

Water and Land Management: Some Examples of USDA International Programs

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Abstract.—Environmental degradation and inefficient use of natural resources pose a growing threat to the interests of the United States, and to the physical, economic, and social well-being of people throughout the world. In his book, *Global Paradox*, John Naisbit states, “We have never learned, or we have forgotten, that the environment is the basis of all life and for all production. Rather than being an interest competing with other interests for attention, it is in reality the playing field on which all interests compete We have consistently failed to recognize that the economic system is an open system in a closed and finite ecosystem.” The International Cooperation and Development area of the Foreign Agricultural Service manages USDA’s technical assistance, research, and training programs in collaboration with U.S. land grant universities and the private sector. Examples of technical assistance, research, and training programs in water and land management in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America are provided to illustrate the focus and trends in international assistance and the progress being made in these areas as we enter the next millennium.