



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION (ILSSI)

**Resilience, health and food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia through improving access to water and fostering water management best practices.**

### In AFRICA we're working in:



**MALI**  
Eggplant production in the dry season with drip irrigation  
Photo: World Veg



**ETHIOPIA**  
Solar-powered irrigation  
Photo: Mulugeta Ayene/WLE



**GHANA**  
Irrigated maize  
Photo: Nana Kofi Acquah / IWMI



**TANZANIA**  
Drip irrigated papaya farming  
Photo: Sokoine University of Agriculture Horticultural Demonstration Facility

## About

[Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Small Scale Irrigation \(ILSSI\)](#) is a research-for-development program that aims to expand farmer-led, small scale irrigation in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia. Now in its second phase (2019-2023), ILSSI is working to identify the best ways to expand the use of, and inclusive access to, small scale irrigation within environmentally sustainable limits.

ILSSI was established at the [Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture Development at Texas A&M University](#) in 2013 by the generous support of the American people provided through the U.S. Agency for International Development. ILSSI works to contribute to the mission of [USAID's Feed the Future Initiative](#) and improve progress on the Global Food Security Strategy.

Multidisciplinary research by ILSSI serves to inform development-focused investments, policy decisions, community engagement and future research. The results offer actionable, irrigation-related insights in the areas of [economic growth](#), [nutrition](#), [water resources](#), [private sector](#) engagement and [capacity development](#).

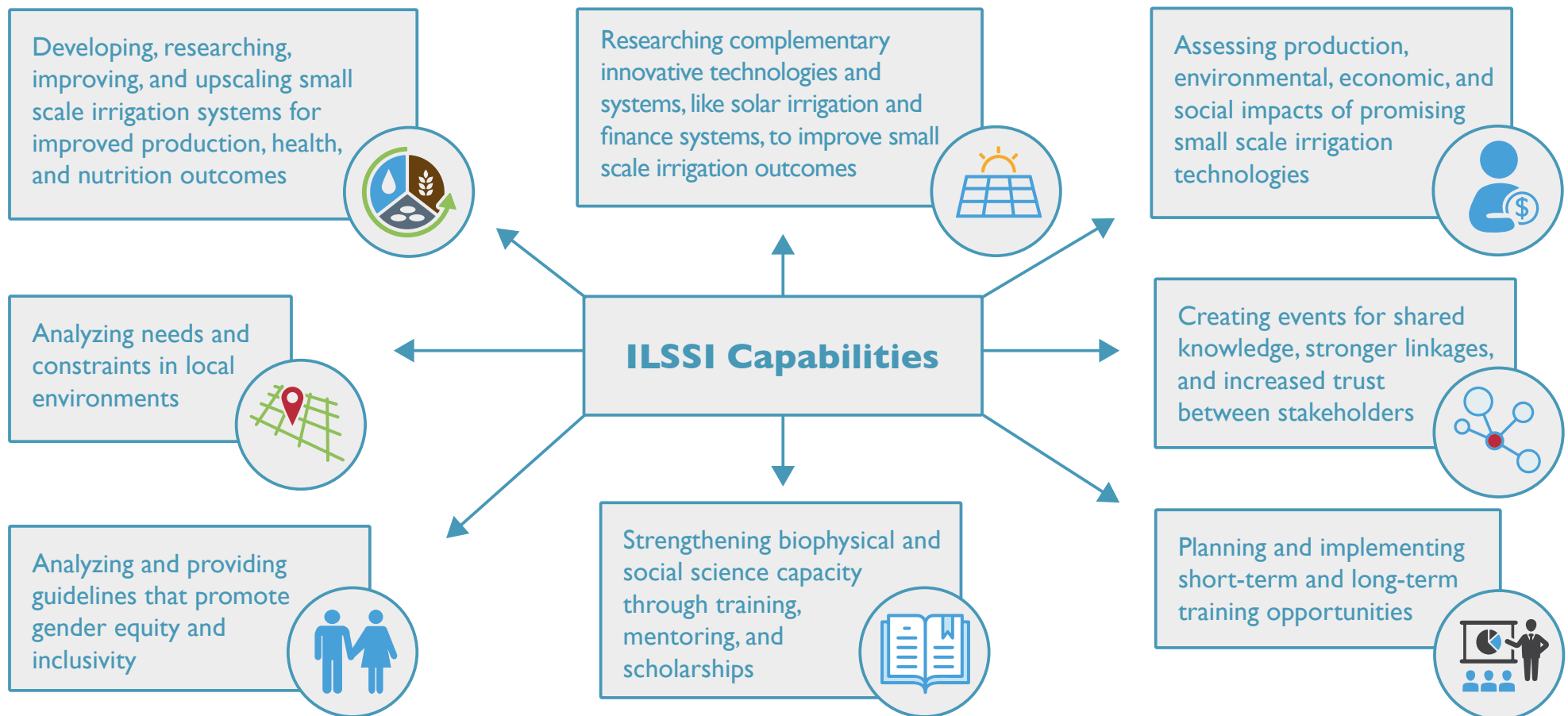
## Partnerships

ILSSI applies an interdisciplinary, intersectoral approach. ILSSI focuses on active partnership with farmers, farming communities, entrepreneurs and private sector innovators, as well as national universities, research institutes, and international non-profits.

## Expertise and capabilities

ILSSI brings together researchers at Texas A&M with international and national organizations, giving the program a wide breadth of research expertise and management capabilities.

As part of our commitment to enhancing research capacity, ILSSI has trained thousands of individuals across several Feed the Future focus countries in small scale irrigation, and related techniques and approaches, since inception. Through [our programs](#) we strengthen capacity at multiple levels; on farm to the private sector, and from national research institutes and universities to governmental offices.



Led by the [Norman Borlaug Institute for International Development](#), Innovation Lab for Small Scale Irrigation (ILSSI) is further supported by:



This multi-stakeholder approach gives Texas A&M University, as the research program leader, access to a wide range of expertise and management capabilities. Consequently ILSSI is uniquely able to target challenges, identify robust solutions and generate significant outcomes that will help to ensure sustainable expansion of small scale irrigation in sub-Saharan Africa.

Profitable small scale irrigation has the potential to make a significant contribution to the achievement of a range of Sustainable Development Goals. To help secure this contribution ILSSI is committed to exploring how best to expand access to, and the use and sustainable management of, diverse, farmer-led, context specific, irrigation technologies and approaches.



*Improving agricultural returns by investing in irrigation pumps, Ghana  
Photo: Nana Kofi Acquah/IWMI*

To learn more about ILSSI and our research and outcomes visit: <http://ilssi.tamu.edu/>

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