

Lugar-Casey Global Food Security Act

Purpose: to reorient U.S. development assistance to focus on hunger alleviation; to increase resources for long-term rural development and poverty alleviation; to enhance human and institutional capacity through higher education for agriculture and extension; to establish a Special Coordinator for Global Food Security that is tasked with creating a Global Food Security Strategy; and, to improve the U.S. emergency rapid response to food crises

Title I. Policy Objectives, Planning, and Coordination

- Creates a Special Coordinator for Global Food Security.
- Directs the President, acting through the Special Coordinator, to develop a Global Food Security Strategy based on a whole-of-government approach, and working with NGOs, private voluntary organizations, international organizations, international financial institutions, other donor governments, host governments, and other entities as appropriate. The strategy is to focus on development assistance to alleviate hunger and poverty. It does not duplicate other positions that seek to coordinate food aid shipments.
- Encourages public-private alliances.
- Requires reports to Congress from the Special Coordinator and GAO.
- Designates USAID as the lead agency in implementing an inter-agency strategy.
- Puts emphasis on a multi-sector approach to agriculture and rural development.

Title II. Bilateral Programs

- Re-orientes U.S. foreign aid toward rural development and agriculture by increasing the authorization for agriculture, rural development, and nutrition (Sec. 103/PL87-195) development assistance funding. That funding is step-laddered over five years, starting with a total of \$750 million in FY10 and up to \$2.5 billion in FY14.
- Current agriculture funding comprises just 3% of our total aid budget. In the first year of the Lugar-Casey bill, this figure would go up to 3.8%, and ladder up from there. For historical perspective, the ratio of US agriculture assistance compared to total assistance was around 20% in the 1980s. If the total foreign aid budget were frozen over the next five years, the proportion of Lugar-Casey funding would still comprise just 13%.
- Highlights need for assistance to populations living in extreme poverty.
- Calls for increased research on the full range of biotechnological advances appropriate to local ecological conditions, including genetically modified technology.
- Authorizes funding for the Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) at \$45 million and the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) at \$50 million in each fiscal year.

Title III. University Partnerships for Agriculture

- Creates a new program – Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension (HECTARE) – for the development of higher education capacity in the field of agriculture. It is funded at \$100 million in the first year, increasing to \$500 million in the fifth year.
 - Program requires multi-year assistance plans negotiated between USAID and host governments in which a “center of excellence” for agricultural sciences is identified as the lead recipient for assistance.
 - Assistance plans should be consistent with national development strategies, include partnerships with U.S. and other institutions of higher learning, and national and international research institutions, and identify appropriate channels for the dissemination of farming technologies to the field.
 - Activities can include research and development, strengthening the teaching of agriculture science including curriculum development, student and faculty exchanges, and promotion of extension services.
 - Program is administered by USAID and overseen by an advisory board.
- Re-writes Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to create an advisory board to oversee existing programs and the HECTARE program, and to clarify congressional intent and remove redundancies.

Title VI. Emergency Response to Food Crises.

- Creates an Emergency Rapid Response Food Crises Fund administered by USAID.
- Fund is fenced from other disaster accounts and is to be used for immediate emergency response in the form of food assistance and non-food assistance.
- Fund is authorized at up to \$500 million and can be used for local and regional purchase. Funds are released at the request of the USAID Administrator or the President depending on amount, and can be replenished by Congress.
- Fund is designed to provide increased speed and flexibility for emergency response to stabilize crises while other resources can be marshaled; it does not substitute for other food assistance accounts.