

The **Foods Resource Bank (FRB)** is a Christian response to world hunger. Our goal is to support people in their communities as they work to address hunger and poverty through agriculture development. Together we are *growing lasting solutions to hunger*.



We do this by supporting programs that help smallholder farmers grow their own abundance of food. This ensures that there is enough left over to share, barter or sell in order to purchase household staples, basic medicines and send all their children to school.

FRB and its members, 15 humanitarian organizations in the United States, partner with local, in-country organizations in developing nations around the world to design appropriate, location specific programs that address local hunger needs. These programs often require only modest assistance with resources, training and organization. Addressing hunger goes beyond simply increasing agricultural production and requires a comprehensive strategy that is specific to each unique situation.

Our funds come from individual donors, Growing Projects, churches, foundations and corporations in the United States.

In 2010:

- Funded 55 programs in 32 countries
- Raised \$3.6 million that helped 550,000 participants
- Support raised by 200+ "Growing Projects" in 23 US states

www.foodsresourcebank.org



Recommendations to Decision Makers

The Foods Resource Bank wants to help our public and private sector leaders understand the importance of agriculture development as one of the main keys to eradicating hunger and poverty in the world. Of the 1 billion chronically hungry people in our world, more than 70 percent live in rural areas.

FRB has compiled some key learning and observations from our work with more than 100 food security development programs around the world. FRB's programs work alongside local partners, leaders, farmers, landless people and their communities to help *grow lasting solutions to hunger*. We want to urge our leaders to keep the following points in mind when they think about agriculture development.

1. **Local leadership:** respectful engagement with local people in developing countries increases the speed and potential sustainability of development activities. By supporting local leaders in their efforts to develop local governance, leadership and innovation the most sustainable outcomes are achieved. Even the most *well-intended development programs can inadvertently overlook the needed buy-in & influence of local farmers, leaders and other entrepreneurs*.
2. **Local contribution & investment:** considerations must be made regarding what the local community will provide in the way of materials, labor and financial resources to ensure local ownership and increase the likelihood of sustainability. Materially poor people and communities have resources they can invest in the program.
3. **Program scale:** should be considered carefully to ensure that materially poor communities obtain access and voice. Every setting has very unique challenges and assets, thus *smaller agricultural development and food security programs may lend themselves toward potential fit, ownership and long-term results*.
4. **Holistic approaches** yield proven results. *Hunger and poverty go deeper than the physicality of the situation*. Social, historical, cultural, gender, land rights and spiritual issues, to name a few, need to be considered when working on finding solutions.
5. **US farmers seek justice** for all people and know that smaller developing countries and communities are not competitors. In response to the warnings and predictions by FAO concerning food needs in the coming decades, *farmers recognize it is imperative to develop increased participation and sustainability of all farmers around the globe*. The innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of farmers around the world can make lasting improvements in the lives of the poor.
6. **Young people** need to be included in discussions and plans regarding agriculture development, particularly regarding the question of who will farm the future.