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FACT SHEET

USAID's Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) Program: Data and Benefits

The FTF Program began in 1985 with Congressional authorization of the Agricultural Development and Trade Act. From program inception through 2008, 37 FTF programs have fielded a total of 12,867 volunteer assignments to 103 countries. The volunteers assisted an estimated 9,393 host organizations and 1.1 million direct beneficiaries. FTF program evaluations have generally been quite positive. The Program has maintained strong support within USAID and from implementing organizations, host organizations receiving volunteers, the US Congress, and participating volunteers.

From 2003 to 2008, 12 individual regional programs were implemented under 11 Cooperative Agreements by eight non-profit and university implementation agencies. At the country level, FTF Program activities are implemented in "focus areas" or sub-sector projects.

Focus Area	No. of Projects	% of Total Projects	No. of Volunteer Assignments	% of Volunteer Assignments
Horticulture	25	21	600	19
Dairy & Livestock	19	16	689	22
Diversification	17	14	326	10
Ad Hoc Assignments	16	13	210	7
Support Service Development	10	8	222	7
Financial Services	8	7	125	4
Organizational Development	8	7	272	9
Field crops	5	4	153	5
Marketing	4	3	329	10
NRM & Water Management	4	3	37	1
Agribusiness Development	3	2	127	4
Farm Management	2	2	100	3
Total	121	100	3190	100

Implementing agencies recruited volunteers from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The states providing the most volunteer assignments include:

- California (312 assignments)
- Wisconsin (257 assignments)
- North Carolina (168 assignments)
- Florida (160 assignments)
- Oregon (149 assignments)

Volunteer activities

Volunteer assignments focused on technology transfer (55%), organizational development (11%), business/enterprise development (29%), financial services (4%), and environmental conservation (1%). Volunteers worked at various levels of the commodity production and marketing chain, including: rural services and input supply (28%), on-farm production (42%), storage and processing (18%), and marketing (13%).

Hosts and beneficiaries

Volunteers provided technical assistance services to 2,442 host organizations, including: 723 farmer cooperatives and associations; 428 individual private farmers; 727 other private enterprises; 221 NGOs; 126 educational institutions; 80 rural financial institutions and 137 public sector agencies. Of the 125,745 individuals receiving direct formal training, 43% were women and of the 263,186 who directly benefited from FTF, 42% were women.

The average volunteer assignment directly benefited 83 persons, indirectly benefited 1,367, and provided direct training to 39 persons.

Additional resources garnered

Volunteers' individual initiatives, often assisted by FTF implementers, raised a total of \$1.62 million from various U.S. sources to assist their host organizations and continued to provide information and advice following completion of volunteer assignments. Host organizations demonstrated their support for the FTF program by providing an estimated \$2.43 million in cash and in-kind resources to support the volunteer assignments. Volunteer efforts helped hosts mobilize \$36.2 million in grants and loans.

Outreach

A total of 1,000 returned volunteers conducted outreach activities to inform the public about volunteer programs, international development issues, and foreign aid. This included 223 press releases to local media, 756 media events, and 1,815 group presentations.

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