

USAID

Developments

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USAID program empowers Indian women to improve family health

India's economy has been growing steadily since the economic policy reforms instituted by the central government in 1991.

Incomes, quality of life and purchasing power have improved for the population overall. Recent research, however, shows that poor, rural households have been losing ground. Their purchasing power has not improved, and their access to food is actually decreasing.

Further, 73 million children in India are underweight for their age and size—more than double the number of malnourished children in sub-Saharan Africa.

What is India doing about this widespread problem of malnutrition in the rural population? Since 1975, the government of India's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) has provided a gradually expanding program of nutrition supplements, immunizations, health check-ups, nutrition and health education, and non-formal pre-school education in high-risk, mostly rural areas of the country. The goal is to improve the nutritional and health status of rural, poor women and children and teach them basic health and hygiene practices. In 1994, more than 18 million women and children participated in ICDS nationwide.

In many areas of the country, the Indian government implements ICDS alone. But in some of the country's poorest and most isolated regions, 8.2 million women and children participate in ICDS

programs supported with training and USAID-donated Public Law-480 Title II food provided through CARE-India. Support to ICDS is now the main thrust of CARE-India activities, ongoing in 10 states in that country.

The food provided through CARE is a nutritious blend of cornmeal and soy flour that provides important vitamins, minerals and calories often lacking in the local diet.

"Everything they are teaching us here through the Anganwadi Center is new to us, and good," said Usha, mother of a 2-year-old daughter and a 1-month-old son. Usha, 19, lives in a hot and dusty village in the Indian state of Rajasthan, where the nearest health post is 20 kilometers away.

She received supplementary food through an Anganwadi Center while she was pregnant and will continue to receive it until her baby is 6 months old. Her daughter is attending the pre-school classes.

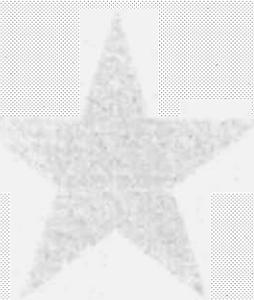
"At the center I learned about breastfeeding my baby right after birth and continuing for two years," Usha said. "The knowledge of the mothers has developed a lot since ICDS started here two years ago," said Asha Sain, the local Anganwadi worker. A small, thin woman of 25, Sain receives a nominal honorarium to run the center. "If a child is very sick, the women don't have to wait for their husbands anymore—now they have enough self-confidence to go to the health center alone."

On a hot April day, the 80 children who attend this Anganwadi Center have washed their hands, and now they wait in the courtyard for their daily ration of supplementary food, which is prepared at the center in a different way each day. Today it is sweet. It tastes like the crushed corn flake and graham cracker crust of a creamy lemon pie. The children rise and clamor for their portion, eagerly holding out their bowls. Suddenly all is quiet. They are too busy eating to make noise now.

"I feel good that I am able to feed the children and that they also learn," said Sain, now that she has a peaceful moment. "I am happy about the work I am doing."

"But," she added, "I think that the children would not come here to the center without the food we provide."

by Laura Lorenz Hess, a free-lance writer living in New Delhi, India



UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Foreign aid benefits U.S. economy

“An estimated 80 percent of U.S. aid allocated for foreign nations winds up being spent on U.S. goods and services. This investment translates into 200,000 jobs, and in some cases allows U.S. companies to enter foreign markets. A Van Nuys electric car maker, for example, now makes taxis that ease air pollution in Bangkok.”

— *Los Angeles Times*,
May 24, 1995

“In a post-Cold War world, development aid can bolster fledgling democracies and the growth of a capitalist economy.”

— *Miami Herald*,
May 1, 1995

Most Americans are not aware that nearly 80 percent of USAID's contracts and grants, amounting to millions of dollars, go directly to American firms, academic institutions, private organizations and specialists throughout the United States. American farmers, ports and shippers also reap benefits from the U.S. foreign aid program.

USAID's economic assistance to developing countries has helped create major markets for U.S. goods and services, making possible hundreds of thousands of jobs for Americans.

For example, over the past decade USAID targeted \$15 million in technical assistance for the energy sectors of developing countries. As a result of this commitment, and

longstanding U.S. efforts to encourage developing nations to privatize, U.S. assistance has helped build a \$50 billion annual market for private power. U.S. firms are capturing the largest share of this market, out-competing Japan and Germany.

Foreign assistance also returns benefits to the United States in other forms. Agricultural research funded through foreign assistance programs — in many cases using the U.S. Land Grant College and University system — has brought new technologies to U.S. farmers and resulted in millions of dollars worth of improved yields. Agricultural technologies developed through USAID's Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) to increase food production abroad has resulted

in millions of dollars' worth of benefits for U.S. farmers. CRSP genetics and parasite research has identified parasite resistance in sheep that saves U.S. lamb producers \$40 million a year. U.S. sorghum producers benefit from new greenbug-resistant sorghum varieties developed through CRSP research.

U.S. foreign aid helps developing countries while providing a higher standard of living for Americans at home.

Below are examples of individual states that benefit from USAID's foreign economic assistance programs. The time frame is fiscal year 1994 (Oct. 1, 1993 to Sept. 30, 1994), and the contracts and grants may represent awards covering several years.

FLORIDA

USAID awarded \$150.5 million in grants and contracts to the Sunshine State for goods and services in fiscal year 1994. Some of the recipients included Bethune-Cookman College; Florida State University; Management and Business Associates; Metro Dade County Fire Department; Pipe and Steel of Florida; Sargent International Inc.; Tropical Research and Development Inc.; University of Florida; University of South Florida; and Wildlife Conservation International, Gainesville.

USAID purchased an estimated \$812,000 of Florida wheat, sorghum and beans for use in food aid programs. Shipping and

handling of food aid brought the state \$75 million.

USAID sponsored training for 644 foreign participants in Florida's universities and educational facilities, usually including full tuition and living allowances. The 1994 program included students at Central Florida Community College; St. Petersburg Jr. College; University of Florida; Florida International University; Florida A&M; and Florida Community College.

Two separate USAID programs in Egypt and Jordan financed \$10 million in purchases from Florida companies. Among these companies were Central State Enterprises; Ramtech Overseas; and G.A. Paper International.



USAID purchased an estimated \$812,000 of Florida wheat, sorghum and beans for use in food aid programs. Shipping and handling of food aid brought the state \$75 million.

COLORADO

USAID awarded \$45.4 million in grants and contracts for goods and services to many Colorado sources. Among those were Colorado State University; Computer Assisted Development Inc.; Junior Achievement; National Farmers Union; National Technological University; Technical Resources Inc.; and US West Inc.

In fiscal year 1994, USAID purchased about \$18.1 million of Colorado wheat and beans for use in food aid programs.



USAID sponsors hundreds of foreign students at U.S. universities.

During this period, USAID sponsored 430 foreign participants training at Colorado's universities and educational facilities, usually including full tuition and living allowances. The program included students at Colorado State University; Boulder Economics Institute; and Regis College.

USAID programs in Egypt and Jordan financed \$1 million in purchases from Colorado companies. Among the companies were Denver Instrument Co.; Cobe Laboratories Inc.; Valleylab Inc.; Dixson Inc.; IBM World Trade Corp; and Schuller International Inc.

“The compassionate aspects of foreign aid may not appeal to its critics, but the economic argument should. Simply put, it's a good investment. Developing countries — i.e., aid recipients — are the fastest growing market for American goods.”

— Holger Jensen, writing in the Rocky Mountain News, June 1, 1995

ILLINOIS

In Illinois, USAID awarded \$93.9 million in grants and contracts for goods and services. Among the recipients were Abbott Laboratories; Bulgarian-American Enterprise Fund; Harza Engineering Co.; University of Illinois; Northwestern University; Opportunity International; PRC Environmental Management Inc.; Rotary Foundation of Rotary Intl.; World Relief Corporation; and World Vision Relief and Development.

In fiscal year 1994, USAID purchased \$51.7 million of wheat, sorghum and edible oils from Illinois for use in the Food for Peace programs.

USAID sponsored training for 563 foreign participants at Illinois universities and educational facilities, usually including full tuition and living allowances. The 1994 program included students at the University of Illinois-Champaign; Illinois East

Community College; Southern Illinois University; and Northern Illinois University.

For programs in Jordan and Egypt, USAID financed \$10.8 million in purchases from Illinois companies. Among the companies were Caterpillar Tractor Co.; Blaw Knox Construction Equip.; Fischer Imaging Co.; National Railway Equip. Co.; General Motors Corp.; Power Parts Company; Inter Marketing Group Inc.; Sola Electric; Morton Intl; Petag Inc.; Gold Eagle Co.; Formax Inc.; Furnas Electric Co.; and Illinois Blower Inc.



CALIFORNIA

In the Golden State, USAID awarded \$474.8 million in grants and contracts for goods and services. Among the recipients were Asia Foundation; Bechtel Corporation; Biosystems Analysis; Cal Poly Pomona Foundation Inc.; Center for Citizen Initiatives; Dillingham Construction Intl. Inc.; Electrotek Concepts Inc.; Fluor Daniel Inc.; Pepperdine University; Project

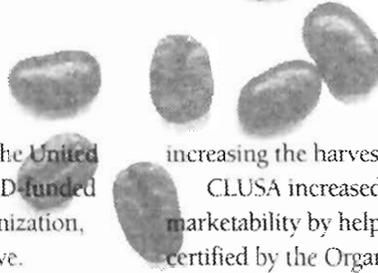
Concern International; Tri Valley Growers; Wadell Engineering Corp.; We!start/San Diego Lactation Program; and Western Consortium for Public Health.

In addition to the grants and contracts listed above, USAID purchased \$239 million worth of California vegetables and other agricultural products for use in food aid programs. Shipping and handling of food aid brought \$41.7 million to California in 1994.

USAID also sponsored 1,208 foreign participants in training at California's universities and educational facilities. The 1994 program included students at Modesto Jr. College; Kings River Community College; University of California-Los Angeles; and the University of California-Davis.

USAID programs in Egypt, Jordan and Mozambique supported \$7.7 million of purchases in California in fiscal year 1994.

New organic coffee gets Salvadoran economy brewing



High in the mountains of El Salvador, on the outskirts of the small village of San Agustin, lies La Providencia Cooperative. The cooperative, whose name means "the gift of God," grows the country's first brand of organic coffee, known as Pipil.

During the 12-year civil war in El Salvador, the members of La Providencia had little money. Spending all they had on the basic necessities of life, they were forced to leave the coffee crop without chemical fertilizers or insecticides. The neglect of the crop yielded what they call their "great prize" because the coffee had grown free of chemicals. La Providencia was in a position to enter the emerging international market for organic coffee.

The discovery was made when the National Cooperative Business Association, known overseas as the

Cooperative League of the United States (CLUSA), a USAID-funded non-governmental organization, contacted the cooperative.

After an initial evaluation, CLUSA sent a team of technicians

Composters line the road on the way up the mountain, providing a natural fertilizer for the coffee while preserving the environment and increasing the harvest.

to train the co-op members in administrative and technical skills. Members learned how to conserve water and soil by digging trenches at the base of each bush.

Composters line the road on the way up the mountain, providing a natural fertilizer for the coffee while preserving the environment and

increasing the harvest.

CLUSA increased Pipil's marketability by helping it become certified by the Organic Crop Improvement Association, an internationally recognized organization. CLUSA staff also facilitated communication between the cooperative and the Ministry of Public Works to begin construction of a road to San Agustin.

USAID's rural electrification program funded the installation of power last year, which improves the productivity of the co-op and the lives of the people in the area.

U.S. companies, including Elan International, are currently marketing the organic coffee. Pipil is exported to Canada, Germany and Japan, and future market growth is expected.



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