



**High-level Workshop**  
***Agricultural Development and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa:***  
***Building a Case for More Support***  
**Nairobi: 14-16 September, 2005**

**Terms of Reference**

**Group work**

**Group 1: Public Sector**

***Why have we not succeeded so far in ensuring that priority is given to agriculture in public policy and programmes, and what should we be doing to change this?***

In most sub-Saharan African countries agriculture has, until recently, been given a relatively low importance on the political agenda of most SSA countries. This has translated in insufficient attention given to policy reforms and dwindling public expenditure in agriculture. A review of the budgetary allocation in seven SSA countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia) between 1990 and 2001 reveals that the budgetary allocation is low and declining over the years. The share of agriculture in the total budget declined from around 5 percent in 1990/91 to 3.5 percent in 2001/02.

What are the reasons why efforts have failed so far to increase priority given by SSA countries to agriculture in public policy and programmes? What should be done to change this situation?

During the group discussion, you will:

- identify the main reasons why agriculture is not considered as an important sector in many SSA countries;
- identify the main reasons why Ministries of Finance do not consider it justified to allocate more budgetary resources to the agriculture sector;
- put forward the shortcomings in the way concerned stakeholders have been advocating for agriculture; and
- propose for each of the reasons identified ways and means that could change this situation and heighten priority given to agriculture in public policy and investment<sup>1</sup>.

While proposing actions to be taken, specify which should be taken in the immediate (within a year) and those who should be implemented in the medium and long term, and define who would be responsible to implement them. You will rank the proposed action by order of priority.

At the end of your deliberations, you will prepare a written report that will be presented in plenary by one of the group members.

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<sup>1</sup> Public sector policies and investment include those specific to the agriculture sector as well as those pertaining to the environment in which the agriculture sector is operating (infrastructure, markets, rules and regulations and others)