

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture

Led by the University of California, Davis

Our global research network works with and promotes local leadership to advance horticulture and social innovations, empowering small-scale producers to earn more income while better nourishing their communities.

Why horticulture? Fruits and vegetables represent an important opportunity to improve community health, while also increasing income for small-scale producers. Horticulture crops generate high economic returns per unit of land and offer ample off-farm entrepreneurial opportunities - **creating more equitable and inclusive food systems**. Women, youth, and other marginalized social groups are often the main producers and marketers of horticulture crops. This, combined with the high value of fruits and vegetables makes investments in these crops a step toward social transformation. Horticulture also has a unique role in **ensuring access to and availability of diverse, nutritious food**.

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture follows a **locally-led, globally supported** model for program development and implementation.

The model integrates **four Regional Hubs** that supports holistic, systems-driven horticulture value chain research projects that cross borders to integrate learnings from different cropping systems, climate-change resilient agriculture practices, to social sciences. The Regional Hubs are based at: the University of Ghana, serving West Africa; International Center for Evaluation and Development in Kenya, serving East Africa; Zamorano University in Honduras, serving Central America; and FORWARD Nepal, serving South Asia.



Fruits and vegetables are high-value horticultural crops that can help boost women small-scale producer incomes, and provide valuable nutrients for healthy diets.

This model supports community and regional leadership and expertise through local identification of regional priorities and contractual partnerships with in-country and regional stakeholders, to manage and lead research activities. The Horticulture Innovation Lab focuses on research across the value chain – from seed systems, vegetable production, irrigation innovations, conservation practices, pest management, reducing postharvest losses, to market access and extending agricultural knowledge. Improving gender equity, advancing technological innovations, and improving access to information and research capacity are central to the Horticulture Innovation Lab's work.

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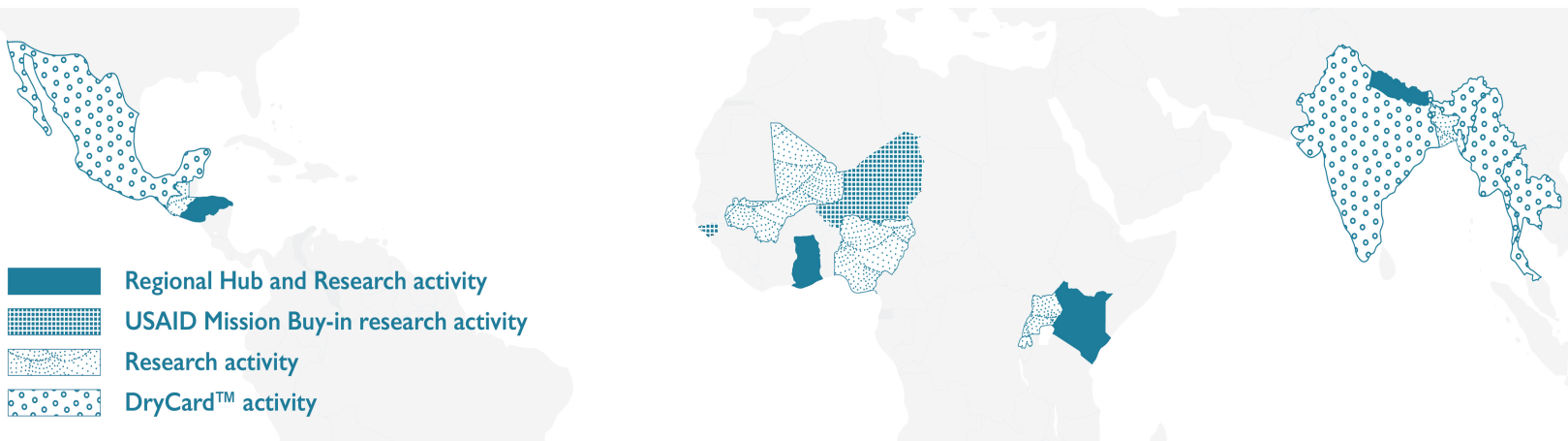


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Countries with Research Activities



In the map above, countries where the Horticulture Innovation Lab has a Regional Hub and research activities are indicated with solid red, blue are countries with just research activities.

Our Consortium

University of California, Davis is joined in a consortium with Florida A&M University, Michigan State University, Texas A&M University, and the World Vegetable Center, along with subject matter experts from Penn State University and Making Cents International, to help manage this program.

