

AGRA's Activities and Objectives on Fertilizer and Seed Policies in Africa

Augustine Langyintuo

(AGRA – Nairobi)

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Lifting millions out of poverty and hunger by increasing the productivity and profitability of small-scale farms in Africa

Introduction

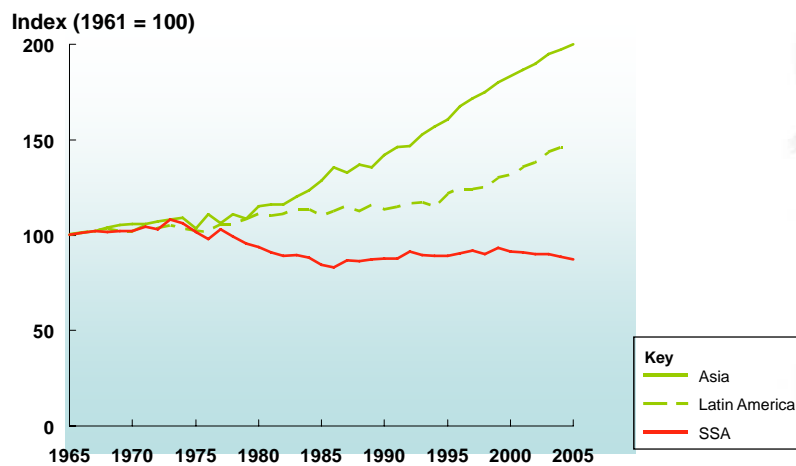


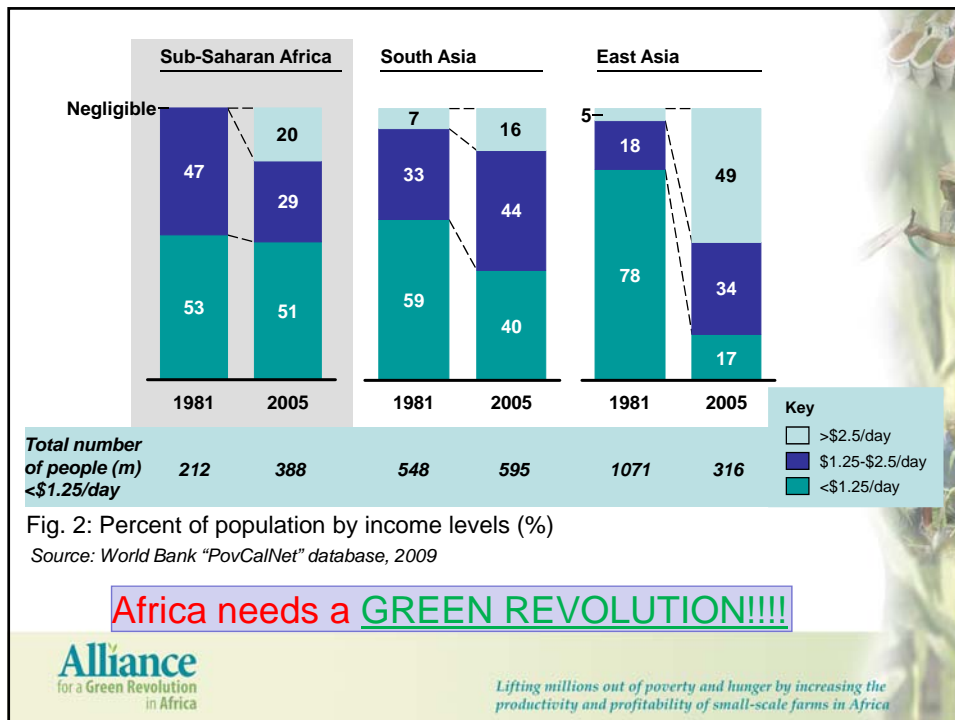
Fig. 1: Food production per capita in selected regions

Source: Hazell and Haggblade, 2009 (forthcoming)



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But... we need to learn from the Asia GR

- Public policy provided incentives for GR technologies
- Massive irrigation projects, power plants, research systems, and fertilizer plants were set up
- Land reform took place viz:
 - Abolition of feudal landlords & tenancy security ensured
 - Ceilings on the size of landholdings
 - Use of cooperatives and community development programs
- Private sector invested in the production, dissemination and adoption of inputs
- Private & public marketing systems were co-functional
- GR catalyzed by combining inputs subsidies with investments in infrastructure, research and extension

Particular constraints facing Africa today

- Farming systems are diverse
- Agro-ecologies more diverse than in Asia
- Less than 5% irrigated land vs. over 45% in Asia
- Limited extension and agric. research capacity
- Only a fraction of the infrastructure Asia had in the 1950s resulting in higher transportation costs
- African leaders have not shown the necessary political will to achieve a green revolution
- Farmers are politically powerless

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Past experience with GR in Africa

- SG2000 program that provided free seeds and fertilizers to farmers
- Hybrid maize green revolution in ESA
- The Millennium Village Project aimed at raising agricultural productivity through input distribution

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Reasons for the limited impacts of the African GR experience

- Interventions were mainly “Technology-driven”
- GR sometimes based on the Asian model under conditions of inefficient marketing boards, escalating fiscal costs, and soil degradation
- Little attention was paid to policies that support incentives for the adoption of GR technologies
- No parallel effort to develop markets and input supply systems to sustain the GR
- Input subsidies **models** used were unsustainable

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Lessons from earlier GR in Africa

- Avoid “pendulum” (public – private sector intervention) approaches to the GR
- GR models should combine technologies, policies, markets and institutions to create incentives and supportive environments
- Farmers need to be provided with farm support
 - In the right way
 - Targeted at those that need help
 - With an inbuilt exit strategy

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AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa) – 4th attempt to bring about GR to Africa

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What is AGRA?

- Is a dynamic, African-led partnership working across the African continent to help millions of small-scale farmers and their families lift themselves out of poverty and hunger
- It's programs develop practical solutions to significantly boost farm productivity and incomes for the poor while safeguarding the environment
- Advocates for policies that support its work across all key aspects of the African agricultural “value chain”—from seeds, soil health, and water to markets and agricultural education

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AGRA's vision and goals for a GR in Africa

Vision

“A food secure and prosperous Africa through rapid smallholder agricultural growth and transformation”

Goals

- Make Sub-Saharan Africa self-sufficient in staple foods by 2020
- Take 20 million families of smallholder farmers out of poverty
- Achieve an average annual growth in agricultural GDP of 6% or more across countries of intervention

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Theory of change

- A “one-size fits all” policy framework for a GR cannot be prescribed for African economies
- Africa needs homegrown, evidence-based policies adapted to local conditions
- Commitment by Donors to support policy institutions in Africa is imperative for a GR
- By reducing the risk of lending, substantial funds can be leveraged from banks to support agriculture across the value chain to sustain a GR

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AGRA's Programs and their objectives

- **Program for African Seed Systems (PASS)**
 - Developing agro-dealer networks and providing credit guarantees
 - Funding local/national research and breeding programs
 - Funding public seed distribution programs and development of local actors
 - Advocating for seeds regulatory frameworks
- **Soil Health Program**
 - Developing fertilizers supply chain, from procurement to distribution to farmers
 - Funding training and extension programs to groups of farmers
 - Advocating for soil health regulation

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•Market Access Program

- Reducing transaction costs (e.g., commodity exchanges, inventory financing, warehouse receipt systems, MIS etc.)
- Supporting staple crop value addition programs (e.g., small/micro processing facilities such as drying and cleaning, milling)
- Developing alternative use of crops (eg, sorghum into brewery industry, animal feed, bio-fuels)

•Policy and Partnerships

- Strengthening national policy systems to provide the enabling public investments for the achievement of a GR
- Supporting national policy research institutions to develop GR technologies and facilitate implementation of land/enviro policies
- Accelerating the access by smallholder farmers and others along the agric. value chains to finance in breadbasket areas
- Building human and institutional capacity for evidence-based policy analysis and supporting policy advocacy platforms

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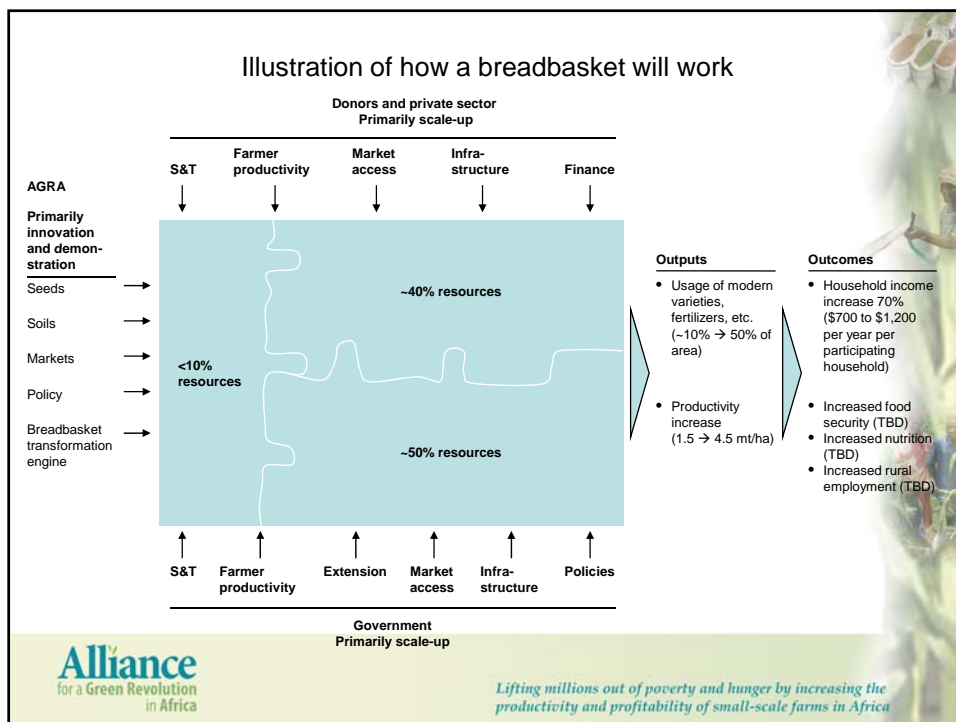
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Overview of AGRA's strategy

	Portfolio 1	Portfolio 2	Portfolio 3	
	Consolidated and integrated investments in selected breadbasket areas	Targeted staple food value chain investments in preparatory countries	Continental advocacy and regional initiatives	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated efforts with all partners Concentrated and coordinated breadbasket investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted preparatory investments Investment in innovative projects Discretionary and opportunistic program investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thought leadership and continental advocacy Supranational investments 	
Number of countries			Total	
2009	4	9	13	all
2013	7	11	18	all
% Rural SSA* population in focus countries				
2009	14	31	45	all
2013	25	39	64	all
Resource balance** (%)				
2009	40	40	13	
2013	40	40	12	

* ex SA and Sudan
 ** As % of budget allocated to grants
 Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2007; team analysis

Illustration of how a breadbasket will work



PASS activities/achievements

- Fellowship Programs
 - Programs at 9 African universities hosting 67 MSc and 46 PhD contributing toward our goal of training 250 breeders in 5 yrs
- Farmer-Participatory Crop Breeding
 - Made 47 grants to leading national program plant breeders for participatory plant breeding
 - So far 61 new varieties released, increasing farmers' yields of crops such as cassava, bean, sorghum, and maize
 - Smallholder farmers in 23 districts of Uganda supported to plant 10,557 banana trees that are resistant to black Sigatoka
- On-farm trials and field days
 - More than 2,000 on-farm trials and 500 farmer field days supported in the region

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PASS (cont.)

- Strengthening the private seed sector
 - Grants to 24 small and medium-sized seed companies for seed production and distribution
 - So far seed production by these companies increased from 2,656 metric tons in 2006 to 5,284 metric tons in 2008
 - Joined forces with the African Agricultural Capital to establish the African Seed Investment Fund with an initial capitalization of US\$12 mil for investment in at least 20 seed companies in ESA
- Strengthening national agro-dealer networks
 - Support to 3,500 agro-dealers in Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Ghana, Nigeria and Mali to reach tens of thousands of farmers with affordable high quality seed, fertilizer and other inputs

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SHP activities/achievements

- The African Soil Information System (AfSIS)
 - AGRA, Columbia University, and TSBF/CIAT launched AfSIS in early 2009 to draw together knowledge and information about the condition and trends of African soils to provide farmers and scientists with precise knowledge of soil conditions
 - Regional labs in Malawi, Mali and Tanzania, and 60 sentinel sites to be set up across sub-Saharan Africa
- Increasing the supply of affordable fertilizer
 - Collaborating with the AfDB, national governments and diverse stakeholders in East and Central Africa to set up an African Fertilizer Procurement Facility

SHP (Cont.)

- Supporting the development of the fertilizer value chain and manufacturing
 - Working with the Tanzania Agriculture Input Partnership (TAIP) to increase smallholder farmers access to fertilizer through strengthening the fertilizer value chain
 - Supporting government efforts to manufacture fertilizers from the country's large Minjingu phosphate rock reserves
- Finding local solutions to promote soil health
 - Supporting KARI of Kenya to increase the use of lime and other soil acidity management technologies on smallholder farms
 - Supporting the NARO of Uganda to develop region- and crop-specific recommendations

Fertilizer and seed policies and strategies to implement them

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Seed policies

- Improved seed policies to increase adoption of crop varieties
- Activities:
 - Support implementation of harmonized seed laws and regulations
 - Facilitate the reformation of crop variety release regulations
 - Support implementation of policies to liberalize foundation seed production
 - Review and disseminate best practices for increasing seed demand (e.g., smart subsidies)
 - Review and eliminate regional barriers to seed trade

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Fertilizer policies

- Improved policies for soil health technologies
- Activities:
 - Review impact of fertilizer tax structures on fertilizer demand
 - Study effect of current procurement policies on fertilizer prices and fertilizer supply
 - Design regional fertilizer procurement systems
 - Harmonize fertilizer laws and regulations to expand fertilizer use
 - Improved policies for increasing demand for fertilizer in 3 countries

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Project Design and Implementation

- AGRA will implement policies in countries that overlap with those selected by IDRC and IFPRI

Country	IDRC/Hewlett	IFPRI
1 st Round		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes
Mozambique		Yes
Tanzania	Yes	
Ghana	Yes	Yes
Mali	Yes	
2 nd Round		
Kenya	Yes	
Malawi		Yes
Uganda	Yes	Yes
Senegal	Yes	
Nigeria	Yes	Yes

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profits in Africa*

Operational model of Policy Hubs

- AGRA and NEPAD/CAADP will launch policy hubs
- IDRC project will provide core financial/training support
- AGRA Grants Program for the Policy Hubs:
 - Incremental staffing costs of setting up agricultural policy hubs
 - Supporting the research and training needs of the policy hub
 - Outreach and advocacy work for policies to support the GR
 - Strengthening support for policy units within ministries of agric. and finance to ramp up demand for evidence-based policies
 - Supporting farmers' organizations for policy advocacy
- Work with agricultural committees of African parliaments
 - Strengthening core functions of Committees in oversight related to international agriculture and trade agreements
 - increasing the influence of Committees on Poverty Reduction Strategies and national development plans
 - Honoring the Maputo Agreement that at least 10% of national budgets should be for agriculture and rural development

Thank you

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