



August 10, 2012  
Economic Growth Office

# Feed the Future Initiative

## Bi-weekly Highlights

### Accomplishments

- Food Security Summit** -- From July 2-5, Peace Corps Volunteers attended the West Africa Food Security Partnership (WAFSP) PCV Food Security Summit in Banjul, The Gambia. WAFSP is a regional partnership between USAID and Peace Corps to support synergistic food security programming opportunities between four West African [Feed the Future \(FTF\) Initiative](#) Focus Countries: Ghana, Liberia, Mali and [Senegal](#); and seven non-FTF Focus countries with Peace Corps programs: [Benin](#), [Burkina Faso](#), Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and [Togo](#). The goal of the summit was to assemble PCVs and PC staff from all WAFSP countries in order to encourage, train, and equip them to effectively improve regional food security.
- Video Secretary of State Visit** -- On Aug. 1, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton swore in 19 Peace Corps Senegal Volunteers who are part of the Community Economic Development (CED) sector. This was the first in a 10-day, six-nation sub-Saharan trip during which Secretary Clinton will continue to share President Obama’s “partnership, not patronage” Africa policy. CED Volunteers in Senegal work in agribusiness, waste management, handicrafts and eco-tourism sectors, and with Master Farmers and other farmers to help them improve their accounting and record keeping practices.
- Scale-up of Conservation Farming** – With encouraging results seen through conservation farming in sorghum, millet and maize cultivation, the USAID Economic Growth project, USAID/PCE, is introducing upland rice growers to the initiative. To that end, USAID/PCE sponsored two days of training for about 30 new farmers who will in turn become trainers themselves. Ultimately they will reach hundreds of farmers. USAID/PCE also provided more than 1,500 millet growers with Chaka hoes and Rippers to help scale-up conservation farming in areas of intervention.
- Public-Private-Partnership with Seed Center** – On July 24-26 USAID/PCE sponsored a 3-day stakeholders’ conference to define a contractual framework for a Public-Private-Partnership arrangement (PPP) aimed at formalizing the private management of the Richard Toll Seed Treatment Center. The conference brought together all categories of seed operators in the Senegal River zone including private entrepreneurs, local government bodies, and technical support services.



*“We know that countries are more likely to prosper when they encourage entrepreneurship; when they invest in their infrastructure; and when they expand trade and welcome investment.”*

*- President Barack Obama,  
Announcement of the new US Development  
Policy at the UN General Assembly,  
September 2010*

- **Farmer to Farmer Support**—The Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Project, USAID/Wula Nafaa, hosted a USAID Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer to assist the team in providing support for soil preparation techniques for vegetable cultivation. The volunteer, Tony Ends, trained farmers on “good gardening practices” in soil preparation, and assisted in the development of improved gardening tools easily adopted by farmers. Farmers also learned about soil fertility management and good vegetable bed preparation using simple garden tools that will boost their productivity.
- **Communication Campaign on Livestock Vaccination** – During this very difficult year, the Agriculture and Nutrition Program (USAID/Yaajeende) observed an extremely pronounced mortality and morbidity rate among livestock due to the lack of quality feed and fodder. In response, USAID/Yaajeende will launch a communications campaign focusing on livestock vaccination and health in order to impact livestock health.
- **APS conventions with Government Seed and Fertilizer Suppliers** -- Due to the ongoing food crisis in the Sahel the Government of Senegal is responding by providing producers in hard hit areas with subsidized seed and fertilizers for the upcoming year. USAID/Yaajeende’s nascent Community Based Service Provider Networks (CBSP) have approached the private companies that were awarded government contracts in the hopes of negotiating a role for the CBSP networks in distributing subsidized products to producers. This will be an opportunity for the CBSPs to demonstrate their value to both the firms as well as to the producers and provide the possibility of expanding distribution activities.

## Upcoming Events

- From Aug. 7-9, all Sustainable Agriculture Peace Corps Volunteers and Agriculture staff will meet in Tambacounda for their bi-annual summit. Volunteers will share their seed extension activities and review topics such as conservation farming, field crop yield calculations, seed selection and storage, writing a campaign report, integrated pest management and dry season gardening. Similarly, from Aug. 13-15, all Urban Agriculture Peace Corps Volunteers and Agriculture staff will meet in Ndoum for their bi-annual summit. Volunteers will share their rainy season activities and review topics as they prepare for the end of the rainy season and start of the dry season, such as field crop yield calculations, writing a campaign report, integrated pest management and dry season gardening.
- A group of Peace Corps Volunteers are getting ready for the upcoming TechCamp, which will be held in Dakar from August 30-31 and will be the first TechCamp in sub-Saharan Africa. TechCamp is a program under Secretary Clinton’s Civil Society (CS) 2.0 initiative which aims at improving the abilities of civil society organizations (CSOs) throughout the world to utilize the latest information and communications technologies (ICT).