

# **U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Assistance Objectives**

## **World Initiative for Soy in Human Health**

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**Foreign Agricultural Service**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**

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# **The Role of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)**

- **Spearhead the export of U.S. agricultural products**
- **Act as the focal point for all international affairs within USDA**
- **Represent and promote the interests of U.S. agriculture in world markets**

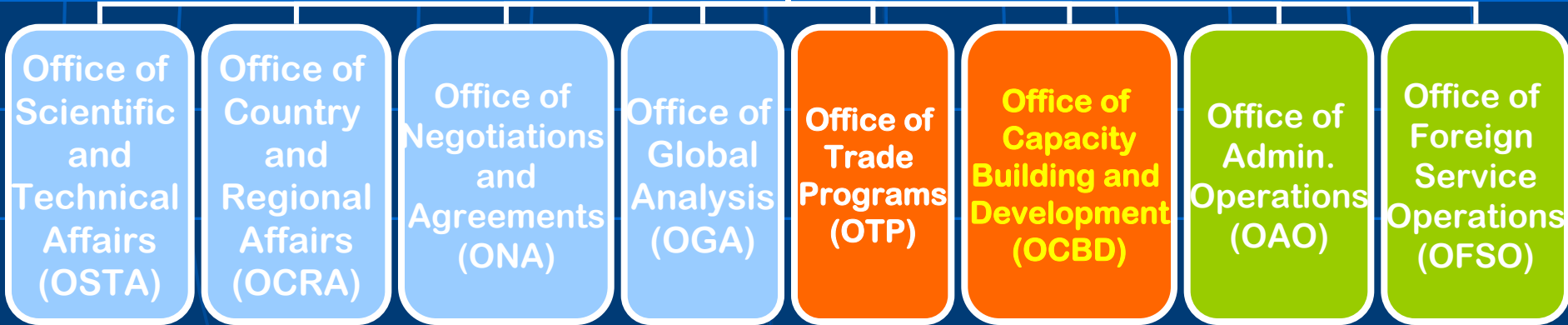


# **New Strategic Focus for FAS**

- **Greater Emphasis on:**
  - **Trade negotiation**
  - **Enforcement of trade agreements**
  - **Management of bilateral relationships**
- **Special emphasis on sanitary and phytosanitary issues**
- **Greater emphasis on trade capacity building**
- **Shift from implementing individual projects to supporting/coordinating international activities Department-wide**



# New FAS Structure



**POLICY**

**PROGRAMS**

**OPERATIONS**

# OFFICE OF CAPACITY BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT (OCBD)

Office of the Deputy Administrator  
Capacity Building and Development

Policy, Coordination and Planning Staff

Monitoring and Evaluation Staff

Food Assistance

Development Resources And Disaster Assistance

Trade and Scientific Capacity Building

Trade and Scientific Exchanges

Food for Development

School Feeding & Humanitarian Assistance

Transportation and Logistics

Agricultural and Natural Resources

Post Conflict and Disaster Assistance

Regulatory and Policy Capacity Building

Science and Technology Capacity Building

Cochran Fellowship Program

Scientific Exchanges

# OCBD Mission

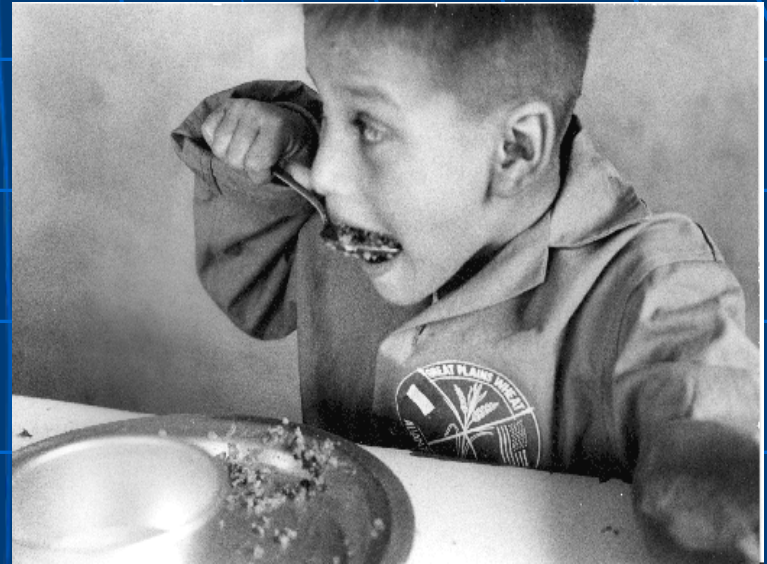
- **OCBD advances international agricultural trade and U.S. national security by strengthening the institutions and economies of developing countries through trade capacity building and agricultural development**



Lebanon

# Our Approach

- **OCBD brings many tools into one arena, creating an integrated approach**
- **Our activities allow us to play an enhanced role in meeting U.S. national security objectives**
- **Reconstruction and stabilization will continue to be a part of the international landscape**
- **Working in weakened states help address U.S. security concerns**



**OCBD's Food Assistance in Honduras**

# Food Assistance Division

- Food assistance is often the first step in meeting humanitarian and development needs
- USAID handles emergencies while USDA assistance focuses on nutrition, agricultural development, and education



FAS Administrator Michael Yost  
visiting a school in East Africa

# Challenges Facing Food Aid

- **Uncertainty surrounding the Farm Bill**
  - **Uncertain implementation date**
  - **Changes in the law concerning food aid**
- **Impact of WTO negotiations**
  - **Could affect the role of NGOs**
  - **Could affect the types of permissible food aid including monetization**
- **Commodity and freight price increases**



# Response to Commodity and Freight Challenges

- **“Stocks for Food”**
- **Supplementals**
- **Alternative commodities and approaches**



# **Improved Program Management**

- **Areas for efficiencies**
  - **Finding less costly ways for procurement**
  - **Streamline the paperwork process**
- **Improved customer service**
- **Potential regulatory changes**
- **IT investments**



# Monitoring Steps

- **Receive, track, and review implementation reports**
- **Conduct field visits**
- **Allows for faster response to problems**



# Monitoring and Evaluation Staff

- **Currently conducting program close-outs**
- **Evaluates agreements for:**
  - **Attainment of stated goals**
  - **Sustainability after graduation**
  - **Effectiveness of models/methodologies**
- **Promotes forward-thinking and “lessons learned”**



# Priorities for 2009

- **Announcement of 2009 priority countries in April at IFAC**
- **Provision of more specific guidance**
- **Program indicators are likely to remain similar**
- **Food Assistance Division's ability to monitor and evaluate the programs will be a consideration**
- **Food Aid quality study**



# How to Reach Us

**FAS Web site:**

**<http://www.fas.usda.gov>**

**Contacts listing:**

**<http://www.fas.usda.gov/contactus.asp>**

