

US Congressional Delegation visits IWMI project site in Ghana

U.S. Congressional staff visited Feed the Future programs in Ghana in February to assess progress, meet partners, and inform strategy. As part of this initiative, the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Small Scale Irrigation research in Ghana was featured. The Delegation visited the ILSSI project's Bihinaayili site, led by ILSSI partner institution IWMI; researchers Nicole Lefore, Richard Appoh, Zenebe Adimassu and Bedru Balana explained the high potential of small-scale, farmer-led irrigation in Sub-Saharan Africa and the importance of the emerging ILSSI research results for informing future planning and investments. The Delegation also had the opportunity to interact with farmers, in a discussion facilitated by Prof Saa Dittoh of University for Development Studies, a national partner in the project. The farmers showed the Delegation the rapid uptake of small scale irrigation technologies and practices in the site since the project inception. Women farmers from the project also shared positive benefits from the projects' interventions in small scale irrigation, as the women had previously foraged for firewood during the dry season, an activity they described as more labor intensive with less certainty and lower income.

The visit was an important opportunity to showcase the value of international agricultural research at a critical juncture for U.S. policy and investment decision-making. The U.S. Global Food Security Act of 2017 demonstrated bipartisan commitment to continued U.S. investments in addressing global hunger, poverty, and malnutrition. This year, the U.S. Congress will be considering reauthorization of the Global Food Security Act, while the Feed the Future target countries are drafting new five-year country strategies.



IWMI researcher Nicole Lefore providing an overview of IWMI's research in the Innovation Lab for Small Scale Irrigation to the delegation.



U.S. Congressional Delegation, farmers and researchers at Bihinaayili, Ghana. Photo credit: Timothy Adei/Team 1000 Words



Women farmers participating in the small scale irrigation pilot interventions. Photo credit: Timothy Adei/Team 1000 Words