

Congressional Talking Points: Farm Bill

Important: Prior to your meeting, please ensure you have the most up to date ask and talking points by checking the CRS congressional visits webpage at crs.org/visit-congress.

Framing

Begin with gratitude

- Thank you for taking time to talk about global hunger and poverty, issues that are very important to me/us. I/We look forward to discussing the Food for Peace program in the Farm Bill.

Express gratitude for something your member has done recently related to hunger or poverty.

Introduction: Who you are and why you're there

- As people of faith seeking justice and care for all in our world, we believe there is a moral obligation to provide assistance for our human family and address the root causes of hunger and poverty. Food insecurity is a pressing issue of our time and impacts our district/state as well as around the world.

Share about yourself/the group, your work in the district/state and your connection to CRS. Share your personal story of why you support CRS' international humanitarian and development work, including your concern about our human family and why global issues like hunger and poverty matter to you.

Moving to the issues: Set the stage for the conversation

- The United States government has the capacity to address the needs of people around the world experiencing poverty and vulnerability and to prevent hunger. U.S. leadership is critical in our collective effort to address the root causes of hunger and poverty.
- The international food assistance programs in the Farm Bill, including Food for Peace, provide people with the resources they need during emergency and non-emergency situations to feed their families and support long-term solutions to poverty by strengthening resilience and self-sufficiency.
- However, if the American Farmers Feed the World Act is enacted, or if parts are included in the text of the Farm Bill, it would compromise critical Food for Peace programs and undercut the ability to tailor food assistance to the diverse needs of communities around the world. Despite its title, this bill will not increase the reach or improve the efficiency of U.S. international food assistance programs. The American Farmers Feed the World Act risks millions of people being cut off from assistance they are currently receiving, which is concerning during this time of rising global hunger and malnutrition.
 - USAID has estimated that 2.3 million people currently receiving assistance under Food for Peace Resilience Food Security Activities could lose access to critical aid that builds capacity and self-sufficiency.

- Programs are most effective when implementing organizations can provide the right response based on community needs—including U.S. commodities, locally supplied seeds for farmers and improved market access, among other approaches.
- Investing in long-term development programs such as Food for Peace decreases the need for future emergency assistance.

Share a story about the importance and impact of Food for Peace programs that help people feed their families, build sustainable livelihoods and strengthen their resilience against future economic challenges. Consider using one of these CRS program stories:

- [What the Farm Bill Makes Possible: Raúl's Story](#)
- [Improving Child health and Survival in Guatemala](#)
- [Livestock Fairs Build Resilience in South Sudan](#)
- [How Climate Change is Pushing Herders in Northern Kenya to the Brink](#)

The Ask

During this time of dire global food insecurity, I urge you to protect Food for Peace Title II programs in the Farm Bill and oppose the inclusion of the American Farmers Feed the World Act (H.R. 4293/S. 2862).

Discussion

Questions to Ask

- How does [senator/representative name] plan to approach the international food assistance programs in the Farm Bill that fight hunger and malnutrition, like Food for Peace Title II?
- Will your office oppose the American Farmers Feed the World Act and the inclusion of its policies in the Farm Bill?
- What can I do, as a constituent, to continue to advance these important issues with you/your office?

Comments to Raise

- If the senator/representative travels abroad, ask if he/she would like to visit CRS programming in the future. CRS works in more than 120 countries around the world and would welcome an opportunity to show the senator/representative the impact U.S. investments in food security have on the lives of families and communities worldwide.
- Let your senator/representative know that you—along with CRS—can serve as a resource both in Washington, DC and back home in the district/state. Express an interest in continuing to dialogue with them, or their staff, on these and other issues of mutual interest.