

FEED THE FUTURE KENYA AGRICULTURE REGULATORY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM (FOODSCAP)

Feed the Future Kenya Agriculture Regulatory Capacity Building Program (FOODSCAP) is a three-year program implemented by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS). It is funded as part of Feed the Future (FtF), the US government's global hunger and food security initiative that helps to increase agricultural production and reduce poverty and malnutrition. The program was developed to address challenges like the shortage of improved crop varieties and plant protection options for orphan crops or open pollinated varieties (OPVs) as majority of the breeders give little or no attention to these crops. These crops tend to be regionally traded around the world. In addition, crops such as bananas, passion fruit and cassava tend to suffer from lack of clean planting material that inhibits production; there are also challenges of food safety like aflatoxins, pesticide residues and heavy metal on food; further, more emerging pests and diseases needing rapid response are evident in daily regulatory work.



Cowpeas is one of the crops under the Feed the Future Project being undertaken by KEPHIS

OUR WORK

The program's objectives are: to provide supportive seed production systems services to farmers growing orphan crops to assure availability of high quality seeds; to mitigate against crop losses through plant health management strategies and diagnostics and to monitor food safety through checking for food contaminants and setting pesticide residue limits. Under FOODSCAP, the following will benefit:

- Small holder farmers of Cowpeas, Pigeon peas, Dolichos, Finger millet, Ground nuts, Sorghum, Green grams, Banana, Cassava, Mango, Avocado, Passion fruit, French beans, Snow peas and Runner beans;
- Farmers who need quality seed for large scale production of small cereals and pulses as well as other traditional varieties;
- Tissue culture laboratories/nurseries and entrepreneurs to supply disease free and high quality planting materials;
- Nursery operators to supply high quality clean planting materials;

The FOODSCAP theory of change operates across the Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS) objectives and focuses on ensuring certified seed is available to the most vulnerable members of society thereby ensuring minimal crop losses due to pests and diseases and safe foods are available to markets. This leads to increased incomes for our farmers and general improvement in the performance of the economy. The results are resilience and reduction in incidences of poverty and hunger by addressing constraints such as lack of certified OPVs seeds within agricultural value chains that we operate in.

Priority Value Chains

Cowpeas, Pigeon peas, Dolichos, Finger millet, Ground nuts, Sorghum, Green grams, Banana, Cassava, Mango, Avocado, Passion fruit, French beans and common beans.

Achievements

Below is a snapshot of what FOODSCAP has achieved thus far:

- The project has produced and certified over 3,800 tons of certified seed (sorghum, beans, cowpeas and green grams) for various breeders
- It has identified and released 11 new varieties for Sorghum, Finger millet, French beans and Pigeon peas while another 23 varieties of Pearl millet, Groundnuts, Pigeon pea, Sorghum and others have been recommended for release;
- Trained 289 seed growers contracted by KALRO Seed Unit, Simlaw and Dryland Seed Ltd in Makueni, Machakos and Migori counties; staff trained to manage the Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND) and released MLND tolerant varieties.
- The project has developed Pest Risk analysis (PRA) information for 15 commodities for the USA market and five for other markets developed to mitigate crop losses.
- Two new PRA guidelines done; surveillance of banana pest and diseases in Kwale, Kilifi, Mombasa, Taita Taveta, Lamu, Tana River, Bungoma Trans Nzoia, Nyamira, Kisii, Vihiga, Kakamega and Busia;
- Over 40 counties sampled for aflatoxin, pesticide residue, heavy metal on common commodities against international standards such as Codex.
- Training on emerging market issues done in Nairobi and Naivasha.
- On setting pesticide residue limits, the field trial is complete for one compound (Sulfoxaflo); a USDA expert was in Kenya to support the laboratory phase of this trial; purchase of equipment to modernize laboratories is ongoing.

BUDGET: \$4,454,932

DURATION: 2017 - 2020

FOCUS AREAS

The counties of Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Vihiga, Homa Bay, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori, Nyamira, Siaya, Bomet, Kericho, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Taita Taveta; certain activities have a national scope like collecting samples to analyze for food safety contaminants.

IMPLEMENTER: Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)

PARTNERS

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation; KARLO; GTIL; Farmer groups/exporters; Pesticides industry; Seed industry (Kenya Seed, Dryland Seed Ltd, Simlaw); Seed Merchants; Pest Control Products Board (PCPB); Kenya Horticulture Council (KHC); Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD); AVCD; ICRISAT.

USAID CONTACT

Samson Okumu
Agreement Officer's Representatives (AOR)
Email: sokumu@usaid.gov

PARTNER'S CONTACT

Joseph Kigamwa
Program Manager
Email: jkigamwa@kephis.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: usaidke@usaid.gov
Website: www.usaid.gov/kenya
Facebook: USAIDKenya
Twitter: @USAIDKenya

