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 $2,000 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 four rounds of Trellis Fund projects. Results from the first 47 completed projects include:

- 7,396 farmer participants (69% women)
- 219 demonstration plots
- 238 training and extension meetings

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PRIDE in Bangladesh worked with Brittany Pierce, a UC Davis graduate student, on a Trellis Fund project about pest management.

In Nepal, Rachel Suits of NC State works with a local graduate student on a field trial with the Ecological Services Centre.

Dan Quinn of UC Davis worked in Uganda on trainings for mango and citrus production.

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http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu

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Trellis Fund projects, 2016-2017
The Horticulture Innovation Lab selected 9 projects for its fifth round of Trellis projects.

Cambodia
- Training of trainers for curriculum on water management, climate resiliency, and soil quality in school vegetable gardens
  Green Shoots Foundation in partnership with Community-based Integrated Development Organization (CIDO)

Ghana
- Improving tomato production through good agronomic practices
  Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Crops Research Institute
  Ibukun Timothy Ayankojo of the University of Florida
- Home-based processing and marketing of mango fruits
  Methodist University College Ghana (MUCG)
  Nicholas Reitz of UC Davis

Kenya
- Improving food production by adopting best pest management methods
  Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)
  Pete Nelson of North Carolina State University
- Increasing Irish potato productivity through traditional and mobile information extension
  Growing Star Agri Ventures
  Yao Guan of UC Davis

Nepal
- Extending shelf-life and quality of vegetables through construction of cost-effective storage unit for marketing purpose
  Himalayan Pearl Enterprise (HPE)
  Sadikshya Sharma of the University of Florida
- Integrated nutrient and pest management for improving sustainability of small-holder farming
  Center for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD-Nepal)
  Tiare Silvasy of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Uganda
- Fruit fly management information and practice for mangoes
  National Forestry Resources Research Institute (NaFORRI)
  Brad Reil of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
- Enhancing postharvest handling methods and creation of market linkages for small holder fruit and vegetable farmers
  Ndibwami Integrated Rescue Project (NIRP)
  Karin Albornoz of UC Davis

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