

# Horticulture Innovation Lab: Trellis Fund

## Engaging U.S. graduate students in international development

The Trellis Fund provides organizations in developing countries access to agricultural expertise of U.S. graduate students, providing benefits to both the students and the in-country institutions. Together, they address horticultural challenges faced by local farmers.

### How it works:

Organizations in countries prioritized by Feed the Future propose a horticultural project for a \$2,000 grant and specify the type of expertise they seek in a U.S. graduate student. Trellis projects may address issues of horticultural production, pest management, postharvest practices, nutrition, and marketing.

The Trellis Fund then matches the selected organization to a graduate student with related expertise. In addition to agricultural expertise, some students also provide support for project management and proposal development.

Graduate students from the Horticulture Innovation Lab's partner institutions—currently North Carolina State University; the University of Florida; the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and the University of California, Davis—are invited to participate.

Selected graduate students receive a fellowship package of \$300 plus travel to the project, where they build relationships with their counterparts and gain a better understanding of local situations. The student and the organization continue to work together remotely via email.

### Achievements:

For approximately \$98,000 in awards, the first two rounds of Trellis funding resulted in 23 completed projects with:

- 184 training and extension meetings
- 3,865 farmers trained (71% women)
- 116 demonstration plots

With projects still ongoing, the Horticulture Innovation Lab has awarded a total of 52 Trellis Fund projects in 16 countries.



*A volunteer with EcoFinder in Kenya discusses weeds with Michael Wolff, a UC Davis Ph.D. student in soil science.*



*Carrie Teiken, of UC Davis, examines diseases of a citrus tree with the Uganda Environmental Education Foundation.*



*Rachel Suits, of North Carolina State University, works with another graduate student in Nepal to set up an intercropping field trial with the Ecological Services Centre in Nepal.*

<http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu>



HORTICULTURE  
INNOVATION LAB

UC DAVIS  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

NC STATE  
UNIVERSITY

UF UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA





## Fourth round of Trellis Fund projects, 2014-2015

14 ongoing projects in 9 countries

### Guatemala

- **Concept note: Vegetable gardens**  
Iglesia Luterano Augustina de Guatemala  
Brandon Louie, UC Davis

### Nepal

- **Basic pesticide safety education to commercial vegetable growers and pesticide handlers**  
Center for Agricultural Research and Development Nepal  
Samuel McGowen, North Carolina State University

### Bangladesh

- **Concept note: Integrated pest management for cucurbit and eggplant**  
PRIDE  
Brittany Pierce, UC Davis

- **Postharvest training for smallholder farmers**  
Horticulture Innovation Lab Regional Center at Kasetsart University in Thailand  
Macarena Faruch, UC Davis

### Zambia

- **Concept note: Seed storage and solar drying produce**  
Tikondane Community Centre  
Miguel Macias González, UC Davis

### Malawi

- **Promoting soil science education to combat erosion and improve agricultural yields**  
Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology  
Deirdre Griffin, UC Davis

### Mali

- **Enhancing quality and market value of chili pepper**  
Rural Polytechnic Institute of Training and Applied Research  
Mark Felice, UC Davis

### Kenya

- **Market potential for organic producers**  
Development in Gardening (DIG)  
Belinda Richardson, UC Davis

- **Promotion of orange flesh sweet potato production and postharvest management in Emuhaya**  
African PRIDE Centre  
Weiyuan Zhu, UC Davis

### Ethiopia

- **Concept note: Vegetable marketing in Addis Ababa**  
Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management  
Emily Gousen, UC Davis

### Ghana

- **Concept note: Sweet potato cultivation trials**  
Tip Top Foods, Ltd.  
Gabe LaHue, UC Davis

- **Concept note: Building research capacity in horticulture**  
Kayaba Management Foundation  
Dev Paudel, University of Florida

- **Promoting pepper and okra production for increased producer income and nutrition**  
Samsford Enterprises  
Libby Rens, University of Florida

- **Moringa project for livelihood diversification, nutritional enhancement, and sustainable land use**  
Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture  
Jason Tschlis, UC Davis