5 Ways The Trellis Fund Generates Impact

Connecting Local Organizations to Tomorrow's Agricultural Experts

Elyssa Lewis
Trellis Fund Program Manager
University of California, Davis







The Horticulture Innovation Lab's Trellis Fund

Where we work:

In Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

In Latin America and the Caribbean: Guatemala,

Haiti and Honduras

In Asia: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, and Tajikistan

**Former Countries: Mali & Kenya

What we do:

We connect organizations in developing countries with U.S. graduate students who have agricultural expertise, generating benefits for both the students and the in-country institutions. Together, they collaborate on short-term projects to address horticultural challenges faced by local farmers all along the value chain.



Carrie Teiken, UC Davis, working with the Uganda Environmental Education Foundation to provide information about pest and disease prevention in vegetables for six groups of rural farmers.

5 Ways The Trellis Fund Generates Impact



Ephrem Rukundo, UC Davis, leads a training in improving postharvest practices with the Uganda Network for Community Empowerment.



Arun Jani, North Carolina State University, working in Nepal for on soil fertility with the Sustainable Agriculture Development Program.







1. Builds local organizations' capacity to grow and improve their programs



Dev Paudel, University of Florida, working with Kabaya Management Foundation, Ghana, conducting a ToT on research design and statistical analysis using R.



Peter Shapland, UC Davis, visiting Eco-Agric Uganda, which received two Trellis Fund grants.









Rachel Suits, North Carolina State University, working with Ecological Services Centre in Nepal on integrated pest management (IPM) in vegetables.



Gabriel Sachter-Smith, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, presenting on banana management and intercropping in Rwanda with Gardens for Health International.

2. Improves local organizations' technical knowledge and practices

3. Engages U.S. graduate students in international agriculture





Deirdre Griffin is pursuing a PhD in Soil Science at UC Davis. Here she is working with Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology in Malawi to promote soil science education in order to combat erosion and improve yields.







4. Creates partnerships between developing country organizations and U.S. universities





Belinda Richardson, UC Davis, worked with Development in Gardening (DIG) in Kenya to assess the market potential for organic producers.









Brittany Pierce, UC Davis, worked with PRIDE in Bangladesh. Here she is seen consulting with local farmers on integrated pest management (IPM) for cucurbit and eggplant.

5. Enables the extension of cutting edge horticultural knowledge to smallholder farmers and value chain stakeholders





