



United States
Department of
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Foreign
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Service

FACT SHEET

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Capacity Building and Technical Assistance. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducts trade-capacity building, technical assistance, and education and research activities to enhance African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) countries' ability to trade with the United States and other countries. These activities foster a more prosperous, open region.

U.S. capacity-building activities include assisting African countries with the export of fresh agricultural products by meeting international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards and regulations. These standards apply to plants, animals, or any product derived from plants or animals. Countries that adopt these rules are protecting the health of animals, plants, and people.

USDA has SPS advisors in Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa at African Global Competitiveness Initiative hubs that are managed by the U.S. Agency for International Development. These advisors work with their African counterparts to implement a wide range of SPS improvement activities that are critical to building the institutional regulatory capacity necessary to facilitate trade. The regional advisors and U.S. agricultural attachés provide information about requirements for exporting agricultural products to the United States and help African countries develop the capacity to access the U.S. market.

To ensure that African systems are consistent with international standards, training is provided in compliance with U.S. regulatory requirements for processed food as established by USDA and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. USDA provided training in Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Agricultural Practices throughout sub-Saharan Africa to improve market access for processed agricultural products. USDA also supports Namibia's continuing efforts to attain equivalence for its meat processing industry's access to the U.S. market.

Education and Research. Since 1984, USDA's Cochran Fellowship Program has provided training for more than 1,200 participants from 26 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including nearly 96 participants this year. The Cochran program provides short-term training in the United States to help countries develop market-driven food systems and increase trade links with U.S. agribusinesses.

Several Cochran alumni have made significant contributions to their countries since graduating. Lawrence Njuguna has doubled milk production on his 40-cow Kenyan dairy farm and implemented marketing strategies that improved the prices he gets for milk. Mr. Njuguna also helps hundreds of fellow farmers by conducting on-farm training and contributing to a farm radio talk show. Katy

Coleman from South Africa now owns her own company and is leading industry efforts to improve product quality and expand the range of soy food products throughout the Southern Africa region.

The Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program (Borlaug Program) provides 6- to 8-week collaborative research training for leading scientists and policy-makers from developing and middle-income countries. Since 2005, 96 individuals from 16 AGOA countries have been trained. More than 50 percent of all Borlaug Fellows have been women. Since 2005, the African Women in Science Borlaug Fellows Program has supported 49 leading female scientists from 11 AGOA countries.

The Faculty Exchange Program brings university instructors of agricultural economics and sciences to the United States to work with U.S. professors to upgrade their technical knowledge and develop new and revised courses for their home universities. In 2008, the program supported nine university instructors from Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Senegal.

The Scientific Cooperation Research Program has helped U.S. scientists cooperate with 16 African country partners in 43 long-term research projects. These research projects are focused on animal and plant diseases and pests, food safety, and new products and emerging technologies. We plan to continue cooperating with seven sub-Saharan African partners this year.

Food Assistance. USDA provides food assistance to AGOA countries through two programs—the Food for Progress (FFPr)

and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition (McGovern-Dole) Programs.

The FFPr improves nutrition and supports agricultural and economic development projects in developing countries that are emerging democracies and are introducing or expanding free enterprise in their agricultural sectors. The total value of FFPr programs during the last fiscal year is more than \$73 million in seven AGOA countries.

The McGovern-Dole Program helps promote education, child development, and food security in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education. The program provides donations of U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects. The total value of McGovern-Dole programs during the last fiscal year is \$135 million in 13 AGOA countries.

In December 2008, USDA signed an agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to assess the feasibility of implementing programs for schools to purchase food for school meals from local smallholder farmers in Ghana, Kenya, Mali, and Rwanda. Results of the assessments will be made available to the four countries so they can seek assistance from potential public and private bilateral or multilateral donors to develop a program in their region.

General information about FAS programs, resources, and services is available on the Internet at the FAS home page: <http://www.fas.usda.gov>

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