

# ASK THE EXPERT: Q&A WITH JEFF HILL ON SUPPORTING FOOD POLICIES IN FRAGILE STATES

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CHAT TRANSCRIPT

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**PRESENTERS**

Jeff Hill, USAID South Sudan Office of Economic Growth and Agriculture

**FACILITATOR**

April Thompson, USAID Knowledge Driven Agricultural Development

Kathy Alison: Hi Jeff, Looking forward to your session

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Good morning and good evening, everyone! Welcome to our Ask the Expert session with Jeff Hill. We're excited to discuss Supporting Food Security Policies in Fragile States. As you join, please introduce yourself and share your location and organization. I'm Charlin Caster, a Knowledge Management Specialist with Agrilinks joining from Washington DC.

April Thompson - Agrilinks: Welcome, Kathy!

Kathy Alison: this is Kathy Alison. I was the Deputy Technical Director of Africa Lead II before retiring in 2017. I'm in Arlington, VA.

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Great, welcome, Kathy!

Dick Tinsley: allow me a quick expansion on my question. even under the best developing country condition the government only is in contact with about ten percent of farmers particularly smallholders thus ninety percent function fully independent of government support or harassment

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Please also answer the poll questions and continue to introduce yourself as you join the webinar!

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Thanks for your question, Dick!

Elizabeth Petrovski: Elizabeth Petrovski here at USAID Rome where we work on WFP policy matters. Given the number of crises related to conflict where WFP is responding, i thought i would listen in.

USAID Agrilinks: Hey Elizabeth, glad to have you with us.

Suzanne Berkey: Hi, I'm Suzanne Berkey and just joined Food for Peace in Washington.

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Hi Elizabeth, welcome!

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Thanks, Suzanne.

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Great to have you all with us!

April Thompson - Agrilinks: We'll be getting started momentarily everyone, thanks for joining!

Ron Greenberg: Hi, I'm Ron Greenberg a BFS food policy team alumni and consultant.

April Thompson - Agrilinks: Great, Ron, welcome!

Diana McLean: Hello All. Diana from the Cornucopia Group in Canada

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Hi Diana, thanks for joining

Peter Levine: Peter Levine, Abt Associates Inc. US

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Hi Peter!

Wegayehu Fitawek: Hello everyone, I am Wegayehu from South Africa

Norma Toussaint: Good day-- I am Norma with Counterpart International

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Hi Wegayehu and Norma! Welcome!

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: As you think of questions, please post them here. We'll try our best to get through them all.

Duncan Boughton: Duncan Boughton, Michigan State University in Myanmar

Sevak Amalyan: Hi! Sevak Amalyan from Counterpart International

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Welcome, Duncan and Sevak

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: I believe someone sent me a message offline but I briefly lost connection. Please feel free to message me again.

Don Van Atta: Good morning. Don Van Atta from UNC Chapel Hill.

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Welcome, Don

Diana McLean: In fragile states where development agencies are working in more local areas and with others, what does your experiences say about leadership in this process. For example, is there a greater role for UN Agencies in this scenario or is programming less strategic and more "opportunistic" with agencies working together as feasible but with decision-taking (in the absence of strong national input) made more by each donor?

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Thanks for your question Diana

Dick Tinsley: thank you for the reply. should our main policy be to bypass the government

Courtney Buck: How can we strengthen community and subnational level capacities to manage coordination? What are the most durable investments donors can make in these skills/capacities?

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Thanks, Courtney

Dick Tinsley: how much of the support services are provided by small private service providers

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Thanks, Dick

Michael CheKim: For the long term, do fragile states welcome multilateral organizations (WTO and UN-based) coming to help with capacity building and training?

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: We've posted some additional survey questions. Please do answer these.

Michael CheKim: thanks. that's helpful.

Cathy Phiri: Thank you so much for this informative session!

Duncan Boughton: Thanks very much Jeff - great to hear your voice and all the best!

Kathy Alison: Thanks Jeff, this was very helpful

Albana Spiro: thanks

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Thanks for joining, everyone!

Kathy Alison: thank you

Charlin Caster - Agrilinks: Please stay tuned for an e-mail from Agrilinks with post-event resources!

Kopep Dabugat: I guess I am late for the event