

News from the House Agriculture Committee

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Committee on Agriculture



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Chairman

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GOODLATTE TRADE DELEGATION SEES RESULTS OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO HIV/AIDS ORPHANS AND CHILDREN

Soy Donations Have Dramatic Impact on Patient's Health

Washington, DC: House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, who is currently leading a Congressional Delegation to three Southern African Customs Union (SACU) countries to discuss ongoing trade negotiations, recently visited sites where they viewed projects dedicated to helping orphans and children impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

“While we are here in Africa to review the U.S.-SACU free trade negotiations,” Chairman Goodlatte said, **“it is also important to see the work being done to change the course of this epidemic. Economic and social viability and the ability to trade in any country depend on its people wanting to make life better for themselves and their families. Restoring health to families and children is a basic element of this wide-ranging policy.”**

Goodlatte's trade delegation visited the Bernard Noordkamp Center in Windhoek, Namibia and a program in the Old Naledi village outside of Gaborone, Botswana in which donations from the American Soybean Association are used to improve the health of HIV positive children and their parents. The Total Community Mobilization (TCM) program and the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) joined together to support those with HIV/AIDS and improve their health through soy products in Botswana.

The American Soybean Association and a group of state soybean organizations launched the WISHH program in 2000. The program seeks to help make soy's nutritional benefits available overseas. In Botswana, in addition to working with HIV/AIDS infected populations, the WISHH program is working on multiple initiatives including providing technical assistance to food processing companies that want to use U.S. soy.

“The ASA is doing phenomenal work through their WISHH program,” Goodlatte continued. **“They help put America's bounty to good use by implementing sustainable nutrition programs in countries like Botswana, where people suffering from the scourge of HIV/AIDS can benefit from soy in their diets.”**

“The American Soybean Association (ASA) appreciates Chairman Goodlatte's recognition of the important role of soy in international efforts to improve health and nutrition,” said ASA President Neal Bredehoeft, a soybean farmer from Missouri. “ASA's WISHH program has worked with the government of Botswana and Humana People to People to help introduce U.S. soy protein into nutrition programs since soy has so much to offer all of Botswana's people.”

HIV/AIDS and malnutrition often operate in tandem, with poor nutrition increasing the risk of disease progression, and disease intensifying malnutrition. Numerous research findings show protein requirements of HIV/AIDS-infected people can jump 50-100 percent higher than for uninfected people. Soy is ideally suited to help meet their requirements for protein, calories and more.



Congressman Bob Goodlatte visits with the children of Old Naledi Village who are either orphaned by AIDS, or are themselves affected by HIV/AIDS. Goodlatte was in Old Naledi during a meeting to discuss efforts to combat HIV/AIDS including the use of soy nutrition.