The Trellis Fund connects organizations in developing countries with U.S. graduate students who have agricultural expertise, generating benefits for both the students and the in-country institutions. Together, they collaborate on short-term projects to address horticultural challenges faced by local farmers.

**How it works:**
Organizations in developing countries are invited to propose a horticultural project for a $4,000 grant and specify the type of expert support they seek in a U.S. graduate student. Trellis projects may address issues of horticultural production, pest management, soil fertility, water management, postharvest practices, value addition, nutrition, and marketing.

The Trellis Fund matches the organization to a graduate student with related expertise. Graduate students from the Horticulture Innovation Lab’s partner institutions are invited to participate:

- University of California, Davis
- North Carolina State University
- University of Florida
- University of Hawai’i at Mānoa

Selected graduate students work remotely with the organization as consultants on projects for a minimum of 100 hours. Students travel for approximately 2 weeks of in-country work, to gain a better understanding of local situations and execute parts of the project. Travel expenses are covered, and students receive a $300 fellowship upon completion.

**Achievements:**
Since 2011, the Horticulture Innovation Lab has completed five rounds of Trellis Fund projects. Results from the first 55 completed projects include:

- 8,405 farmer participants (66% women)
- 230 demonstration plots
- 268 training and extension meetings

http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu

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2018 Trellis Fund Projects

**Ghana:**
- Promoting organic agriculture among vegetable and fruit farmers
  Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture (KITA)
  Claire Friedrichsen, University of Florida
- Biochar comparisons for depleted, sandy soils
  Tip Top Foods, Ltd.
  Saroop Sandhu, University of Florida
- Enhancing vegetable productivity through transplanting and irrigation
  University of Cape Coast (UCC)
  Prosanta Dash, University of Florida
- Training in value addition of mangoes
  Methodist University College Ghana (MUCG)
  Sidrah Rafique, University of Florida

**Ethiopia:**
- Sweet potato leaves for family nutrition
  Send a Cow Ethiopia (SACE)
  Lauren Howe, UC Davis

**Tanzania:**
- Promotion of mulching in vegetable production
  HORTI Tengeru
  Russell Galanti, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

**Rwanda:**
- Extending good agricultural practices for horticulture
  University of Rwanda
  Kshitij Khatri, University of Florida
- Training smallholder farmers on tropical fruit production and seedlings
  SYBASH, Ltd.
  Sanju Kunwar, University of Florida

**Uganda:**
- Promoting mango and orange value addition
  Teso Women Development Enterprise, Ltd.
  Claire Adkison, UC Davis
- Improving postharvest handling and irrigation for mushroom and tomato farmers
  Environmental Conservation and Agricultural Enhancement Uganda (Eco-Agric Uganda)
  Krishna Bhattacharai, University of Florida
- Value addition training of fruit and vegetable farmers
  Ndibwami Integrated Rescue project (NIRP)
  Ranjeet Singh Randhawa, University of Florida
  Raminder Kaur, University of Florida
- Fruit farming for income and nutrition
  Uganda Rural Information and Communication Technology (URICT-Uganda)
  Karla Huerta, UC Davis
- Enhancing shelf-life of fruits and vegetables for off-season supply
  Mwino Group
  Annabelle Yu, UC Davis

**Nepal:**
- Soil and plant health schools for smallholder farmers
  Center for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD-Nepal)
  Stewart Wilson, UC Davis
- Kiwi agribusiness training
  Aytos, Inc.
  Nataraja Venkatesh Maheshala, North Carolina State University