

June 18, 2015

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Corker
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward R. Royce
Committee on Foreign Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
Committee on Foreign Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Roberts, Chairman Conaway, Ranking Member Stabenow, Ranking Member Peterson, Chairman Corker, Chairman Royce, Ranking Member Cardin, and Ranking Member Engel:

The undersigned organizations support efforts by Congress and the Administration to address the global problem of food insecurity. By 2050, the world's population is projected to grow by 30 percent, from 7.1 to 9.2 billion, and food demand will rise by as much as 60 percent. A significant amount of this growth will occur in the poorest countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. We believe U.S. agriculture has a central and integral role to play in addressing this critically important issue.

We commend ongoing Congressional efforts to institutionalize a comprehensive global food security strategy to address hunger and create economic opportunity in developing countries. The organizing principle of the legislation being debated is a whole-of-government approach to improve the coordination and the efficient use of resources under programs administered by the various federal agencies involved in international development work. This approach offers potential to increase the effectiveness of these efforts, getting the most "bang for the buck."

International agricultural development is the most effective strategy to address global poverty and food security, and serves the long-term economic interest of U.S. agriculture as well.

Increasing agricultural productivity and production by smallholder farmers in the poorest countries through research, extension, and the transfer of technology is an essential first step in helping to build a solid foundation for sustainable economic growth. Agricultural development is essential to developing markets, generating rural income, and reinforcing civil and political stability around the world.

We commend the U.S. Agency for International Development's leadership to date in Feed the Future, and believe the agency's administration of related programs has had a positive impact on the lives of food-insecure communities around the world. However, for the Global Food Security Initiative to truly reflect a whole-of-government approach and address both humanitarian responses and long term development, we believe the significant capabilities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), our land grant university system, and the U.S. private sector must be fully leveraged.

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, its Extension Service and the land grant university system are well-equipped to provide educational and technical outreach programs abroad and to help address critical research needs. U.S. farmers and ranchers have decades of expertise across a broad range of agricultural production systems, along with a variety of technologies that can advance best practices. U.S. agribusiness can play an important role in strengthening markets, developing sustainable supply chains, and supporting knowledge transfer efforts. Greater inclusion of these entities into a whole-of-government approach to support global food security will complement and strengthen existing efforts of the U.S. Agency for International Development and other U.S. government partners.

As Congress considers the challenge of how to most effectively address global food security, we believe coordination between your Committees offers the best way to achieve a true whole-of-government approach. We hope the efforts of your respective Committees will result in complementary proposals that can make the greatest possible contribution toward meeting the future food needs of the world's growing population. We look forward to the opportunity to assist you in meeting this goal.

Sincerely yours,

ACDI/VOCA
AGree: Transforming Food & Ag Policy
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
CNFA
Farm Journal Foundation
Land O'Lakes International Development
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Farmers Union

National Sorghum Producers
The Lugar Center
USA Rice Federation
VEGA
Winrock International

Douglas Bereuter
Cochair, Global Agriculture Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
President Emeritus, The Asia Foundation
Member, U.S. House of Representatives (1979-2004)

Dan Glickman
Cochair, Global Agriculture Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture (1995-2001)
Member, U.S. House of Representatives (1977-1995)