

Partnering for Innovation

First Round of Grants Implementation Underway

Feed the Future Partnering for Innovation announced its first round of grant solicitations in November 2012 in Washington, DC. The solicitation closed on January 31, 2013, and the program received 120 expressions of interest (EOIs). Following an internal review process identifying the 20 top-ranked EOIs, those entities were invited to submit a full application. On March 17-18, 2013, an external review committee, the Commercialization Review Committee, met to review and rank the applications, and eight of the top applicants entered into negotiations for a Partnering for Innovation grant.

Following is a description of grantees now implementing activities from the first round of solicitations.

World Cocoa Foundation

Country: Cote d'Ivoire

Award period: May 2013 – May 2014

The World Cocoa Foundation consortium uses a mobile application with extension data to empower Community Knowledge Workers to provide cocoa extension services to their neighbors.

Key impact: 5,400 farmers adopt good agricultural practices and six private cocoa companies commit to pay for the system after the grant period.

Driptech

Country: India

Award period: July 2013 – July 2014

Driptech is commercializing a new do-it-yourself drip irrigation system called the InstaKit, the first one-acre portable drip irrigation system in India, by partnering with three large Indian companies and local distributors. Farmers can install the system in less than three hours with little to no technical support.

Key impact: 1,000 farmers purchase the InstaKit contributing to a 50 percent increase in yields, savings of 80 percent in labor costs, and increased market prices of up to 100 percent.

Compatible Technology International (CTI)

Country: Senegal

Award period: July 2013 – July 2014

CTI is increasing commercial access to and adoption of the CTI Pearl Millet processing suite in Senegal, which reduces the labor required to process grain, improves grain quality, and reduces postharvest losses.

Key impact: \$15,000 worth of equipment sold providing access to nearly 1,500 farmers.

PortaScience

Country: Rwanda

Award period: August 2013 – August 2014

PortaScience is introducing and selling UdderCheck, a mastitis detection dip stick that sells for \$0.30 and requires no refrigeration, to dairy farmers in Rwanda. This technology will help reduce cattle losses that can total up to \$3.5 million per year.

Key impact: Sales of \$25,000 worth of animal hygiene products and an extensive farmer training program that will train more than 600 farmers in three regions of Rwanda.

Netafim

Country: Kenya

Award period: September 2013 – September 2015

Netafim partners with local distributors and banks to develop an innovative financing program for drip irrigation equipment. They also offer technical assistance to improve the quality and productivity of crops and substantially increase farmer income.

Key impact: \$10 million in drip irrigation and technical assistance packages financed through a new loan mechanism.

Purdue University

Countries: Rwanda, Kenya

Award periods: March 2013 – March 2014, September 2013 – September 2014

Purdue University partners with local private manufacturers and distributors to commercially introduce PICS postharvest grain storage bags in Rwanda and Kenya, reducing pest-related postharvest losses.

Key impact: 32,500 grain storage bags sold in the two countries.

iDE

Country: Zambia

Award period: September 2013 – September 2014

iDE works with Toro, a US developer of agricultural equipment, to introduce a drip irrigation kit to the Zambian smallholder farmer market.

Key impact: 100 farmers purchase Toro drip irrigation systems available in Africa for the first time.