

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



SPECIAL EDITION ON SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

May 21st, 2010

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FEED THE FUTURE GUIDE

Feed the Future Guide, U.S. Government, May 2010

The Feed the Future Guide describes the strategic approach and implementation structures of Feed the Future (FTF), the U.S. global hunger and food security initiative. It is intended to inform partners and stakeholders about the development of FTF and how we translate our principles into actions on the ground. This guide is a living document. As the USG continues to consult with partners and learn lessons, it will update this guide to reflect the evolution of Feed the Future.

http://feedthefuture.gov/FTF_Guide.pdf

See Also: Feed the Future: At a Glance, Fact Sheet, U.S. Government, May 2010

http://www.feedthefuture.gov/FTF_At_A_Glance.pdf

See Also: USAID launches Feed the Future Website, USAID Impact Blog, May 20

USAID, on behalf of the U.S. Government, is proud to launch the [Feed the Future](#) website.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2010/05/usaid-feed-the-future-website-released/>

See Also: United States Reaffirms Commitment to Addressing Global Hunger and Food Security through Feed the Future Initiative, U.S. Department of State, May 20

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/05/142037.htm>

REMARKS BY KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AT THE SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Remarks by Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, Chicago Council Symposium on Agriculture and Food Security, Washington, DC, May 20

“So we know agricultural development is a springboard for broader economic development and we know food security is the foundation for peace and opportunity, and therefore, our own national security. This administration's plan and this president's plan for a more peaceful world center on enhancing prosperity in our partner countries by elevating development and better integrating it with diplomacy and defense as part of our foreign policy. That is why President Obama pledged in his inaugural address that we would work alongside the people of lower-income countries to make their farms flourish. And that is why Secretary Clinton together with Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-Moon last September drew together leaders from more than 130 countries around the world for a special session at the U.N. General Assembly, asking each of them to make commitments to this global cause. And that's why we're here today.”

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100520.html>

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Delivers Keynote Address at Chicago Council on Global Affairs Symposium on Agriculture and Food Security, May 20

“We are focused on expanding domestic production in developing countries to meet the growing food demand. But even with the best efforts of the global community, it is likely that food production in many developing countries will be constrained by limited resources and prevailing weather patterns. That is why improved global and regional trade must be part of the solution to provide adequate global food supplies and food security. Trade encourages dietary diversity, drives economic opportunity, stabilizes food supplies and can reduce food costs.”

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/05/0278.xml>

Remarks by Dr. Namanga Ngongi, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Chicago Council Symposium on Agriculture and Food Security, Washington, DC, May 20

“The question today is not whether we should invest in Africa's farms, but how we invest. While our continent's agriculture is in a daunting state of disrepair, progress is being made. The agricultural system can not only be fixed, it can become a model of efficiency, high productivity, and sustainability. AGRA is working in partnership with national governments and other stakeholders to transform African agriculture through integrated programs in seeds, soils, market access, policy and innovative financing. Together, these innovations will trigger sustainable change. There is no ‘silver bullet’ or one big solution but rather many small interventions scaled up along the value chain. This will transform smallholder farming.”

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1150>

COMMENTARY BY SYMPOSIUM PANELISTS AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

A Call To Feed the Future, Cheryl Mills, Counselor and Chief of Staff to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, DipNote Blog, U.S. Department of State, May 20

The Obama Administration is forging a new vision for development -- one that fundamentally elevates development as a central pillar of our foreign policy alongside diplomacy and defense, changes the way we support development in new and innovative ways, and integrates development much more deeply with defense and diplomacy to address some of the world's greatest challenges. The Administration's core vision is to build a safer, more prosperous, more democratic, and more equitable world. The Feed the Future Initiative is central to achieving that vision. Recognizing the importance of food security to our collective environmental, economic and human security, President Obama asked Secretary Clinton to lead a robust whole-of-government effort to make food security a reality for millions in need.

http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/feed_the_future

Even Those with Full Plates Need Food Security, *Paul Schickler, President, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Huffington Post, May 20*

Food security is national security. Better farming can change the game -- addressing multiple global issues that include hunger, poverty, environmental degradation, poor nutrition and even civil unrest.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-schickler/even-those-with-full-plate-583641.html>

From Pledges to Progress: Measuring Agricultural Development Assistance, *Sir Gordon Conway, professor of international development, Imperial College London, and Laura Kelly, director of policy, ONE Europe, Global Food for Thought Blog, May 20*

When engaging in the complex, interdisciplinary world of agricultural development, we need a better detailed understanding of what works. By investing time and money in better aid data now, governments will be able to work with their advisers, researchers and recipient country partners, to understand how their new investments correlate with progress on the ground. This will enable increasingly effective and coherent partnerships in the future.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/05/expert-commentary-gordon-conway-laura-kelly.html>

Feet to the Fire, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, May 21*

Through Feed the Future, the government will be investing at least \$3.5 billion over three years (as part of a concerted international push to spend \$22 billion) to reverse the neglect of agriculture development of the past decades and to reverse the resulting soaring hunger and malnutrition. The idea is to follow country-led investment plans and adhere to their priorities – a big break from the past practice of telling developing countries what they needed. And to spread the investment beyond mere production increases, to work the whole value chain from research lab to cooking calabash.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/05/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-feet-to-the-fire.html>

MEDIA COVERAGE OF SYMPOSIUM AND RELEASE OF *FEED THE FUTURE* GUIDE

Major shift in US anti-hunger strategy, *Financial Times, May 20*

The US launched a major food security initiative, dubbed 'Feed the Future', confirming Washington's shift from relying exclusively on food aid as its anti-hunger tool. The move to tackle hunger by investing in agriculture is a U-turn for most western governments, including the US, which have spent the last 20 years fighting hunger by shipping overseas their surpluses of subsidised grain production.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1344ad56-642d-11df-8618-00144feab49a.html>

Obama Seeks \$3.5 Billion to Feed Poor Nations, *The Wall Street Journal, May 21*

Industrialized countries are showing renewed interest in helping poor nations feed themselves in the wake of street protests that were sparked by soaring food costs in 2007 and early 2008. The global recession put agricultural commodities into a tailspin in 2009, but food prices in some nations have yet to return to their pre-food crisis levels.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703559004575256860701115920.html>

U.S. spells out how it will combat world hunger, *Reuters, May 20*

The U.S. global anti-hunger strategy will focus on a small number of countries where collaborative projects can expand local food production and reduce chronic hunger, the Obama administration said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64J7G120100520>

US funds poor farmers to make world safer, *Agence France-Presse, May 20*

Sirleaf said rebuilding Liberia's farming sector was a key driver in the west African country's recovery, after back-to-back civil wars that claimed more than a quarter of a million lives between 1989 and 2003 and left the infrastructure in ruins. "Recognizing that agricultural growth is more effective in reducing poverty than

any other effort in any sector, our government is placing emphasis on this strategic sector," which ground to a halt during the years of war as farmers abandoned their fields to seek shelter in cities, said Sirleaf.
http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jy0TJDYi5_G1iaLKE-sTD8uaCdbQ

Shah: Women farmers are the key, *The Cable (Foreign Policy)*, May 20

As he works to overhaul a Cold War agency long neglected and widely described as in desperate need of reform, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah says there's a player in the development game: women farmers. "We know the people who matter most aren't the financiers, or the agriculture ministers, or the assistance workers and farmers. They are the women farmers who are the untapped solution to this problem," Shah said in a speech.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/05/20/shah_women_farmers_are_the_key

Does US food security strategy go far enough?, *Katine Blog, The Guardian*, May 21

Yesterday, the US government published its Feed the Future strategy document to reduce hunger and increase food security. But does it really address the underlying causes of hunger?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/may/21/us-food-security-strategy>

Feed the Future: USAID's Shah Focuses on Women, Innovation, Integration, *The New Security Beat*, May 20

In one "huge change in our assistance model," Feed the Future will be "country-led and country-owned," said Shah, who asked NGOs and USAID implementing partners to "align that expertise behind country priorities" and redirect money away from Washington towards "building real local capacity." USAID will "work in partnership, not patronage," with its 20 target countries, he said. To insure that the administration's agricultural development efforts are aligned to the same goals, Shah said USAID will collect baseline data from the start on three metrics: women's incomes, child malnutrition, and agricultural production.

<http://newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com/2010/05/feed-future-usaids-shah-focuses-on.html>

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