

AMERICAN FARMERS HELP FEED THE FUTURE

Feed the Future is America's initiative to combat global hunger and poverty. Partnerships with American businesses, non-profits, universities and farmers are critical to the initiative's success.

Programs like the John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program contribute to Feed the Future's efforts to equip people in some of the world's poorest countries with knowledge and tools to feed themselves, end their reliance on aid, and build a more stable world. Funded through the U.S. Farm Bill, Farmer-to-Farmer pairs volunteer American farmers, ranchers and agriculturalists with their counterparts in developing countries to boost sustainable agriculture. The program has engaged volunteers from every U.S. state and is implemented by U.S. NGOs.

Volunteer assignments align with USAID activities that support host country priorities and align with Feed the Future country strategies to increase incomes, build resilience, and improve nutrition. In the past three years, 1,452 Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer assignments have helped 940 agricultural organizations and trained over 77,500 people in 28 Feed the Future focus and aligned countries.

Elements of Success

Farmer-to-Farmer has been around for over 30 years. A few elements that have made it effective include:

- The program is **demand-driven**, matching volunteers with host country individuals and organizations that have expressed need and interest.
- The program promotes **person-to-person diplomacy** as volunteers create trust and goodwill with host country individuals and organizations, conveying the best of American values. Volunteers exchange more than just agricultural knowledge with their counterparts; they share cultural experiences and forge lasting friendships.
- Volunteers have **strong technical expertise**. They are often mid- to senior-level agricultural specialists with applied experience in the areas specifically requested by host country individuals and organizations.
- Farmer-to-Farmer facilitates the **provision of volunteer services** rather than handing out inputs or subsidies. This ensures that volunteers adapt their solutions to the local context so host country individuals and organizations can effectively and sustainably implement recommendations even after the volunteer leaves.
- The overall program is **competitive, flexible and aligns assignments** with USAID activities and strategies in developing countries. These elements keep quality high, promote innovation, and ensure the program can effectively respond to requests from host country individuals and organizations as well as USAID field missions.

Farmer-to-Farmer Volunteers in Action in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, Farmer-to-Farmer engages skilled American volunteers to provide training and technical assistance to support youth entrepreneurship and to strengthen agricultural education and training institutions.

- **Daniel Miller** (Pennsylvania) worked with a Feed the Future project to train field coordinators and 50 entrepreneurs on cattle herd management techniques. This better equipped Bangladeshi entrepreneurs with information to educate smallholder farmers on proper herd management and treatment practices.
- **Vonny Barlow** (California) conducted training sessions on proper pesticide use for a Feed the Future project in Bangladesh. Since then, the project and the local Agro-Input Retailers Network have trained 245 retailers and shared information on safe pesticide use with more than 9,000 farmers.
- **John Woiwode** (Wyoming) provided training on hatchery management and how to set up an efficient, affordable water recirculation system for fish hatchery operations. This enabled the host to train others and help two additional hatcheries set up the same system. More than 2,500 fish farmers have benefited from the more consistent supply of quality fish spawns these hatcheries now supply.