



Background & Components

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Small-Scale Irrigation (ILSSI), a project of the U.S. Government's Feed the Future Initiative, is a five-year project in Ethiopia, Ghana and Tanzania aimed at benefiting the region's farmers by improving effective use of scarce water supplies through interventions in small-scale irrigation.

ILSSI Components:

Identify Potential Irrigation, Management Technologies, and Practices to Reduce Poverty & Improve Nutrition

- Identify site-specific technologies and their potential to improve production, improve nutrition, reduce poverty, and empower women farmers. The objective is to train students, scientists, and decision makers in selected countries to use methods and models.

Evaluate Impacts, Trade-Offs, & Synergies

- Quantify site-specific positive and negative environmental consequences of promising technologies at the field, farm, watershed, and river basin scales. Quantify economic returns and risks for farms and rural communities. Quantify nutritional and societal impacts on men, women, and children.

Constraints & Opportunities

- Quantify the production, economic, nutritional, gender, and environmental impacts of eliminating key constraints and pursuing opportunities to improve access to small-scale irrigation technologies and practices, including related agricultural water management activities.

Example of Candidate Innovations:

All Photos: Petra Schmitter

- Low Cost Water Lifting Devices
- Watershed Management
- In-Situ Water Harvesting
- Drip Irrigation
- High Value Crops and Fodder



Potential Impacts:

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Small-Scale Irrigation hopes to improve the livelihoods of smallholder subsistence farmers as well as impact policies for the sustainable production of food. This collection of models facilitate ex ante strategic decisions for investments that lead to sustainable increases in agricultural productivity, improved management of soil and water resources, accelerated economic development, and improved family nutrition and livelihoods.