Global Food Security and Agriculture

Fostering inclusive, nutritious, and resilient food systems

www.rti.org/food-security
WHAT WE DO

RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research and international development institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Founded in 1958, RTI implements innovative approaches and achieves results grounded in cutting-edge analytics and adaptive learning.

We partner with a wide range of organizations and across sectors to address some of the world’s most complex challenges. Supporting global food systems to improve food security and spur sustainable economic growth is one of RTI’s core areas of expertise.

**WE EMPOWER** actors throughout the food system—from smallholder farmers to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to government ministries—to overcome market constraints and inefficiencies, increase productivity and sales, and inform policy.

**WE FACILITATE** access to markets and finance that enables farmers and MSMEs—including those owned by women and youth—to start or grow their businesses.

**WE INTEGRATE** nutrition solutions that improve the availability, accessibility, and affordability of safe, nutritious food, especially for women and children.

**WE LEVERAGE** innovative tools to generate and utilize data that empower farmers to reduce risk and improve production.

**WE STRENGTHEN** the resilience of systems, communities, and people to better manage shocks and adapt to changing circumstances.
RTI combines the research expertise of a university, the innovation and implementation capabilities of a private enterprise, and the mission focus of a nonprofit. We scale our approach to fit the demands of each context, delivering the power of a global leader and the passion of a local partner.

**ANALYTICAL EXPERTISE**
We strive to build the evidence base around, and develop innovative solutions to, food security and nutrition challenges facing countries around the world.

Our experts study a range of topics, from camel leasing in Somalia to responsive feeding strategies in Bangladesh. Since 2016, RTI has internally funded more than $1.8 million in global food security and nutrition research activities as part of our mission.

**DIGITAL SOLUTIONS**
RTI is at the forefront of bringing appropriate digital technology to the agriculture sector in low- and middle-income countries.

In Senegal, we introduced digital technologies that allowed farmers to accurately measure their fields, track yields, and maximize input usage, which improved farmer decision-making and increased access to finance and insurance.

**PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT**
Engaging with the global and local private sector in agriculture is critical to creating job opportunities, increasing incomes, and promoting more stable societies.

In countries such as Haiti, Kenya, Rwanda, and Somalia, we have supported the professionalization of thousands of farmers and agribusinesses, brokering partnerships and facilitating investment for their growth alongside improved access to financial services and markets.
Feed the Future Kenya Crops and Dairy Market Systems (KCDMS)

- Partnering with over 4,000 local organizations to increase productivity and expand income-generating opportunities in horticulture and dairy markets in 12 counties.
- Helping market actors increase sales by $25 million through access to finance; capacity building; ICT services; and linkages to markets, services, and technology suppliers.

USDAID Cambodia Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD)

- Supporting improved physical, cognitive, linguistic, and socio-emotional development of young children in three target provinces in Cambodia.
- Working to decrease child stunting by promoting nutritious diets and strengthening the integration of WASH, health, and early childhood development services.
- Improving household livelihoods by increasing the production, consumption, and sale of nutrient-rich food.

USDAID Nutrition in the ASALs Within Integrated Resilient Institutions (Nawiri)

- Researching ways to reduce persistent acute malnutrition in Kenya’s Samburu and Turkana counties.
- Supporting the design, research, and scaling of evidence-based, context-specific, multi-sectoral strategies.

USDAID Somalia Growth, Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods (GEEL)

- Promoting economic growth in high-potential value chains across Somalia, including renewable energy solutions for sustainable private sector growth.
- Spurred more than $23 million in new private sector capital investment and over $44 million in new sales by Somali companies exporting livestock, fish, and agricultural products to create at least 7,000 jobs.
- Providing technical assistance to over 800 microenterprises to improve business practices, enhance productivity, and increase access to finance, with a focus on the inclusion of youth.

USDAID Rwanda Private Sector Driven Agricultural Growth (PSDAG)

- Partnered with more than 50 MSMEs, 92 cooperatives, and 4 private sector associations, helping 70,000 firms and farmers access more than $27 million in agricultural finance.
- Collaborated with the government to build capacity and strengthen policies to drive investment in agriculture.
- Supported over 100,000 women to adopt improved technologies and practices, resulting in increased income of over $12 million.

Feed the Future Senegal Naatal Mbay

- Supported more than 150,000 smallholder farmers (46 percent women) with new agricultural technologies, skills, and approaches, including tools such as agricultural insurance to improve resilience.
- Facilitated nearly $165 million in loans and more than $27 million in new private sector investment in agriculture.
- Helped farmers increase annual household incomes by more than 290 percent over the life of the project.

Resilience in East Africa

- Developing a Market Systems Resilience tool and process guidance to lay the groundwork for resilience measurement, learning, and adaptation.
- Conducting a 2-year, USAID-funded study to explore how camel leasing between camel herders and dairy companies may impact household resilience in Somalia.
HIGHLIGHTS
Through recent projects, we have worked with local partners to:

Catalyze more than

$67 Million
in investment from the local private sector

Help more than

3.3 Million
farmers apply improved management practices and technologies

Facilitate access to nearly

$190 Million
in agriculture and rural loans for farmers and MSMEs

More information
Christy Hannum
Director, Business Development
Food Security & Agriculture Division
Phone Number: 202-728-2495
Email: channum@rti.org

RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to develop solutions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

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