



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

DEVELOPING LOCAL EXTENSION CAPACITY

Improving agricultural extension and advisory services
through *action, evidence* and *advocacy*

The Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC) project galvanizes diverse extension and advisory service (EAS) stakeholders to measurably improve agricultural extension programs, policies and services.

DLEC accomplishes this objective through three interrelated sets of activities:



DIAGNOSTICS

Targeted diagnostics to identify opportunities and recommend areas for public, private and donor investment.



ENGAGEMENTS

Action research activities that build local capacity and generate evidence on how to improve EAS.



COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP)

Lasting national and global communities mobilized to advocate for scaling proven approaches.

DLEC (2016-2021) is led by Digital Green in partnership with consortium members International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Care International, and the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS).

WE AIM TO REACH 1 MILLION FARMING HOUSEHOLDS AND INFLUENCE 50 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS THAT IMPROVE THEIR SERVICE DELIVERY/EAS PROGRAM OPERATIONS.



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INTERNATIONAL
FOOD POLICY
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INSTITUTE





Diagnostics

The profiled countries include Bangladesh, Guinea, Honduras, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal.

The reports are available at <https://www.agrilinks.org/activities/feed-future-developing-local-extension-capacity-project>

Communities of Practice (CoP)

In partnership with GFRAS and its regional and country fora, the DLEC CoP advocates for evidence-based EAS programs.

Join our global community of practice: <https://dlec.hivebrite.com>

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Engagements

DLEC works with USAID Missions, public and private sector and civil society to implement locally-tailored, partnership-based solutions that address country-specific challenges and build the capacity of country stakeholders. Current and completed engagements include:

- In **Uganda**, a field experiment led by IFPRI, found that providing information to both heads of household led to an increase in joint decision-making, increased knowledge retention and greater uptake of practices.
- In **Bangladesh**, a transport-to-market mobile solution, implemented by Digital Green, provided smallholder farmers in Jessore convenient access to markets and connected them to extension services, quality inputs, financial services. Through the engagement, over 5,000 farmers (10% women farmers) sold 18k+ metric tons of fresh fruit and vegetables generating USD 4 million in sales. Participating farmers received 14% higher prices for their produce and experienced 25% reduction in cost of transportation.
- In **Ethiopia**, early results of an impact evaluation, led by IFPRI, shows up to 37% greater likelihood of smallholder farmers receiving advice/training via video and adopting improved technologies. Digital Green is also partnering with Fintrac, FAO, Ethiopia's Agricultural Transformation Agency and CABI to test a holistic digital suite of tools to provide localized farmer-centric fall armyworm mitigation advice.
- In **Honduras**, Care International, is building the capacity of the national government agency overseeing extension provision on participatory and best-fit EAS models to reach Honduran smallholder farmers with quality public extension.
- In **Kenya**, Digital Green is partnering with the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization and the Makueni County Government to develop customized digital content on fruit fly prevention for mango farmers.
- In **Nigeria**, video-enabled extension implemented by two dairy processors trained by Digital Green, resulted in the processors (i) doubling their reach and quantity of milk processed; and (ii) reducing the rejection rate for spoiled milk from 40% to 0%. Digital Green, in partnership with the KANO Agricultural & Rural Development Agency tested a model for participatory curriculum development and dissemination on most impactful agronomic practices for the rice value chain. The customized curriculum of priority practices resulted in 23-25% yield increase compared to control plots.
- In **Rwanda**, Digital Green, in partnership with One Acre Fund and Rwanda Agriculture Board, tested incentive schemes to improve performance of volunteer farmer promoters. The engagement found a 37% increase in adoption of good agricultural practices and an 8% increase in farmer knowledge due to improved performance of the farmer promoters.
- In **South Sudan**, Digital Green is partnering with the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and private sector seed companies to implement the community-video approach to build awareness on high quality seed among smallholder farmers.