



Communiqué

de l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis

de presse

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Free Milk for Schoolchildren in 67 Schools around Madagascar

On Tuesday, April 8th, 2008 Ambassador Niels Marquardt, Scott Sindelar, Agriculture Counselor, USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) and the Minister of Agriculture Marius Ratolojanahary traveled to Ambatomanga in the region of Analamanga to visit three elementary schools and a small dairy processing facility. Students in 67 schools around Madagascar benefit from free milk as a result of the School Milk Program, part of the Food for Progress Agreement, signed by the Minister of

Agriculture and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture in 2005. The milk is provided to schoolchildren to increase their nutritional intake and enable their improvement in school attendance and performance. The Ministry also works with the dairy processing facilities to provide technical assistance.

As a result of the agreement, the U.S. donated 15,000 tons of soybeans, 3,000 tons of wheat and 500 tons of nonfat dry milk to Madagascar. These were sold locally and the proceeds generated USD4,308,500 to fund the School Milk Program and other programs.