



DUPONT PIONEER ADVANCE MAIZE SEED ADOPTION PROGRAM (AMSAP) LAUNCH

**REMARKS BY DENNIS WELLER, MISSION DIRECTOR
May 17, 2013**

On behalf of USAID and the American people, I am excited and proud to participate with DuPont and the Government of Ethiopia in the launch today of two new and complementary investments:

1. The launch of the multi-partner Advance Maize Seed Adoption Program (known as AMSAP)
2. The opening of DuPont Pioneer's new warehouse and seed conditioning plant

Today's event is no ordinary launch. It is a launch of a whole new way of promoting economic growth through agriculture that benefits government, business, and farming families through their combined and complementary contributions. USAID envisions convening, facilitating, and supporting many more such public-private partnerships.

This AMSAP public-private partnership puts into operation the vision of the G-8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, launched at the annual G-8 Summit one year ago, and also USAID's mandate under the U.S. Feed the Future Initiative. This is a model that highlights how countries and companies can work together to invest responsibly and grow the emerging markets of countries like Ethiopia, and across Africa. DuPont Pioneer merits special recognition for being among the first international companies to act on their New Alliance commitment to invest. The international know-how, the improved maize seeds, and the storage under development will benefit far more than the 35,000 farmers and their families directly involved in AMSAP.

Over 8 million smallholder farmers grow maize in Ethiopia, and yet the demand for maize still outpaces supply. Ethiopia's smallholders are constrained from taking advantage of this tremendous market opportunity because they suffer from low yields and high post-harvest losses. They lack quality inputs, such as seed and fertilizer, storage and access to markets, access to credit, and awareness of new and proven farming practices to increase production. AMSAP will greatly contribute to overcoming these challenges.



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In addition to maize, USAID is working to address these same challenges in eight other areas of crop and livestock agribusiness development. USAID's Feed the Future Initiative strategy in Ethiopia, designed to support the government's Agriculture Growth Program, represents an investment of \$90 million USD over five years. USAID programs are working with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia's agricultural research centers, and farmer's cooperatives to increase production and to link farmers to markets.

So there are many good reasons to warmly welcome DuPont Pioneer, our new partner under the G8 New Alliance, and thank you for your contribution to the Agriculture Growth Program with your investment in Ethiopia's agricultural development.

I wish to congratulate the Ministry of Agriculture and the ATA for your vision and creativity in developing AMSAP. This program is yet another initiative in our growing partnership that is helping to transform agriculture in Ethiopia.

And finally, I would like to thank the technical staff from ACDI/VOCA, USAID's lead implementing partner on the AGP-Agribusiness Market Development Project (AMDe), DuPont Pioneer, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the three regional bureaus of Oromia, Amhara, and SNNP, the Agriculture Transformation Agency, and my own team at USAID. Without your commitment and flexibility to quickly come together as a team, it would have not been possible to roll out the AMSAP training and seed distribution in time for this year's planting season.

Though we are formally launching AMSAP today, the project has already begun training development agents in Amhara, SNNP, and Oromia and delivered the improved Pioneer seed to 320 lead farmers.

This AMSAP agreement was signed in January of this year and in a short period is emerging as a model for public-private collaboration.

Thank you all.