

Horticulture Innovation Lab: Trellis Fund

Engaging U.S. graduate students in international development

The Trellis Fund provides organizations in developing countries with access to U.S. graduate student expertise, with benefits to both the students and the in-country institutions. Together, they address horticultural challenges facing local farmers.

Methodology:

Organizations in countries prioritized by Feed the Future propose a horticultural project for a \$2,000 grant and specify the type of expertise they seek in a U.S. graduate student. Trellis projects may address issues of horticultural production, pest management, postharvest practices, nutrition, and marketing.

In turn, the Trellis Fund matches the awarded organization with a graduate student who has related expertise. Graduate students receive a fellowship package of \$300 plus travel to the project, where they build relationships with their counterparts and gain a better understanding of the local situation. The student and the organization continue to work together remotely via email.

Achievements:

For approximately \$98,000 in awards, the first two rounds of Trellis funding resulted in 23 completed projects with:

- 184 training and extension meetings
- 3,865 farmers trained (71% women)
- 116 demonstration plots

With projects still ongoing, the Horticulture Innovation Lab has awarded a total of 38 projects in 15 countries.

So far, 38 graduate students from the Horticulture Innovation Lab's partner institutions—University of California, Davis; North Carolina State University; Cornell University; and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—have participated. An additional 62 local college students (including undergraduates) have also assisted in the projects.



A volunteer with EcoFinder in Kenya discusses weeds with Michael Wolff, a UC Davis Ph.D. student in soil science.



Carrie Teiken, a UC Davis graduate student, examines disease problems of a citrus tree while working with the Uganda Environmental Education Foundation.



A graduate student from Tribhubhan University works with Rachel Suits, an entomology graduate student at North Carolina State University, to set up rows for an intercropping field trial with the Ecological Services Centre in Nepal.

<http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu>



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**HORTICULTURE
INNOVATION LAB**

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Third round of Trellis Fund projects, 2013-2014

14 current projects in 9 countries

Guatemala

- Seed saving for farmer seed security and biodiversity conservation

Mesoamerican Institute of Permaculture (IMAP)
Jay Bost, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Bangladesh

- Helping homestead gardeners mitigate the impact of soil salinity

Helen Keller International
Hannah Waterhouse, UC Davis

Nepal

- Introduction of kitchen gardens to KISC EQUIP partner schools

Kathmandu International Study Centre Education Quality Improvement Programme (KISC EQUIP)
Courtney Jallo, UC Davis

Ghana

- Farmers training on pollination-friendly practices

International Stingless Bee Centre
Randall Cass, UC Davis

Senegal

- Empowering women through valorization of hibiscus, cowpea and cassava

ADC Super Crown
Amanda Lewis, UC Davis

- Food security and nutrition for long-term sustainability

Ande Liquey
Erin McGuire, UC Davis

Mali

- Combating poverty with *Capsicum annum* peppers

Rural Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research
Adama Perry Traore, UC Davis

Kenya

- Enhancing farmers' skills for thrips management in French beans

Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)
Hung Doan, UC Davis

- Minimizing postharvest losses among smallholder mango farmers through training

University of Nairobi
Ngoc Nham, UC Davis

Tanzania

- Utilization of locally abundant neem in IPM of horticultural crops

St. John's University of Tanzania
Carly Summers, Cornell University

Uganda

- Improving nutritional security through beetroot cultivation and consumption

Mwino Group
Alex Greenspan, UC Davis

- Fruit farming for income generation and nutrition

Uganda Rural Information and Communication Technology/Educational Center (URICT-Uganda)
Daniel Quinn, UC Davis

- Promoting women in organic production of vegetables, value addition and reduction of postharvest loss

WECA Farmers Association
Benjamin Knollenberg, UC Davis

- Promotion of production and marketing of early-maturing mango varieties

Hoima District Farmers Association
Sam Bird, UC Davis