

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4378

To establish a grant program in the Department of Agriculture to support bilateral exchange programs whereby African-American farmers and other agricultural farming specialists share technical knowledge with African farmers regarding maximization of crop yields, expansion of trade in agricultural products, and ways to improve farming in Africa, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON (for herself, Mr. CLAY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CARSON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WYNN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. SCOTT, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a grant program in the Department of Agriculture to support bilateral exchange programs whereby African-American farmers and other agricultural farming specialists share technical knowledge with African farmers regarding maximization of crop yields, expansion of trade in agricultural products, and ways to improve farming in Africa, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Farmers for Africa
5 Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Many African farmers use antiquated tech-
9 niques to produce their crops, which results in poor
10 crop quality and low crop yields.

11 (2) Many African farmers are losing business to
12 farmers in European and Asian countries who use
13 advanced planting and production techniques and
14 are supplying agricultural produce to restaurants,
15 resorts, tourists, grocery stores, and other con-
16 sumers in Africa.

17 (3) A need exists for the training of African
18 farmers in state-of-the-art farming techniques re-
19 garding insecticide and sanitation procedures and
20 other methods that will produce increased yields of
21 more nutritious and healthful crops.

22 (4) African-American farmers and American
23 agricultural farming specialists are a ready source of
24 agribusiness expertise that would be invaluable for
25 African farmers.

1 (5) A United States commitment is appropriate
2 to support the development of a comprehensive agri-
3 cultural skills training program for African farmers
4 that focuses on—

5 (A) improving knowledge of insecticide and
6 sanitation procedures to prevent crop destruc-
7 tion;

8 (B) teaching modern farming techniques;

9 (C) the use and maintenance of state-of-
10 the-art farming equipment;

11 (D) expansion of small farming operations
12 into agribusiness enterprises; and

13 (E) marketing crop yields to prospective
14 purchasers (businesses and individuals) for local
15 needs and export.

16 (6) The participation of African-American
17 farmers and American agricultural farming special-
18 ists in such a training program promises the added
19 benefit of improving access to African markets for
20 American farmers and United States farm equip-
21 ment and products.

22 **SEC. 3. FARMERS FOR AFRICA PROGRAM.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (2) AFRICAN FARMER.—The term “African
2 farmer” means an individual owning or working on
3 land (as defined by a particular country’s laws relat-
4 ing to property) in the sub-Saharan region of the
5 continent of Africa.

6 (3) AGRICULTURAL FARMING SPECIALIST.—The
7 term “agricultural farming specialist” means an in-
8 dividual trained to transfer information and tech-
9 nical support relating to agribusiness.

10 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
11 shall establish a grant program, to be known as the
12 “Farmers for Africa Program”, to assist eligible organiza-
13 tions to carry out bilateral exchange programs whereby
14 African-American farmers and other agricultural farming
15 specialists share technical knowledge with African farmers
16 regarding maximization of crop yields, expansion of trade
17 in agricultural products, and other ways to improve farm-
18 ing in Africa.

19 (c) ELIGIBLE GRANTEES.—The Secretary may make
20 a grant under this section to—

21 (1) a college or university, including a histori-
22 cally black college or university, or a foundation
23 maintained by a college or university; and

24 (2) a private organization or corporation, in-
25 cluding grassroots organizations, with an established

1 and demonstrated capacity to carry out such a bilat-
2 eral exchange program.

3 (d) TERMS OF PROGRAM.—(1) It is the goal of the
4 Farmers for Africa Program that at least 1,000 farmers
5 participate in the training program by December 31,
6 2005, of which at least 800 will be African farmers and
7 200 will be American farmers.

8 (2) African farmers will be trained in groups to en-
9 sure that information is shared and passed on to other
10 farmers. African farmers will be trained to be specialists
11 in their communities and encouraged not to retain en-
12 hanced farming technology for their own personal enrich-
13 ment.

14 (3) Through partnerships with American businesses,
15 the program will utilize the commercial industrial capa-
16 bility of businesses dealing in agriculture to train African
17 farmers on state-of-the-art equipment.

18 (e) SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS.—(1) The selection
19 of African farmers, as well as African-American farmers
20 and other agricultural farming specialists, to participate
21 in the Farmers for Africa Program shall be made by grant
22 recipients using an application process approved by the
23 Secretary.

1 (2) Participating farmers must meet certain edu-
2 cational requirements and targets regarding the produc-
3 tivity of their farm or agribusiness.

4 (f) GRANT PERIOD.—The Secretary may make
5 grants under the Farmers for Africa Program during a
6 period of 5 years beginning on the date of the enactment
7 of this Act.

8 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2005.

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