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.

http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu
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

**Kenya**
- Enhancing farmers’ skills for thrips management in French beans
  Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)
  Hung Doan, 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

**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 Liguey
  Erin McGuire, UC Davis

**Mali**
- Combating poverty with Capsicum annuum peppers
  Rural Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research
  Adama Perry Traore, UC Davis