Digital Technology Transforms Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods

Digital technologies are bringing tremendous value to businesses and individuals, helping them make better decisions. Farmers are no exception. In agriculture, innovation in the digital space is helping farming families know when to plant and store crops and when to prepare for disease outbreaks.

Feed the Future is connecting smallholder farmers around the world to digital
technologies and platforms, helping them protect against food loss and waste and grow more food.

Just this month, Feed the Future started new partnerships to connect underserved populations in emerging markets with digital solutions. Together with Mastercard, we’ll work to tailor digital solutions to the local context and leverage Mastercard’s digital technology and experience in financial services to help more farmers connect to banks, lenders, markets and more. Our new partnership with John Deere will also make digital tools and technologies more affordable for rural farmers to help them with decision-making and increase their incomes.

***Halloween Highlight: Read about three spooky diseases threatening food.***

Feed the Future in Action

**Small Gadget, Big Impact: Fighting Food Loss in Ghana**
A young entrepreneur is using GrainMate, a tool that measures the moisture content of key crops, to help farmers reduce food loss.

**Digital Warning System Boosts Resilience in Bangladesh**
Farmers around the world face a constant threat from crop diseases, but digital tools are making it easier for farmers to prepare for outbreaks.
Better Weather Forecasting in Western Africa

Knowing when it will rain is crucial for farmers in Ghana – a new forecasting model has made it more predictable and helped maintain incomes.

Highlights From the World Food Prize

Feed the Future partners gathered in Des Moines, Iowa, this October for the World Food Prize’s annual conference.

While there, USAID’s Administrator Green highlighted private sector engagement, announced new Feed the Future partnerships, and thanked Ambassador Ken Quinn for all that he has done to make the World Food Prize an event not to be missed. This is his last year as the president of the World Food Prize Foundation.

Learn More About Our New Partnerships

Check Out More Highlights from the World Food Prize
New Findings!

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development released a study titled "How the United States Benefits from Agricultural and Food Security Investments in Developing Countries." The report outlines the positive impact of the United States' investments in agriculture abroad, highlighting the important returns this support provides to the American people.

Learn More From This Informative Report

USAID's Digital Strategy Open for Public Comment

USAID’s first-ever Digital Strategy is open for public comment from October 17 to November 3. To help ensure that the USAID Digital Strategy equips staff, empowers partners, improves internal processes, and shapes effective and efficient programming to accelerate partner countries’ journey to self-reliance, please provide your feedback.
Partner Stories

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS HELP CAMBODIAN FARMERS THRIVE
The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture is using innovation to help farmers grow quality vegetables in Cambodia. Wonder what a nethouse is? Read on.

TECHNOLOGY HELPS AFRICAN FARMERS SELL WHAT THEY SOW
A Kenyan mobile phone platform is offering local farmers access to a transparent marketplace that offers higher prices for their goods.

APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT IN A DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM
Check out the key takeaways from a recent Feed the Future training on digital development for resilience and food security in Nairobi.

BT EGGPLANT HELPS FARMERS EARN MORE WITH LESS PESTICIDE
Eggplant, a critical piece of Bangladesh’s food security puzzle, is highly susceptible to a devastating pest. Read about a new eggplant resistant to this pest.

PEACE CORPS GHANA CASHEW HACKATHON
Peace Corps Ghana brought together farmers, app developers and Peace Corps Volunteers to create a mobile app that can improve the local cashew value chain.