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Your source for the latest in food security and nutrition

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Submitted by The TOPS Program

Last week, on May 9-11, The TOPS Program hosted a **Breastfeeding Seminar**. The theme was "Protecting, Promoting, and Supporting Breastfeeding in the Field." At the end of the 2½ days, the food security and nutrition community honored **Judy Canahuati** (pictured), formerly of USAID's Office of Food for Peace, as a world champion of breastfeeding. Judy gave the closing remarks of the seminar. You can view presentations from the seminar and [learn more about it here](#).

[Submit photos or videos for future newsletters.](#)

DID YOU KNOW...

[Hesperian Health Guides](#) is offering a significant discount on all Spanish titles for the month of May: 60% off regular orders, and 75% off all orders of 10 or more copies. Use coupon code "Salud" at checkout by May 31 to take advantage of

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interested, and visit the Hesperian [store](#) to learn about our resources.

Contribute to the Newsletter!

The FSN Network News is a community newsletter, and we welcome your input. Let us know of upcoming events, new publications, and interesting articles. We also share new job openings, funding opportunities, calls for input, and photos. Email submissions to news@fsnnetwork.org.

Registration Now Open! TOPS/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting - Successes, Challenges, and the Way Forward: Seven Years of Community Building

July 19-20, 2017

Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle NW, Washington, DC 20005



Join us for the final TOPS/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting on July 19-20, 2017 in Washington, DC! As we look back over the past seven years of The TOPS Program, we look forward to engaging in productive discussions about our collective accomplishments and innovations, lessons learned, and ways in which the greater food security and nutrition community can keep advancing in the years to come.

[Register Now](#)

We hope you will join The TOPS Program for this unforgettable capstone event. If you have any questions about the Knowledge Sharing Meeting, please email events@fsnnetwork.org, and [learn more about the meeting here](#).

Register Today! Stakeholder Consultation: Implementing Under the New Food for Peace 2016-2025 Strategy

Tuesday, May 30, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 AM EDT

Save the Children, 899 North Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20002 & Online

Come join your colleagues to discuss the **Food for Peace 2016-2025 Strategy** and what this means for the food security and nutrition implementing community. Brainstorm about what type of capacity strengthening may

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accountability into our work.

When: May 30, 2017 9:00-1:00 EDT

In-person: Save the Children 899 N. Capitol Street NE Washington DC

Online: [Join via Adobe Connect](#).

Refresh your familiarity with the Strategy before the session! [Click here](#) for a 20-minute synopsis of the new Food for Peace 2016-2025 Strategy.

[Register Now](#)

Experiences on Behavior Change Webinar

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 | 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM EDT

Online

Massive resources are invested in water and sanitation facilities to ensure access to water and sanitation for all. Yet, efforts to date are not sufficient to provide people with facilities, and facilities are useless if not used properly. WASH infrastructure and products must be linked up with behavior change interventions around hand washing, latrine use and maintenance, water treatment and storage, etc.

In this webinar, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation will introduce the adapted RANAS Behavior Change Approach of EAWAG and their experiences made in Mali and Mozambique.

[Learn more and access the webinar link here!](#)

This event is funded by a TOPS Small Grant. Learn more about the TOPS Small Grant Program [here](#).

Seed System Security Assessment: Key Trainers Course Leading to Certification

September 15, 2017 - October 7, 2017

With increased global scrutiny focused on ill-tailored or dependency-generating seed responses, Seed System Security Assessments (SSSAs) are rapidly becoming the de-facto tool in preventing misdiagnosis of seed insecurity. Seed security is now widely seen as distinct from food security and there is growing worldwide interest in this new field of SSSAs.

With increased visibility, the demand for SSSAs is rising. Seed System Security Assessments have recently been integrated into USAID guidelines and standards for best practice and organizations like Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the UN-Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are routinely commissioning actual field assessments. There is an urgent need to build a specialized set of experts who can lead such assessments worldwide.

[Read the full announcement and access the course registration form here!](#)

This course will train in both rapid and more comprehensive forms of SSSAs. It will focus on a) analysis of all seed channels (own stocks, social networks, local networks, formal seed sellers) and b) targeted response

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training of trainers capacity as well as to strengthen direct field assessments. Note that the focus will embrace different types of disaster, chronic stress and developmental contexts (see seedssystem.org).

[Register Now](#)

Translating Technology to People: Empowering Communities with Blockchain as a Tool in Aid Delivery

Monday, May 22, 2017 | 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EDT

InterAction, 1400 16th Street NW #210, Washington, DC 20036

Originally created to enable the digital currency Bitcoin, blockchain technology has garnered attention by creating new opportunities beyond currency for organizations in all sectors. The blockchain has the potential to transform the development sector by improving transparency and traceability, and thus enabling cost savings. The distribution logic behind blockchain can offer new insights into development while providing a new tool for solving some of the challenges that plague delivery.

An introductory guide to blockchain technology and the benefits of the technology in development will be provided, together with a discussion of case studies in the development sector that have utilized blockchain in current delivery models to illustrate possibilities for future integration.

Please RSVP to admin.northamerica@cashlearning.org

Institutionalizing Cash and Vouchers in Response: Experience-sharing on How Organizations are Adapting to the Evolving Humanitarian Landscape

Wednesday, May 31, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM EDT

SEIU, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036

Cash transfers and voucher programs have been used for many years in humanitarian work, but many organizations are just now beginning to understand how deeply these modalities affect how humanitarian organizations operate. Cash transfers and vouchers are changing how systems and the humanitarian architecture itself respond to disasters. Cash transfers and vouchers are changing how humanitarian organizations relate both to each other and to their beneficiaries. At the same time, the technology being employed for cash, voucher, and in-kind programs is changing quickly. While technology is allowing more widespread deployment of cash and vouchers in novel forms, at the same time, the collection of more monitoring data and the move to digital systems have led to new challenges in how to best deliver humanitarian assistance.

Case studies of a CaLP's Strengthen Institutional Capacity (SIC) work with Relief International (RI) and Project Concern International (PCI) will be presented along with the Organizational Cash Readiness Tool (OCRT), which was revised through this work. Similarly, the American Red Cross (ARC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) will present on some of the ways they are increasing and monitoring their institutional readiness to deliver cash and vouchers in emergencies. The event will be interactive with plenty of opportunities to share experiences, to discuss the difficulties of becoming digital, the difficulties of providing more cash, and the changing humanitarian landscape.

Please RSVP to admin.northamerica@cashlearning.org

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FACG Meeting

Thursday, June 1, 2017 | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM EDT

National Press Building, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

Please save the date for the next **Food Aid Consultative Group (FACG)** meeting to be held on **Thursday, June 1, 2017 from 1- 5 p.m.** The FACG meeting will take place at the National Press Building, in the Main Conference Room on the seventh floor.

Additional details and the agenda will be forthcoming.

Food for Peace International Food Relief Partnership Request for Applications

Deadline: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 12:00 PM EDT

Access the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 2017) International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP) Request for Applications (RFA) [here](#). Please note that the overall purpose of this RFA is for applications from U.S. based not-for-profit organizations having 501(c)(3) IRS tax code status, and also International Organizations, for the transportation, delivery, and distribution of shelf-stable prepackaged commodities.

The 2017 IFRP RFA has been published on Grants.gov and can be found at the following link: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=IFRP> The RFA was also posted onto USAID's Food for Peace web page at the following link (bottom of web page entitled, "Final For Applications"): <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/agriculture-and-food-security/food-assistance/programs/nutritional-support-programs>

Please note that the RFA has a submission date for all IFRP grant applications of Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at 12:00 pm (12:00 Noon) EDT (Washington, D.C. Local Time).

Please refer to the following information for specific instructions on FY 2017 IFRP grant application submission procedures:

- USAID's Office of Food for Peace is requesting that applicants use the Food for Peace Management Information System (FFPMIS) to apply for an IFRP grant under this RFA. FFPMIS can be accessed at <https://usaid-ffp.entellitrak.com/>.
- Users' guides and additional FFPMIS resources can be found on the TOPS site, <http://www.fsnnetwork.org/document/food-peace-management-information-system-ffpmis-resources>.
- Any technical questions on use of FFPMIS should be emailed to FFPMIS_Support@devis.com.
- The FFPMIS Helpdesk hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Potential applicants are encouraged to start the submission process early as technical questions are answered in the order in which they are received and replies may take more than one business day.
- All other application inquiries should be submitted to the Office of Food for Peace, attn. Benjamin C. Vogler, at IFRP@usaid.gov.

FFPMIS submission will require a combination of data entry and document uploads. Applicants must complete both direct entry and document upload portions of the application in order to be considered for funding.

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Over the next few decades, agriculture will continue to be the dominant sector of employment and a vital source of labor for most young people in Africa. Harnessing youth's potential to participate meaningfully in their food systems, from production to plate, has the potential to increase their productivity and revenues, as well as ensure the resilience and food security of their households.

This research, conducted by Mercy Corps with funding from the TOPS Small Grant program, allows us to gain a better understanding of the roles youth play, or could potentially play, in the agricultural development of Liberia, and provides concrete recommendations on how to better engage youth within our agriculture programming.

[Read more and view the document in the resource library at fsnnetwork.org.](#)



GROWING A FUTURE
Liberian Youth Reflect on Agriculture Livelihoods

JANUARY 2017



Job Postings

- [Vice President, Asia Pacific](#) with Helen Keller International
- [Program Officer, Global Development and Population Program](#) based in Menlo Park, California with The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- [Economic Empowerment Manager](#) based in Sacramento, California with IRC
- [Community Gardens Specialist](#) based in Salt Lake City, Utah with IRC
- [New Roots Farm Specialist](#) based in Phoenix, Arizona with IRC
- [New Roots Coordinator](#) based in Atlanta, Georgia with IRC
- [New Roots Program Specialist](#) based in Oakland, California with IRC
- [Senior Technical Advisor for Food Security](#) based in Baltimore, Maryland with CRS
- [Regional Gender Equality Advisor](#) based in Asia with IRC
- [Regional Gender Equality Advisor](#) based in West Africa with IRC
- [Gender Equality Technical Advisor, US Programs](#) based in New York, New York with IRC
- [Program Manager, Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods](#) based in New York, New York with BRAC
- [Food for Asset Project Manager](#) based in Bor, South Sudan with CRS
- [Youth Impact Lab Program Director](#) based in Amman, Jordan with Mercy Corps
- [Senior Technical Advisor for Food Security](#) based in Baltimore, Maryland with CRS
- [Agricultural/Seed System Data Set Manager](#) with CRS
- [Women's Protection and Empowerment Coordinator](#) based in Myanmar with IRC

Funding & Other Opportunities

Africa Food Prize 2017 | [Nominations due June 5, 2017](#)

The Africa Food Prize is the preeminent award recognizing an outstanding individual or institution that is leading the effort to change the reality of farming in Africa—from a struggle to survive to a business that thrives. The US \$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa's agriculture agenda. It puts a spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans.

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collaborate in the research, development, piloting, testing, and scaling of innovative, practical and cost-effective interventions that address development challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) invites interested parties to participate with USAID to identify innovative thinking, best practices and promising programs that will create more strategic, focused, results-oriented, cost-effective and practical options that will further the US Government's goal of improving the impact of its policies and programs on Africa's poor. USAID, through the Bureau for Africa (USAID/AFR), aims to develop and test innovative, sustainable and cost-effective solutions that will accelerate progress towards eliminating extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. This BAA specifically seeks to incorporate new ideas that will directly and positively influence USAID's programs and policies, including, but not limited to, support for SSA institutions to deliver services and manage programs that contribute to sustainable development.

Upcoming Events

[Permaculture for Resilience: A Design Certification Course for People Working in International Development](#): May 21-June 4; Maricopa, California

[Translating Technology to People: Empowering Communities with Blockchain as a Tool in Aid Delivery](#): CaLP; May 22; Washington, DC

[Women's Economic Empowerment Global Learning Forum](#): The SEEP Network; May 23-May 25; Bangkok, Thailand

[Experiences on Behavior Change](#): Helvetas Swiss Incorporation; May 24; Online

[Listening to Farmers and Mother: Voices of Agriculture Value Chain Actors and Caregivers Inform Social and Behavior Change Efforts to Improve Dietary Diversity in Sierra Leone](#): SPRING; May 24; Online

[Stakeholder Consultation: Implementing Under the New Food for Peace 2016-2025 Strategy](#): The TOPS Program; May 30; Washington, DC & Online

[Adding Value to Agribusiness Value Chains: World Bank Group](#); May 30; Washington, DC and online

[Institutionalizing Cash and Vouchers in Response: Experience-sharing on how Organizations are Adapting to the Evolving Humanitarian Landscape](#): CaLP; May 31; Washington, DC

[Aligning the Food System to Meet Dietary Needs: Fruits and Vegetables](#): World Food Center; June 2-June 3; Davis, California

[AIARD 53rd Annual Conference](#): AIARD; June 4-June 6; Washington, DC

[International Conference on Child's Health and Development](#): Action Against Hunger; June 8-June 9; Kathmandu, Nepal

[The Critical Role of Social and Behavior Change across the Service Delivery Continuum](#): HC3; June 8; Washington, DC

[Intersections of Policy and Practice to Strengthen Agricultural Education and Training Systems](#): InnovATE; June 8-9; Washington, DC

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New Reports, Guides & Tools

[Technical Brief: Concepts and Methods for Food Environment Research in Low and Middle Income Countries](#) from Food Environment Working Group and ANH Academy

[Addressing Barriers to Maternal Nutrition: Evidence and Program Considerations](#) from MCSP

[Addressing Barriers to Exclusive Breastfeeding: Evidence and Program Considerations for Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#) from MCSP

[Community-Based Distribution of Iron-Folic Acid Supplementation: Evidence and Program Implications](#) from MCSP

[At the Root of Exodus: Food Security, Conflict, and International Migration](#) from WFP

[mVAM for Nutrition: Kenya Case Study](#) from WFP

Recent Articles

[20 Leaders Under 40 Who Are Shaping the Future of Our Food System](#) from Food Tank

[Connecting the Dots on Ag and Climate Change](#) from Civil Eats

[Fighting Post-Harvest Losses Through Mobile-Friendly Video](#) from Agrilinks

[Smartphones for Smarter Nutrition in Sri Lanka](#) from The World Bank

[A Humanitarian Crossroads: Why Climate Resilience is Key to Avoiding Future Food Crises](#) from ReliefWeb

[Small Farmers are the Future of Global Food Security](#) from Impact Alpha

If you are not already on our e-mail list, sign-up [here](#). We welcome news of events, tools, trainings, country updates and other content from the broad FSN Network community. Please send any suggested content to news@fsnnetwork.org.

The TOPS Program was made possible by the generous support and contribution of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

The FSN Network is being spearheaded by TOPS, a USAID/FFP funded program seeking to build the capacity of FFP grantees and other food security and nutrition implementers. The program is working to improve the quality of implementation through fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing around food security and nutrition best practices. For more information about TOPS please click [here](#).

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