Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine

What is the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine?
The Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine identifies and supports innovative, problem-solving strategies to improve food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. Selected innovations are “incubated” in their early stages before being put through a process of rigorous assessment and refinement with the goal of bringing them to scale for widespread impact. The Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine is part of the U.S. Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative known as “Feed the Future.” With a focus on smallholder farmers, particularly women, Feed the Future supports countries in developing their agriculture sectors to spur economic growth that increases incomes and reduces hunger, poverty, and under-nutrition.

Duration and Budget
May 2012 - May 2017
$22 million

Who implements the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine?
Land O’Lakes, Inc. - International Development
www.idd.landolakes.com
Dalberg Global Development Advisors
http://www.dalberg.com
IDEO.org
wwwIDEO.org

Where does the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine work?
The Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine works across Kenya, but is focusing on supporting interventions that will have a significant impact on the 27 priority Feed the Future counties: Bomet, Bungoma, Busia, Elgeyo, Garissa, Homa Bay, Isiolo, Kakamega, Kericho, Kisii, Kisumu, Kitui, Machakos, Marakwet, Makueni, Marsabit, Meru, Migori, Nandi, Nithi, Nyamira, Siaya, Tharaka, Taita Taveta, Trans Nzoia, Turkana, Uasin Gishu, Vihiga and Wajir.

What does the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine do?
The Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine gives Kenyan entrepreneurs, innovators and risk-takers an opportunity to test and scale up problem-solving agricultural innovations. Similar to a venture capital fund, the activity supports experimentation and rewards success, supporting projects that represent cutting-edge methodologies and approaches that will benefit a large number of Kenyan households. The activity identifies innovative technologies, coaches and mentors selected innovators, and facilitates wide-scale adoption of high-impact solutions to the problems facing the agriculture sector. Following a widely publicized Innovation Solicitation, selected innovators receive grants and technical assistance to rigorously assess and refine their agricultural innovations. Each design will be tested for desirability, viability and feasibility.

Successful innovators will progress through a rigorous four-stage process. Only when they achieve pre-established targets — such as organizational and financial independence, wide market adoption of the innovation, and reliable supply chains and distribution networks — will the most successful agricultural innovations advance to Stage 4 and “graduate.”

The activity helps innovators establish strategic private sector linkages and support to achieve sustainability. The activity works closely with local government institutions, women’s organizations, universities, and business owners to ensure
widespread awareness and adoption of the knowledge and technologies developed under the program.

**How will the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine make a difference?**
The Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine is building Kenya’s capacity for innovation to address persistent hunger and increase resiliency among the rural poor.

By design, women and youth are among the prime targets of the innovations, helping to ensure the benefits will reach all sectors of society.

![A farmer shows off part of her sweet potato yield, as an alternative staple to maize in Kenya.](image)

Examples of innovative interventions that the program supports include:

- Agricultural varieties that are disease, pest and drought resistant, especially for alternative staple crops
- Facilitating improved access to farm inputs; reducing transaction costs to allow smallholder farmers better access to markets
- Using information and communication technologies to disseminate agricultural information more efficiently; and facilitating public-private investments.

**For more information:**

http://www.kfie.net

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