



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 24 2009

The Honorable Sam Brownback  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
190 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brownback:

As requested in the House Report (111-181) accompanying the Agriculture Appropriations Act, 2010, the Department of Agriculture (USDA), in consultation with the Acting Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), submits to the Committees on Appropriations this report on the status of local and regional food aid procurement projects. The projects were authorized by section 3206 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. This report summarizes the use of fiscal year (FY) 2009 funds and planned activities using FY 2010 funding.

The enclosed table lists the local and regional procurement projects funded during FY 2009. As of December 1, 2009, no purchases have been made under project awards, which were announced in late September 2009.

Interim guidelines for submitting proposals were announced in a Federal Register notice on September 21, 2009, which also invited organizations to submit applications for program funding. In October 2009, USDA held an information session on the guidelines for potential applicants. Project proposals will be accepted until at least June 2011. USDA is planning to provide its funding decision on each proposal shortly after submission. As of December 11, 2009, USDA had not received any proposals for funding during FY 2010.

Similar letters are being sent to Senator Kohl, Congresswoman DeLauro, and Congressman Kingston.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Vilsack" clearly legible.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

Enclosure

Local and Regional Procurement Projects Funded in FY 2009

Recipient Country	Implementing Organization	Commodities Eligible for Purchase	Funding Amount	Actual Purchases
Mali	World Food Program	Millet and sorghum	\$1.05 million	No purchases
Malawi	World Food Program	Cereals, beans, and corn-soy blend	\$1.7 million	No purchases
Tanzania	World Food Program	Maize and beans	\$2.0 million	No purchases
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$4.75 million*	

\* Approximately \$250,000 of funding covered USDA's expenses related to the completion of the study on local and regional procurement and the development of guidelines for the program.



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Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 24 2009

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

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DEC 24 2009

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kingston:

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DEC 24 2009

The Honorable Herb Kohl  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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