



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 29, 2009

S. 384 **Global Food Security Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on March 31, 2009*

SUMMARY

S. 384 would amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize appropriations for various programs to support sustainable agriculture, rural development, and improved nutrition, including the Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The bill also would establish and authorize appropriations for two new programs: the United States Emergency Rapid Response to Food Crises Fund that would meet unexpected, urgent needs for food assistance; and the Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension (HECTARE) program that would fund university partnerships to advance agricultural productivity and hunger alleviation in eligible countries.

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$6.5 billion over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized and estimated amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 384 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 384 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 150 (international affairs).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010-
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Bilateral Agriculture Programs						
Authorization Level	750	1,000	1,500	2,000	2,500	7,750
Estimated Outlays	131	417	744	1,143	1,587	4,022
Emergency Rapid Response to Food Crises						
Estimated Authorization Level	500	400	420	416	417	2,153
Estimated Outlays	125	400	420	416	417	1,778
University Partnerships for Agriculture						
Authorization Level	100	200	300	400	500	1,500
Estimated Outlays	6	53	129	220	315	723
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	1,350	1,600	2,220	2,816	3,417	11,403
Estimated Outlays	262	870	1,293	1,779	2,319	6,523

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2009, that the estimated amounts will be provided in annual appropriation acts each fiscal year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar activities.

Bilateral Agriculture Programs

Title II would authorize appropriations of \$750 million in 2010 and \$7.75 billion over the 2010-2014 period for programs that promote sustainable agriculture, rural development, and improved nutrition in developing countries. Of these amounts, the bill would annually make available up to \$45 million for the CRSP and up to \$50 million for the CGIAR to support established networks of U.S. universities and research centers around the world working on international food and agricultural research. CBO estimates that implementing these programs would cost \$4 billion over the 2010-2014 period.

Emergency Rapid Response to Food Crises

Title IV would establish the United States Emergency Rapid Response to Food Crises Fund to meet unexpected, urgent needs for food assistance in developing countries. Title IV would authorize appropriations to the fund of \$500 million in 2010 and such sums as may be necessary in subsequent years, so long as the total unobligated amounts in the

fund never exceed \$500 million. CBO estimates that 20 percent of appropriated amounts for the fund would remain unobligated in any given year, and thus CBO expects that about \$400 million would be appropriated each year after 2010. CBO estimates that establishing the fund would cost \$1.8 billion over the 2010-2014 period.

University Partnerships for Agriculture

Title III would authorize appropriations of \$100 million in 2010 and \$1.5 billion over the 2010-2014 period to fund the HECTARE program, which would provide assistance to support agricultural research partnerships between U.S. universities and eligible institutions in developing countries. According to the United States Agency for International Development, the HECTARE program would expand on the CRSP program by allowing for greater flexibility in research funding for a broader range of food security issues. CBO estimates that implementing the HECTARE program would cost \$723 million over the 2010-2014 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 384 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Public universities could benefit from the new program created by the bill that would provide assistance to partnerships between institutions of higher education and organizations in developing countries. The program would award grants and provide assistance with cooperative agreements and contracts. Any requirements for receiving assistance under that program would be conditions of receiving federal aid.

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