduced his plot size to 10 hectares and received training on better cultivation techniques and use of inputs. His yield rose from one bag per hectare to 10, for a total harvest of 100 bags on a far smaller plot. He now has 250 outgrower partners—mostly women—and plans on expanding his agri-enterprise.
- Basit describes similarly dramatic increases in yield. He changed his planting techniques after visiting an ADVANCE demonstration plot. He also received training on improved storage practices to reduce postharvest losses. This has allowed him to save more produce for the off-season, when he can get higher prices. ADVANCE also helped introduce him to Agricare, a feed-milling enterprise, which has given him direct, reliable market access and improved access to fertilizer and seeds.

²² The Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement Program (ADVANCE) is a five-year project, 2014–2018, with funding of \$37 million. ACDI/VOCA is the lead implementing partner.

²³ USAID and ACDI/VOCA, “Ghana Advance II: Fostering Climate-Smart Agriculture, Innovative Technology Solutions, and Sustainable Partnerships,” March 2018, <http://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/ACDI-VOCA-Ghana-USAID-ADVANCE-Brochure.pdf>.

- Nasiki described the benefits of the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), embodied in a triple-locked blue box managed by women in the community. Participants contribute savings to the pool, and when one of them is in need or faces an unanticipated expense, she can draw from the fund. To date there have been no defaults. According to Nasiki, managing the VSLA together has created a common bond and strengthened the community. “It has even improved relations with my husband,” she says to suppressed laughter from the crowd, since bringing home more income always helps.
- Other women chimed in with support for the VSLAs: For one woman, her savings through the VSLA allowed her to buy more and better inputs; her yield increased, and in

Box 2: Innovation in Data Collection



Every participant in ADVANCE receives a “Smart Card” that tracks farm size, yield, sales history, and the trainings they have attended. With 120,000 cards currently in circulation, the aggregated data stored in these cards provides an important mechanism for analyzing change and impact over time. Implementers can use this data to assess and enhance interventions, but there are potentially many additional uses for aggregated data, including providing financial institutions the information they need to accurately assess risk. The innovation won a Digital Development Award in 2017 from USAID for their use of the low-cost technology. As of yet, the cards do not connect with other USAID-funded project databases. Photo credit: Timothy Adei/Team 1000 Words.

turn she was able to buy more services from her outgrower business. Sanatou, a soybean farmer, said that ADVANCE training sessions on better farming practices, like proper spacing, have helped her triple her yield, even during the drought. The VSLA has allowed her to pay her children's school costs, without having to borrow from friends.

Mind the Financing Gap: Lunch with FinGAP²⁴

A recurring theme during the delegation's visit was the constraining effect that limited access to finance has on agricultural growth and productivity. Although agriculture makes up 19 percent of Ghana's GDP and employs 41 percent of working Ghanaians, agriculture makes up just 5 percent of Ghanaian banks' commercial lending portfolio. Interest charged on loans—35 percent or more in some cases—makes borrowing prohibitive.

Financial institutions see the sector as too risky and vulnerable to exogenous shocks, and most Ghanaians (who generally do not have formal title to the land they cultivate) have little to offer as collateral. The reality however, according to FinGAP chief of party Rick Dvorin, is that agricultural lending need not be as risky as financial institutions make it out to be. FinGAP's mission is to debunk that perception and show that risk can be managed.

Part of that is educating financial institutions and bringing their perception of risk more in line with reality, and part is mitigating the risks that do exist. FinGAP works with agribusinesses of all sizes to help them access credit and use new and existing risk-mitigation tools, such as weather or crop insurance. The project works with commercial and rural banks, insurance companies, equity investors, and others to deepen their understanding of maize, rice, and soy value chains and provide incentives for greater engagement in the sector. Finally, FinGAP has recruited and trained a network of business advisory service providers, building their capacity to help agribusinesses access financial services as a core part of their business.

FinGAP has had impressive results. Their initial goal of leveraging \$75 million in financing for agribusinesses was quickly surpassed, with the current total at \$158 million. The project has helped some 2,800 agribusinesses access financing (more than 90 percent of them small businesses), with knock-on benefits accruing to 160,000 smallholder farmers, 40 percent of whom are women.

Dvorin estimates the agricultural financing gap in Ghana is close to \$2 billion. Returns on USAID spending in this area have been high, and cracking the agricultural financing nut will be a key step toward Ghana's agricultural transformation.

²⁴ The Financing Ghana Agricultural Project (FinGAP) is a five-year project, 2013–2018, with funding of \$22 million. Palladium is the lead implementing partner.

Investment in Technology to Drive Change: ATT²⁵ Interactive Display

With the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) as the lead implementer, the Agriculture Technology Transfer (ATT) project aims to increase the availability and use of technology in boosting agricultural productivity and conserving resources. The project supports local research capacity as well as technology interventions in three broad categories: seed, soil, and water. At a large warehouse outside Tamale, participants in the ATT project walked the CSIS delegation through the array of interventions in each category.

ATT is catalyzing big and important change in the seed sector, from development to distribution. A number of farmers with whom the delegation met said seed availability has been a persistent problem for them. Increased availability and access to certified seed is essential to agricultural transformation, opening up possibilities for increased production, expanded access to credit, and better market and export opportunities. In partnership with the University of Iowa, the project helped enhance the Savanna Agricultural Research Institute's ability to develop new seed varieties to meet local needs and demands. The project constructed and equipped three state-of-the-art seed testing and certification labs, one in each of the northern regions. Local commercial seed growers received training on business practices and how to expand their capacity to meet rising seed demand. Three leading northern seed companies were awarded matching grants to acquire modern seed-cleaning equipment that has dramatically reduced processing time. What used to take two months to process can now be done in an hour.

Increasing the quantity of quality certified seed is crucially important but getting seed out to remote rural farms is an additional challenge. ATT helped supply a distribution company with 22 vans for rural distribution. The vans are a bit like ice cream trucks—with pictures of their merchandise painted on the outside and a jingle to let farmers know they are coming. Solar-powered video projectors are used to give demonstrations and training to farmers. In their first year these vans distributed 400 metric tons of seed to rural farmers. Use of certified seed in the area has gone from 12 to 25 percent since ATT began its work. It aims to raise that to 40 percent in the coming year.

In soil, ATT seeks to encourage productive fertilizer use, instilling the importance of soil sampling as a basic step in farming. ATT is working with a private company to do basic testing and provide farmers with customized fertilizer recommendations; they are seeing a rise in demand for testing. Unfortunately, the fertilizer sector—which a number of those interviewed during the trip described as dysfunctional—does not as yet have the capacity for tailored products, particularly for smallholders. ATT also provides training on improved applications of fertilizer, including, for example, placing compacted balls of urea deep in the soil (urea deep placement), which prevents run off, with less waste and fewer environmental impacts.

²⁵ The Agricultural Technology Transfer Project (ATT) is a five-year program, 2013–2018, with funding of \$22 million. The International Fertilizer Development Center is the lead implementing partner.



A local businessman explains the support he received to sell certified seeds through the ATT project, which helps supply vans (like the one behind him) to enable seed distribution to rural farmers. Since obtaining access to the vans, the man's business has improved and access to seeds for rural farmers has increased exponentially. Photo credit: Timothy Adei/Team 1000 Words.

In water, ATT is testing the marketability of the PAVE irrigation system,²⁶ a water-conservation technology that "harvests" and stores excess water underground, for use during the dry season. The project is in its early stages. If successfully adapted, the technology could harvest and store enough water to allow a second planting season.

Finally, the delegation met with awardees of a scholarship program sponsored by ATT, which encourages students at the University of Development Studies (UDS) in Tamale to take on research relevant to agricultural development in their area. Students described their research in pest control, informal credit systems, uptake of integrated technology approaches, and improving soybean storage. Wonder, who is working on introduction of parasitoids to combat Fall Army Worm, told the delegation that UDS and the scholarship have "encouraged us to explore opportunities in agriculture, and the networking and exposure all along the value chain has opened my eyes to the kinds of opportunities that are out there."

²⁶ PAVE Irrigation Systems is a Ghana-based partnership. The PAVE technology, which originated in Germany, is a rain water harvesting, aquifer recharge irrigation technology that injects excess water underground during period of rainy days and floods. This is aimed at storing water for dry season farming, and also supplementing irrigation during short rainy periods. See Pave Irrigation Systems, <http://paveirrigation.com>.

Building Resilience and Nutrition: Visit to RING²⁷ Project in Begu Community, Kumbungu District

The RING Project operates in targeted communities across 17 districts in Northern Region, with a focus on sustainably reducing poverty and improving livelihoods and nutritional status of women and children. While much of Feed the Future's global programming focuses on value chains and markets, RING is one of just a few programs in Feed the Future focus countries that target the most vulnerable communities, where beneficiaries may not yet be in a position to participate in value chain interventions.

An important feature of RING, is that rather than delivering services directly, it works with local government authorities—municipal and district assemblies—to strengthen their capacity to do so. Although the government of Ghana has committed to government decentralization, local government authorities most often lack the resources, capacity, and experience to meet the needs of local populations. RING provides direct and indirect grants to local governments, supplemented by training and management assistance.

Community members described some of the changes the program has generated:

- Alhassan Senatu, the mother of four, talked about the importance of the mother-to-mother support group. "It has changed how I do things, especially in how I prepare our food, washing my hands before cooking... When a child is small, you need to boil the water, and make sure that children get some meat to prevent anemia—it used to be that meat was only for adults." She has seen a decline in minor ailments that used to affect the household. The mother-to-mother group also discussed breastfeeding practices—traditionally mothers would discard their first breast milk, for example.
- Alassane Aissatou used to rely on dried baobab leaves for soup in the dry season. She now cultivates fresh leafy greens, which are more nutritious. She is able to sell a portion of the greens and puts some of the proceeds toward the community VSLA. The VSLA has helped people in the community to weather small costs that used to create major problems—if a child falls sick, for example, or school fees are due. The project has brought the community closer together, and in her case contributed to "peace in the household." "I no longer have to depend on my husband to buy what I need for cooking."
- Sixty-five-year-old Yahaya Damba talked about changes in sanitation practices in Begu. The community meets monthly to discuss water and sanitation issues. They jointly agreed that every household should build a latrine, and today the community has been certified as "open defecation free." Every house has a "tippy-tap" for hand washing as well. RING has also improved communication with local government authorities. "Before we had no visits from the district assembly. Today we see them much more to talk about what we want." Electricity is next on Mr. Damba's priority list.

²⁷ The Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) project is a five-year program, 2014–2019, with funding of \$22.5 million. The project provides technical assistance to local government structures and partners with Global Communities.

- Abdul Hamza Fataw, chief executive of Kumbungu District, outlined some of the project's impact in his district. Overall, 3,000 households have benefited from livelihood interventions, including support for cultivation of soy, orange flesh sweet potato, leafy greens, and raising sheep and goats. The VSLA program has reached 92 community groups, with aggregate savings district-wide currently at \$84,000. The RING project has helped support local health facilities and trained staff and community volunteers on anemia, child feeding, and management of acute malnutrition. In addition, the collaboration with RING has helped build the district government's capacity to provide services: training in asset management, procurement, project planning and implementation, and monitoring and evaluation have been particularly important. A priority for sustainability will be local governments' ability to mainstream these activities in their medium-term development plan. Area councils are receiving advice and training on resource mobilization strategies.

Building Collaboration in Agricultural Research: Feed the Future Innovation Lab Visits

The delegation visited a sampling of Feed the Future Innovation Labs, which support collaboration between U.S. universities and local research institutions to accelerate development, food security, and poverty alleviation.

The delegation visited the Feed Research Institute, where the University of Illinois Soybean Innovation Lab (SIL) is partnering with the Savanna Agricultural Research Institute and others to boost consumption of soy products, a significant and versatile source of protein. Most of the soy produced in northern Ghana is sold for animal feed, with an important opportunity to boost nutrition and protein intake among children foregone. Frank Peget, a technologist at the Food Research Institute in Accra, gives the delegation a demonstration of the SoyCow, provided by SIL, a processing machine that turns whole soybeans into soymilk, tofu, and other soy foods. With training, product development, marketing strategies, and outreach to administrators of school feeding programs, the lab is testing the viability of soy food production as a sustainable business enterprise.

At the University of Ghana's Department of Animal Science, Dr. Boniface Kayang describes the university's partnership with the University of California, Davis, and others to develop chicken breeds that are resistant to Newcastle disease. Newcastle is a highly infectious virus that can wipe out 80–90 percent of flocks affected in a matter of days. Although vaccines are available, they are not an optimal solution in northern Ghana, where the lack of reliable cold chains, the risk of counterfeit vaccines, and the costs of revaccination make it impractical. Breeding for resistance offers a more durable solution.



Frank Peget, a technologist at the Food Research Institute, stands in front of the SoyCow, a processing machine that turns whole soybeans into soymilk, tofu, and other soy foods at the Soybean Innovation Lab. Low-cost soy product like this can help boost nutrition and protein intake among children in Ghana. Photo credit: Timothy Adei/Team 1000 Words.

In Tamale, a partnership between Texas A&M University, the International Water Management Institute, the University of Development Studies, and others is exploring sustainable irrigation and water management technologies for smallholders. The University of Georgia is partnering with the University of Ghana and others to prevent aflatoxin contamination, a fungus that can affect peanuts and other crops and that causes stunting and liver cancer in children. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is supporting a partnership with the American Soybean Association and AMPLIFIES Ghana to improve quality and availability of poultry feed to strengthen productivity.

Finally, the delegation met with participants in the Africa Women in Agricultural Development and Research (AWARD) Fellows Program. AWARD works with researchers at different stages of their careers, providing a two-year fellowship that includes professional and leadership mentoring, science and research training, and opportunities for networking and research collaboration. Dr. Angela Parry-Hanson, a food microbiologist and 2015 AWARD fellow, is working to support Ghana's domestic dairy industry. "The AWARD mentoring program helped open my eyes to a lot of ways to be successful in my field and in my institution. AWARD helped me get where I am," said Dr. Parry, "or at least it accelerated the process." Each of the AWARD fellows expressed their sense of obligation in helping mentor and encourage young women to engage in science and research.

Somewhat analogous to the AWARD Program, the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program, supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides training and collaborative research opportunities to early- or mid-career scientists, researchers of policymakers working on food security and agriculture. A canceled flight from Tamale prevented the delegation from meeting current Borlaug Fellows, although it met with one fellowship candidate, a research scientist with a focus on food biotechnology and mycology, eagerly awaiting word on her application.

The personal and institutional connections that these collaborative research and fellowship programs build tend to endure over years and even decades, creating opportunities for collaboration and information exchange well into the future.

04

Preparing for the Future: Sustainability and Planning for an Eventual Assistance “Transition”

There is no silver bullet for agricultural growth and productivity, but Feed the Future in Ghana is tackling some of the biggest constraints, with interventions that aim for catalytic change and lasting impact. ATT’s work in the seed sector, ADVANCE’s work on incentive-based partnerships between smallholders and agribusinesses, FinGAP’s work to change the risk perceptions of financial institutions and to get business service enterprises to make facilitation of agro-financing part of their service menu—these interventions can have systemic impact and create enduring incentives for further change. To have maximal impact, however, they need to be buttressed by the commitment of the government of Ghana to policy reforms, to investment in the agricultural sector broadly, to creating an enabling environment, and to building out critical infrastructure.

RING’s work in reaching vulnerable communities is critically important, but by its nature lends itself less to scalability and sustainability. Building the capacity of local government authorities to connect with their communities and to deliver needed services is a hugely important endeavor and has long been a neglected element of U.S. assistance programs. But that neglect, both from donors and from national governments, makes it particularly challenging, since capacities and resources begin at a very low base. For programs like this to be sustainable over time and brought to scale, local resource mobilization must be a priority, and the government of Ghana must buy in with consistent support and collaboration. The gains of the RING project should not be lost, and Feed the Future should make the strong case to the government of Ghana to coinvest in the effort.

Finally, it is hard to overstate the importance of research—to develop new technologies and solutions, to mitigate existing and emerging risks, to conserve scarce resources and adapt to environmental change, and to test what works and what does not. Feed the Future research partnerships in Ghana are investments that build the knowledge and capacity of both American and Ghanaian partners and can contribute to global solutions for the enduring challenges of hunger and malnutrition.

With the possibility of decreasing assistance levels, and a Ghanaian government committed to reducing the country’s dependence on foreign assistance, there may be some tough decisions and tradeoffs ahead. Sustainability of efforts and impact become increasingly important, as does vision and commitment by the government of Ghana. In many cases, capacities, linkages, and incentives created by Feed the Future programming will endure. But abrupt drops in levels of

funding could put much of the important progress made to date at risk. Ideally, an assistance “transition”—whether at project level or nationally—should be carefully planned and coordinated, drawing on extensive consultation and dialogue between the U.S. and the Ghanaian government.

Annex: Feed the Future Activities

Ghana is one of the 19 original Feed the Future focus countries and one of the 12 selected for renewal in 2017. The country has received nearly \$325 million in Feed the Future between FY 2010 and FY 2017.

The delegation had the opportunity to observe or meet with the following Feed the Future programs in Ghana:

African Women in Agricultural Research for Development (AWARD)

Goal: inclusive, agriculture-driven prosperity for the African continent by strengthening the production and dissemination of more gender-responsive agricultural research and innovation.

Budget: \$2,400,000 from 2011–2018

Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement Program (ADVANCE)

Goal: to scale up agricultural investments to improve the competitiveness of the maize, rice, and soybean value chains and link smallholder farmers to larger markets, finance, inputs, technologies, and information to improve production and efficiency.

Budget: \$37,000,000 from 2014–2018

Agricultural Technology Transfer (ATT)

Goal: to increase the availability and use of agricultural technologies to maximize and sustain productivity in Northern Ghana.

Budget: \$24,045,100 from 2013–2018

Financing Ghanaian Agricultural Project (FinGAP)

Goal: to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to financing actors and increasing competitiveness in the maize, rice, and soy value chains in northern Ghana.

Budget: \$22,000,000 from 2013–2018

Global Food Security Project—Peace Corps

Goal: to focus Peace Corps volunteer efforts on food security innovations and interventions.

Budget: \$929,600 from 2015–2018

Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING)-Technical Assistance

Goal: to improve the social and economic wellbeing of one of Ghana's poorest regions by partnering directly with the regional and local governments to support their ability to fulfill their mandates to the communities they represent.

Budget: \$22,500,000 from 2014–2019

Support to Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI)

Goal: to support SARI's mandate to provide farmers in the Northern, Upper East, and Upper West regions with appropriate technologies to increase their food and fiber crop production based on a sustainable production system that maintains and/or increases soil fertility.

Budget: \$5,550,000 from 2015–2020

USDA Food for Progress, Assisting Management in the Poultry and Layer Industries by Feed Improvement and Efficiency Strategies (AMPLIFIES)

Goal: to build downstream value chain capacity for Ghana's agriculture industry, specifically strengthening market linkages for locally produced maize and soy commodities utilized in feed and poultry production.

Budget: \$14,825,800 from 2015–2020

There are programs in the Feed the Future Ghana portfolio that the delegation was not able to visit during the trip that nevertheless provide valuable support and warrant mentioning. Those include:

Africa LEAD

Goal: to help realize Feed the Future's and the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) goals of reduced hunger and poverty by building the capacity of champions, institutions, and stakeholders to develop, lead, and manage the structures needed for African-led agriculture transformation.

Budget: \$4,500,000 from 2014–2018

Agriculture Natural Resource Management Project (NRM)

Goal: to reduce poverty through sustainable increases in wealth and nutrition from natural and nontraditional agriculture products by addressing environmental, agricultural, governance, and natural resource management challenges.

Budget: \$24,900,000 from 2016–2021

Agriculture Policy Support Project (APSP)

Goal: to increase the capacity of the government of Ghana, the private sector, and civil society organizations to implement evidence-based policy formation, implementation, research, and advocacy and perform rigorous monitoring and evaluation of agricultural programs.

Budget: \$15,000,000 from 2013–2018

Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development Program (BHEARD)

Goal: to support the long-term training of agricultural researchers at the master's and doctoral levels, thereby linking scientific and higher-education communities in Feed the Future priority countries and the United States.

Budget: \$4,950,000 from 2012–2016

Coastal Sustainable Landscape Program (CSLP)

Goal: to improve carbon sequestration, forest management, and livelihood diversification in the six coastal districts and municipalities of Ghana's Western Region as a part of the country's ongoing efforts to mitigate threats to landscape conservation.

Budget: \$10,282,076 from 2013–2019

Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Support Project

Goal: to contribute to the sustainable exploitation of marine fisheries of Ghana through research and targeted sensitization of stakeholders through capacity building.

Budget: \$5,500,000 from 2014–2019

Ghana Strategic Support Program (GSSP)

Goal: to build the capabilities of researchers, administrators, policymakers, and members of civil society in Ghana to develop and implement agricultural and rural development strategies.

Budget: \$14,000,000 from 2014–2018

Ghana Supply Chain Development Program (SCD)

Goal: to increase the sustainable participation of Ghanaian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and business service providers (BSPs) in the procurement of contracts with the oil and gas sector in Ghana.

Budget: \$4,888,500 from 2013–2018

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Technical Support Services (METSS)

Goal: to bring expertise in program design, evaluation, research, and policy analyses that support improvements in agricultural growth and food security in Ghana and enhance the USAID/Ghana Mission's ability to report on its Feed the Future initiative metrics.

Budget: \$16,000,000 from 2014–2018

Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS)

Goal: to address biosafety through an integrated program of research, capacity development, and outreach, and works with countries interested in using biotechnology to enhance agricultural innovation.

Budget: \$1,250,000 from 2012–2018

Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING)–Government-to-Government Agreements

Goal: to improve the social and economic wellbeing of one of Ghana's poorest regions by partnering directly with the regional and local governments to support their ability to fulfill their mandates to the communities they represent.

Budget: approximately \$30 million from 2014–2019

Scientific Cooperation Research Program (SCRCP)

Goal: to help countries become more competitive consumers of U.S. agricultural products by supporting joint research, extension, and education projects between U.S. researchers and researchers from emerging market economies to address issues including agricultural trade, market access, animal and plant health, biotechnology, food safety and security, and sustainable natural resource management.

Budget: \$199,000 in 2016–2017

Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)

Goal: to rebuild targeted marine fish stocks that have seen major declines in landings over the last decade, particularly the small pelagic fisheries that are important for food security and are the mainstay of the small-scale fishing sector.

Budget: \$23,987,000 from 2014–2019

USAID Development Credit Authority Loan Portfolio Guarantee (DCA)

Goal: to address the needs of local businesses by using partial credit guarantees to mobilize local financing in developing countries.

Budget: \$185,300 from 2012–2019 to Sinapi Aba, and \$402,500 from 2012–2019 to Ecobank Ghana.

USDA Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program

Goal: to promote food security and economic growth by providing training and collaborative research opportunities to fellows from developing and middle-income countries.

Budget: \$180,000 in 2018

USDA Cochran Fellowship Program

Goal: to develop agricultural systems and enhance trade linkages with middle-income countries, emerging markets, and emerging democracies by providing short-term training opportunities to agricultural professionals.

Budget: \$85,000 in 2018

USDA Food for Progress, Ghana Poultry Project (GPP)

Goal: to improve productivity in the poultry value chain through capacity building, improving input markets, promoting strategic investments and public-private partnerships. Increase the trade of poultry products by improving product quality, production efficiency, and market linkages.

Budget: \$26,277,972 from 2015–2020

Feed the Future has partnerships with the following U.S. universities as a part of the Feed the Future Innovation Labs in Ghana:

- Kansas State University, Reduction of Post-Harvest Loss Research
- Michigan State University, Food Security Policy Research
- Michigan State University, Grain Legume Research
- Oregon State University, Aquaculture & Fisheries Research
- Texas A&M University, Small-Scale Irrigation Technology and Agricultural Water Management Practice Research
- University of California-Davis, Assets and Market Access Research
- University of California-Davis, Genomics to Improve Poultry Research
- University of California-Davis, Horticulture Research

- University of California-Davis, Norman E. Borlaug Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Program
- University of California-Riverside, Climate-Resilient Cowpea Research
- University of Georgia, Peanut Productivity and Mycotoxin Control Research
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Soybean Value Chain Research

About the Author

Jennifer G. Cooke was director of the CSIS Africa Program, where she led research and analysis on political, economic, and security dynamics in Africa. She has authored reports and commentaries on a broad range of topics, including an examination of militancy and extremism in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, religious authority and the state in Africa, Africa's changing energy landscape, and political transitions in Zimbabwe, Angola, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and more. In July 2018, Cooke will join the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs as director of the Institute for African Studies.

Cooke is a frequent commentator in print, on radio, and on television, and she has testified before Congress on Boko Haram in Nigeria, the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, and the African Union. She travels widely in Africa and has been an election observer in Sierra Leone, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia. She lived in Côte d'Ivoire and the Central African Republic as a teenager and speaks French.

Prior to CSIS, she worked at the National Academy of Sciences in the Office of Human Rights and the Office of News and Public Information and in the U.S. Congress on the House Subcommittee on Africa. She holds an M.A. in African studies and international economics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a B.A. in government, magna cum laude, from Harvard University.

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