

Lugar-Casey Global Food Security Act

Connie Veillette provided an overview of the pending Lugar-Casey Global Food Security Act, which is outlined below in the following briefing document:

Purpose: to increase resources for long-term rural development and poverty alleviation; to enhance human and institutional capacity through higher education for agriculture and extension; to establish a Global Food Security Strategy overseen by a Special Coordinator for Global Food Security; and, to improve the U.S. emergency response to food crises

Title I. Policy Objectives, Planning, and Coordination

- Creates a Special Coordinator for Global Food Security located within the Executive Office of the President.
- Directs the President, acting through the Special Coordinator, to develop a Global Food Security Strategy based on a whole-of-government approach, and working with NGOs, international organizations, international financial institutions, other donor governments, host governments, and other entities as appropriate. The strategy is to focus on development assistance to alleviate hunger and poverty. It does not duplicate other positions that seek to coordinate food aid shipments.
- Encourages public-private alliances.
- Requires reports to Congress from the Special Coordinator and GAO.
- Designates USAID as the lead agency in implementing an inter-agency strategy.

Title II. Bilateral Programs

- Increases authorized levels for agriculture, rural development, and nutrition (Sec. 103/PL87-195) in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes at \$750 million in FY2010 and increasing to \$2.5 billion in FY2014.
- Highlights need for assistance to populations living in extreme poverty.
- Calls for increased research on the full range of biotechnological advances appropriate to local ecological conditions, including genetically modified technology.

Title III. University Partnerships for Agriculture

- Creates a new program – Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension (HECTARE) – for the development of higher education capacity in the field of agriculture.

- Program requires multi-year assistance plans negotiated between USAID and host governments in which a “center of excellence” for agricultural sciences is identified as the lead recipient for assistance.
 - Assistance plans should be consistent with national development strategies, include partnerships with U.S. and other institutions of higher learning, and identify appropriate channels for the dissemination of farming technologies to the field.
 - Activities can include research and development, strengthening the teaching of agriculture science including curriculum development, student and faculty exchanges, and promotion of extension services.
 - Program is administered by USAID and overseen by an advisory board.
- Increases authorization for the Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) at \$45 million and the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) at \$50 million in each fiscal year.
 - Re-writes Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to create an advisory board to oversee existing programs and the HECTARE program, and to clarify congressional intent and remove redundancies.

Title VI. Emergency Response to Food Crises.

- Creates an Emergency Food Assistance Fund administered by USAID.
- Fund is fenced from other disaster accounts and is to be used for immediate emergency response in the form of food assistance and non-food assistance.
- Fund is authorized at up to \$500 million and can be used for local and regional purchase. Funds are released at the request of the USAID Administrator, and can be replenished by Congress.
- Fund is designed to provide increased speed and flexibility for emergency response while other resources can be marshaled; it does not substitute for other food assistance accounts.