



Photo credit: Sopheak,
Technology Park Phnom
Penh, Cambodia

Feed the Future is America's initiative to combat global hunger. By bringing partners together, Feed the Future helps developing countries harness the power of smart agriculture to sustainably address the root causes of poverty, hunger and malnutrition and build resilience.

WHY YOUTH?

Over 2.3 billion people — one third of the total global population — are between the ages of 15 and 34. Nearly 80 percent of these young people live in developing countries, with the largest youth populations in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Countries in which Feed the Future works have a lot to gain from getting more young people involved in agriculture.

Population growth is increasing and shifting global demand for food. At the same time, the formal labor sector in developing countries will not be able to keep pace with the growing number of youth entering the labor market. To meet these dual challenges, countries need to increase the production and efficiency of their food systems and increase and diversify economic opportunities for youth, both on- and off-farm.

Too often, young people do not view engagement in agriculture as a viable or profitable employment option. Youth, especially young women, also face unique barriers to accessing agricultural training and services, credit and land.

But, engaging in agriculture can be a rewarding and profitable venture for young food producers and entrepreneurs, and an avenue for them to create positive change in their communities.



Photo credit: Michelle Byamugisha, Chemonics, Uganda



**YOUTH COMPRISE
UP TO 60% OF THE
AGRICULTURAL
WORK FORCE**

**in some rural areas of
sub-Saharan Africa**

Agriculture is and will remain a significant source of employment and opportunity in developing countries, especially for young people. In fact, youth already comprise up to 60 percent of the agricultural labor force in some rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

Feed the Future is helping youth overcome the barriers they face so they can capitalize on opportunities in agriculture. The initiative works with young people to harness their energy, creativity and drive to empower them to build resilient communities and end global hunger.

YOUTH ENGAGE WITH FEED THE FUTURE BY:

- ✓ Contributing their entrepreneurial talents across the agriculture sector, from farm to fork
- ✓ Adopting new technologies that improve agricultural and food production, including of nutrient-rich foods
- ✓ Participating in income generating opportunities that help their families and communities rise and stay out of poverty
- ✓ Taking part in trainings that develop their leadership, business and agricultural skills



Photo credit: Sopheap, CE SAIN at the TP in Phnom Penh

INVESTING IN YOUTH

Feed the Future engages youth as development partners and agents of positive change in their communities.

We intentionally consider the distinct aspirations, assets, opportunities and challenges young people face when designing programs to help them overcome those barriers, find meaningful work, and be a part of the solution to global hunger. Feed the Future connects youth to farmer cooperatives, the private sector, and government organizations to elevate their voices and needs.

We also work with these partners to connect youth to markets and provide them with training on workforce readiness, transferable technical skills, improved production and innovative technologies. Young people need access to financial tools as well. We work through community-based savings and loans groups to help youth access credit so they can build thriving businesses, innovate and create opportunities for others.



SPOTLIGHT:

EMPOWERING YOUTH IN GUATEMALA THROUGH AGRIJOVEN

In Guatemala, limited local education and employment opportunities drive some youth to migrate out of rural areas. Feed the Future is working to create more local opportunities through the Agrijovent program.

Agrijovent has created 58 Youth Savings and Loans Associations that help more than 900 rural youth pool resources, build their savings, and access capital. The group encourages them to allocate resources toward agricultural technologies and services, and provides agriculture and business trainings.

To date, these groups have saved more than \$60,000 (USD) and provided more than 500 loans to members. The program has also

connected young people to a horticulture exporter so they have a market for the agricultural products they are learning to grow.

The savings groups also facilitate youth discussion on important topics like healthy relationships, gender equity, team work, and youth migration, which helps youth build important life and leadership skills, including effective communication, critical thinking and social skills.



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

www.feedthefuture.gov