

Millions Fed: Proven Success in Agricultural Development
Case Studies Summaries

Global

Defeating wheat rust (1955 to the present)

Breeding of rust-resistant wheat varieties in Mexico spawned a global effort to fight the deadly fungi that threatened global wheat production in the 1950s. As a result, 117 million hectares of land under cultivation were protected from wheat rust, ensuring the food security of 60-120 million rural households.

Conquering cattle plague (1950 to 2001)

Control programs in the last 20 years have brought rinderpest, a livestock virus, to the edge of eradication, the first time a disease has been eradicated since smallpox in humans. The programs have protected an estimated 40 million livestock keepers from experiencing losses in milk, meat, and hide production, as well as losses of household income and assets.

South America

Improving soil fertility (1989 to the present)

In the Pampas in Argentina, the usage of zero-tillage cultivation techniques, along with the introduction of herbicide-resistant soybean varieties, improved soil fertility by reversing decades of erosion. These innovations created 200,000 new agricultural jobs, and provided the international market with supplies of soybeans to keep global food prices low.