



You are here: [Home](#) / [Newsroom](#) / [Latest Releases](#) / Release No. 0118.09

## Newsroom

### Statement

Release No. 0118.09  
Contact:  
Chris Mather, (202) 720-4623

- [Printable version](#)
- [Email this page](#)

#### AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK RETURNS FROM SUCCESSFUL G8 AGRICULTURE MINISTERIAL ON FOOD SECURITY

Monday, April 20, 2009 -- On Monday, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack returned from the first-ever gathering of the G8 Agriculture Ministerial, held in Treviso, Italy.

"I am pleased to report that the G8 Agriculture Ministerial has produced a strong declaration of support for the critically important task of promoting food security," said Vilsack. "Supporting food security is not only our moral obligation, as a factor impacting global economic development and international stability, it is our responsibility. We took an important step toward building a consensus around issues affecting access, availability, and utilization of food among vulnerable populations."

USDA plays an integral role in promoting food security through food aid donations, agriculture research and extension activities, and its support for the McGovern-Dole International Food For Education Program.

During the Ministerial, Secretary Vilsack worked with fellow G8 members to produce a food security declaration and participated in a series of plenary sessions with representatives from more than 15 nations, where he discussed America's proud legacy of leading the world in providing emergency humanitarian assistance and President Obama's recent pledge to double agriculture development spending.

In addition, the high-level conference provided Vilsack with an opportunity to engage in a series of bilateral discussions with agriculture ministers and other senior officials from around the world, including Japan, the European Commission, People's Republic of China, Australia, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Egypt, Italy and Mexico. During the trip, Vilsack also met with senior officials from the Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Program, and International Fund for Agriculture Development.

### Newsroom

#### News Releases

- [Latest Releases](#)
- [Transcripts and Speeches](#)
- [Agency News Releases](#)
- [Radio and TV Broadcasts](#)
- [How to Get Information](#)
- [Subscriptions](#)
- [RSS Feeds](#)

#### Reports & Publications

- [Agency Reports](#)
- [USDA Publications](#)

#### Events

- [Events by Date](#)

#### Image and Video Libraries

- [Secretary's Photo Gallery](#)
- [Broadcast Media & Technology Center](#)

### Search

Go

All USDA

- [Advanced Search](#)
- [Search Tips](#)

### My USDA

- [Login](#)
- [Customize](#) | [New User](#)

### Browse by Audience

Information For...

Go

### Browse by Subject

- [Agriculture](#)
- [Education and Outreach](#)
- [Food and Nutrition](#)
- [Laws and Regulations](#)
- [Marketing and Trade](#)
- [Natural Resources and Environment](#)
- [Research and Science](#)
- [Rural and Community Development](#)
- [Travel and Recreation](#)
- [USDA Employee Services](#)