



Delivering Nutritious Home-Grown School Meals to Children

Approximately 1.2 million children in Kenya, Tanzania, and Malawi will have access to more nutritious meals at school through a project led by HarvestPlus and AGRA, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation.

School meals protect vulnerable children and deliver essential micronutrients like iron and vitamin A equitably across social classes and between genders. They provide vital nourishment for childhood growth and development, incentivize children to stay in school, and improve learning capacity—nurturing children’s potential.

Integrating nutrient-enriched, biofortified iron beans and vitamin A maize into home-grown school feeding programs is a solution to increase the consumption of nutritious foods by school children and develop local supply chains for biofortified crops.

Biofortification is a process that enriches everyday staple food crops with essential micronutrients such as iron, zinc, and vitamin A through conventional breeding techniques or agronomic practices.

Home-Grown, Local Impact

Home-grown school feeding programs support local agricultural and economic development, and ensure long-term demand for local farmers’ produce.

Through this three-year project, ‘Advancing the Availability of Biofortified Foods for Institutional Markets’, AGRA will build the capacity of local farmers to produce nutrient-enriched crops while HarvestPlus will create new market demand for their produce. Together, these and other project activities will meet schools’ requirements for food that can simultaneously improve the health, nutrition, and educational outcomes of children.



Iron Bean

Provides up to 80 percent of daily iron needs of children when eaten regularly



Vitamin A Maize

Provides up to 50 percent of daily vitamin A needs of children when eaten regularly



Partnerships Fuel Nutritious School Meals

To sustainably integrate local biofortified foods into school meals, HarvestPlus and AGRA will:

- Empower local actors in agriculture and school feeding programs—from smallholder farmers, seed companies, aggregators, and millers to parents, school administrators, and ministries of education—with agricultural and nutrition expertise, scientific evidence, and technical guidance.
- Develop local procurement systems, creating reliable partnerships along the supply chain to promote scaling up of nutrient-enriched crop production and consumption.
- Align with governments' policies and programs on school feeding to build a sustainable ecosystem for the inclusion of nutrient-enriched biofortified foods in school meals.

“ Biofortified crops are going to be game-changers in dealing with the issue of malnutrition in our world today.

— Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank

HarvestPlus improves nutrition and public health by developing and promoting biofortified food crops that are rich in vitamins and minerals, and providing global leadership on biofortification evidence and technology. HarvestPlus is part of the CGIAR and is based at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), a CGIAR research center.

Partner with us to make food systems more nutritious, inclusive, and sustainable.

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