

***Millions Fed: Proven Success in Agricultural Development***  
**Case Studies Summaries**

**Africa**

*Breeding better maize* (1965 to 1990)

Applications of modern science to improve maize—a vital staple crop in East and Southern Africa—led to growth in output and yields that directly benefited millions of small-scale, resource-poor farmers. Maize yields in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe increased annually between 1 and 5 percent – rates that are comparable to yield and production growth rates in countries such as the United States.

*Pest- and disease-resistant cassava* (1971 to 1989)

Strategies to destroy a mealybug insect infestation reduced yields losses by 2.5 tons per hectare for this important subsistence crop in Nigeria, Ghana, and Uganda. The introduction of disease-resistant cassava contributed to making an additional 1.4 million tons of cassava flour available a year, enough to feed 29 million people.

*Re-greening the Sahel* (1980 to present)

Improved agricultural and environmental practices in Burkina Faso and Niger that encouraged the sustainable management of soil, water, forests, and crops led to the rehabilitation of millions of hectares of farmland, producing enough food and income to sustain about 3 million people in the region.

*Increasing cotton production* (1992 to 2006)

Well-timed policy reforms, including efforts to strengthen the role of farmers' organizations in the cotton sector, have made Burkina Faso the leading African exporter of this crop, based on a three-fold increase in production since the early 1990s, generating an estimated 235,000 new jobs in the agricultural sector.

*Unlocking the market for fertilizer and maize*, (1990-2007)

Policy reforms in the early 1990s contributed to the rapid growth of private investment in fertilizer and maize marketing in Kenya. The proportion of small scale farmers having ready access to fertilizer retailers increased dramatically during the nearly two decades in which reforms were undertaken, with fertilizer use rates for maize rising from 56 percent in 1996 to 70 percent in 2007, and contributing to improved yields and availability of this important food crop throughout the country.