

# **Agricultural Development and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa**

**Building a Case  
for  
More Support**

# INTRODUCTION

# THE PROBLEM

- almost 33 percent - close to 200 million people, undernourished
- Nearly half live on less than \$1 a day - lower than three decades ago
  - Number almost doubled since the 60s
- highest increase of number of poor observed in SSA - rose by 72 million during the last decade
- Poor performance of agriculture lies at the heart of the problem.

# PROBLEM Cont...

- food crises and famines, easily triggered by lightest of droughts, floods, pests, economic downturns or conflicts.
- only continent where hunger is projected to worsen unless drastic measures are taken  
agricultural exports have fallen while imports of food have surged
- food aid interventions common feature of African news headlines

# Problem Cont...

- Different development paradigms have been tested
- generally mediocre results
- Policies not supportive:
  - farmers and subsidized urban consumers
  - under-invested in rural areas resulting into market failures

# Structural Adjustments

- implemented 1980s - 1990s to redress policies taxed heavily agriculture
- Impact, been complex and multifaceted
  - Liberalization removed deliberate price discriminations
  - provided (in theory) incentives efficient resource allocation
- Terms of trade for agriculture deteriorated - input prices grew faster than output prices
- Privatization accompanied by stringent budget regimes → led to collapse of agriculture services
- decreasing public support + weak private sector → undue dependence on food imports and food aid

# Context & Objective of Study

- In July 2003, AU resolved, to allocate 10% of budget
- translating commitment into political action not easy due to
  - paucity of resources available to most SSA
  - perception that agriculture is a poor engine for growth and fiscal revenues;
  - performance of agriculture the context of globalized markets considered poor;
  - perception of limited “absorptive capacity to make effective use of development assistance in agriculture;
  - agriculture development programme complex → reduce public sector allocation to agriculture;
  - difficulties in establishing a well-performing agricultural banks
  - Objective of study provide sound arguments for ministers  
Maputo Declaration is just

# Components of the study

- *Background Document*
- *Country case studies* 10 countries: Chad, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia;
- **Main Reportg**: Outlining Boarder policy and strategy options for Africa
- **Two regional workshops** in partnership with AU/NEPAD Sec and RECS

# EXPECTATION

- Clearer understanding of support provided to agriculture
- Drawing lessons from Experiences in other countries;
- Identifying possible exit options;
- Influencing Government decisions in the context of NEPAD – improved resource allocation for sustainable food security and agr. development.

# Structure of the Main Report

- Introduction
- Food security and nutrition in SSA
- Strategic options for poverty and food insecurity reduction
- Agr performance in SSA
- Constraints and Opportunitites
- Success stories in and outside SSA – lessons learned
- Where do we go from here