



# Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine Program

## What is the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine Program?

The Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine identifies, fosters, and brings to scale innovative market-driven solutions to persistent food insecurity and poverty. In a similar manner to a venture capital fund, the Innovation Engine serves as a mechanism by which innovative private sector strategies that improve food security and nutrition are proactively sought out, incubated, and scaled up for widespread impact. The program supports experimentation and rewards proven success, seeking projects that represent game-changing methodologies and approaches that will benefit a significant number of Kenyan households

The program is part of the U.S. Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, also known as “Feed the Future”, which seeks to address the root causes of hunger and poverty and create conditions in which food assistance is no longer necessary.



*A farmer checks her mobile phone for market price information. The Innovation Engine will support mobile platforms and information and communications technology aimed at helping farmers and rural people access information and markets.*

## Project Duration and Budget

May 2012-May 2017  
\$13.2 Million

## Who implements the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Program?

Land O’Lakes, Inc. International Development  
[www.idd.landolakes.com](http://www.idd.landolakes.com)

## Where does the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine work?

The Innovation Engine will work primarily in Kenya’s Feed the Future target areas, the High Rainfall 1 and Semi-Arid 2 zones that encompass parts of Nyanza, Western, Rift Valley, Eastern, and Coast provinces.

## What does the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine Program do?

The Innovation Engine uses a competitive process to identify the innovations with the greatest potential for large and sustainable impacts. Innovations are supported at three levels: proof of concept, pilot, and scaling-up. The program strives to enable innovations to “graduate” to a point where they are fully sustainable in the market. It provides targeted financial support and technical assistance to enable the adoption of these innovative approaches by target populations and throughout Kenya.

Examples of the kinds of innovations the program supports include identifying agricultural varieties that are disease, pest and drought resistant, especially for alternative staple crops; facilitating improved access to farm inputs through collaborative ventures with agro-dealers and other service providers; reducing transaction costs to enable small holder farmers better access to markets; using information and communication technology to more efficiently disseminate agricultural information; and facilitating public-private investments in the animal feed industry.

The Innovation Engine includes direct support to the most successful innovators in line with USAID Forward, and leverages USAID resources with public and private resources to bring innovations to scale.

## How will the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine make a difference?

The high level of innovation in Kenya is noted by the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness index, with Kenya ranking 53 out of 142 countries in

innovation and sophistication in the 2010. Kenya has one of the highest scores in innovation for a developing country, ranking above Turkey and just below Hungary. The Innovation Engine takes advantage of Kenya's capacity for innovation to address persistent hunger and increase resiliency among the rural poor.

**For more information:**

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