



FEED THE FUTURE

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

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR MARKETS, RISK & RESILIENCE



B A S I S

So every rural family can take control of their future



#MarketsRiskResilience

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USAID
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MANAGED RISK

Rural families face a significant number of risks, including weather-related risks, like drought and flood, as well as political instability and violence. For some, a single shock can spark a downward spiral that makes poverty self-perpetuating. The anticipation of shocks also keeps families poor when it drives them to avoid investments that could transform their livelihoods.

We are developing and improving tools to manage risk so families coping with a shock can continue in their progress toward greater prosperity. We are at the forefront of a new generation of agricultural index insurance, microfinance and other tools that manage risk and build resilience.

INCLUSIVE MARKETS

We address the systemic barriers that keep rural families in developing economies from taking part in strong, inclusive markets. For example, a lack of information can keep families from trying improved seeds or new farming methods, holding back growth for the entire agricultural system. Women and younger farmers are particularly disconnected both from this kind of information and market networks.

We are testing ways to make market systems both competitive and inclusive. Stronger markets can stabilize public finance while integrating rural communities, helping families to become and remain resilient to environmental and other shocks.

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CYCLE OF RESILIENCE

Enhancing material assets and psychological well-being while providing a means to manage risk all work to shift underlying poverty dynamics. We are harnessing synergies between these types of programs to turn vicious cycles of poverty into virtuous circles of upward mobility and resilience.

While this approach promotes a cycle of resilience for families who are already poor, providing a ladder up for vulnerable families who are not poor extends resources and efforts to build more resilient societies overall.

RESILIENCE+

Resilience+ is the added dividend of smart, proactive investments in rural development. The result is more families who can lift and keep themselves—and their future generations—out of poverty.

The MRR Innovation Lab seeks to build opportunities for families to adopt productive technologies like improved seeds or site-specific fertilizers. These tools can generate additional food and income that keep people from falling into poverty while building a ladder up for families who are already poor—that's Resilience+.

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risk and Resilience at UC Davis generates and transfers knowledge and innovations that promote resilience and empower rural families, communities and markets to share in inclusive agricultural growth.

In spite of tremendous progress, over 800 million people still live in extreme poverty. The MRR Innovation Lab applies leading-edge tools from economics and the social sciences to the remaining challenges of rural poverty and food security in developing economies worldwide.

We help to move promising technologies and approaches from agronomics and finance from the lab to the field. We test these and innovative social protection programs with randomized evaluations to measure their real impacts for rural families in their day-to-day lives. The result is evidence to address the root causes of poverty and hunger in support of the USAID Feed the Future initiative.

RESEARCH THEMES

Resilient Escapes from Poverty

Innovations for Inclusive Growth and Resilience

Resilient Systems for Broadly-based Agricultural Growth

Photo credits: Andrew Hobbs (top)
Aniceto Matias (bottom)



I4

INDEX
INSURANCE
INNOVATION
INITIATIVE

The Index Insurance Innovation Initiative (I4) advances knowledge and action on agricultural index insurance as a tool for small-scale farmers and pastoralists to increase their long-term self-sufficiency and resilience. I4 enables action on index insurance quality and access through outreach to governments, donors and those in the private sector.

ALL IN

The MRR Innovation Lab Advancing Local Leadership, Innovation and Networks (ALL IN) initiative creates funding opportunities for host-country researchers to take the lead in proposing and defining projects in partnership with U.S.-based researchers. This added focus on a local agenda builds local research capacity and institutions and helps to close the gap between evidence and national policy.

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