

AGREEMENT

Leader with Associate
Cooperative Agreement
AID-OAA-A-10-00006

AGREEMENT AMOUNT:

\$20 million

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

August 13, 2010-
August 12, 2015

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TOPS PROGRAM PARTNERS



TOPS is committed to
inclusiveness, participation and
broad stakeholder engagement.



Promoting Excellence in Food Security Programming

The Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS), funded by USAID/ Office of Food for Peace (FFP), is strengthening the capacity of FFP grantees to deliver high quality and effective food aid by fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing about improved food security and nutrition practices.

TOPS Program Strategies and Audiences

TOPS interacts with FFP and other USAID Washington, DC, and country Mission staff, FFP implementing partners, USDA, academic and research institutions, multilateral organizations, and other food security and nutrition program implementers through four strategies:

- Focused capacity strengthening
- Community of practice: the Food Security and Nutrition Network
- Online portal, resource library, tools, and discussion forums
- Small grants program

TOPS Program Priorities

Establish inclusive implementer-driven and field-oriented collaboration and information sharing networks to develop new knowledge and more effective practices; collect and analyze evidence; build consensus to support, disseminate, and adopt improvements; and strengthen program planning, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation skills.

TOPS Technical Focus Areas

TOPS' focused technical capacity building efforts will address:

- Agriculture
- Emergencies and Commodity Management
- Gender
- Knowledge Management and Program Learning
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Nutrition and Food Technology
- Social and Behavior Change

TOPS Objective: Highest quality information, knowledge, and best practices for improved methodologies in food aid and food security program performance identified, established, shared and adapted.

Targeted Resource Flows

Through TOPS two significant resources for stimulating quality improvement in food security and nutrition programming:

Small Grants Awards (SGA): The SGA program is an important funding mechanism for promoting field-led and collaborative projects, creation and adaptation of capacity building tools, and development and dissemination of improved practices to FFP partners. TOPS currently operates two SGA programs--Capacity Strengthening Micro Grants and the Program Improvement Awards (PIA).

LWA Awards: The TOPS USAID/FFP Cooperative Agreement is a Leader With Associate Award, which allows for pre-competed Associate Awards through TOPS and its partners for direct project development and implementation, e.g., USAID Missions, non-FFP Bureaus, and other USG agencies.

Engaging the Broader Community

The TOPS Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Network is an open communication and learning environment in which the food security and nutrition community can share information, shape agendas, understand and influence donor priorities, test and build consensus on new and promising practices, and widely diffuse technical knowledge.

The fsnnetwork.org web portal provides a foundation for FSN Network knowledge sharing and collaboration by the community. The FSN Network issues a bi-weekly newsletter. Subscribe for the newsletter at bit.ly/fsnnetworknews.

Task forces have formed around technical content areas enabling members from around the world to directly contribute their expertise in continuing discussions on development and adaptation of crucial information, tools, and implementation methodologies. These technical groups currently include agriculture, commodity management, gender, knowledge management and program learning, monitoring & evaluation, nutrition & food technology, and social and behavioral change. Email info@fsnnetwork.org to participate.

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