Horticulture CRSP Immediate Impact Projects Quickly Address Needs in Developing Countries
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Introduction
The Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program (Hort CRSP), funded by USAID, awarded nearly $2 million to support 15 one-year projects to improve the production and marketing of horticultural crops and products developing countries. The collaborative research effort will be responsible for a broad range of activities demonstrating how horticulture can reduce hunger and malnutrition and raise the incomes of the rural poor.

Participants
Ten U.S. universities collaborating with 51 international organizations, agencies and institutions conduct projects in 20 countries.

Countries
Africa – Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia
South and Southeast Asia – India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand
Central and South America – Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama

Information Accessibility
• Identifying food and plant safety problems in Nigeria and developing a Good Agricultural Practices education system.
• Training bell pepper farmers in current and best management practices to improve production and postharvest quality in Central America.

Gender Equity & Nutrition
• Increasing consumer awareness of the nutritional and cultural importance of orange-fleshed Sweetpotato to increase Ghanaian food security and nutrient intake.
• Improving production and use of indigenous vegetables to provide a long-term source of food for economic security and improved nutrition for Kenyans.

Improved Market Access
• Exploring potential to export cut flowers from Honduras using existing fruit exporters and improved storage technology.
• Increasing Ghanaian export production of important indigenous spices, medicinal plants and horticultural crops and providing employment and income to farmers.
• Helping Zambian farmers develop market consistent vegetable products for hotels and other tourist industries.

Management Team
The management team at University of California, Davis includes Ron Voss, Emeritus Extension Vegetable Specialist; Beth Mitcham (pictured), Postharvest Extension Specialist, Michael Reid, Postharvest Extension Specialist, and Mark Bell, Director of the International Learning Center.

Technology Innovation
• Improving techniques to dry and store seeds where temperatures and average relative humidity are problematic in India, Nepal, and Thailand.
• Determining the effectiveness of different coatings and essential oils in controlling postharvest disease of mango and papaya and maintaining fruit quality in Sri Lanka.
• Deploying rapid diagnostic tools to detect Phytophthora disease on horticultural crops in Central America.

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