

Where do we go from here?

Introduction

Let's recap:

1. ↘ Food Sec situation (in partic rural areas)
2. Agric = strategic option for econ dev^t and food sec. - ↗ consensus (strong multiplier effect on other sectors & poverty)
3. But poor performance and substantial constraints => issues of attractiveness of agric & effectiveness of agric dev^t support are key
4. Nb of cases fm Africa and outside => positive picture + illustrate actual effectiveness + show that specific policies and strategies are required

Introduction - 2

→ What perspectives, what options?

Purpose here :

1. Derive recommendations fm previous analysis + various political commitments + NEPAD doc
 2. Facilitate debate (→ discussion groups) – not prescriptive (lesson No. 1 = diversity of contexts and options)
- ↔ Synthesis (see report for list of practical details)

Outline

- *General recommendations addressed to*
 - *all governments*
 - *regional organisations*
 - *development partners*
- *Specific recommendations for*
 - *countries emerging from conflicts*
 - *economically less-advanced countries*
 - *resource-rich countries*
 - *more-advanced countries*

Recommendations addressed to all governments

- 1. Political stability & governance:** Spare no efforts to resolve armed conflicts, achieve political stability and improve governance
- 2. Access to food:** In line with commitments to MDGs and Right to Food, design strategies and programmes for income generation and access to food
- 3. Efficient resource mobilisⁿ & expenditure:**
 - Reallocate resources from non-productive ministries to ministries dealing with productive sectors, and improve public-sector efficiency and revenue collection
 - Priv. Sec. financing – Gov^t to focus on public goods
 - Promote ODA and FDI into agric.

Recommendations addressed to regional organisations

1. Facilitate peace and cooperation among SSA countries in favour of food security (resolution of conflicts...)
2. Identify, formulate and raise funding for regional or *sub-regional* projects and programmes (subsidiarity)
3. Enhance region-wide infrastructure
4. Provide fora & promote analysis to discuss food sec & dev issues – with appropriate participation of all stakeholders
5. Back Reg^{al} research initiatives (technology & *institutions*)
6. Adoption of common standards & rules – monitoring mechanisms
7. Improve regional mechanisms to prevent and manage food crises based on experience

Recommendations addressed to development partners

Increasing mobilization of domestic resources will not be sufficient: need for external resources (ODA & FDI)

1. Step up assistance provided to the less-advanced sub-Saharan African countries, as committed (0.7% GNP)
2. Orient it in priority to programmes in favour of increased and more stable agricultural production to avoid future crises and support econ dev^t (addressing aid effectiveness in agriculture, absorption capacity, implications of budget support & SWAps)

Specific recommendations for countries emerging from conflicts

1. Immediate measures to ensure adequate access to food for the hungry and for resettling refugees and demobilized soldiers
2. Priority to de-mining and rehabilitation/construction of rural infrastructure
3. Support the establishment of effective **basic rural services** to support resuscitation of the rural economy (involving civil soc & private sec, through contracts and financial support)
4. Establish an effective institutional set-up and a policy environment conducive to the dev^t of an efficient market-based rural economy (macroecon stability; secured contracts & land tenure; promotion of private initiatives and rural org etc.)

Recommendations for economically less-advanced countries

1. A strengthened institutional capacity:

Principle: ↑ instit^{Nal} framework ↔ responsive to needs of the sector's stakeholders

- ↑ technical capacity (adequate staffing in numbers, capacity and functions)
- Institutionalized venues for policy dialogue between government and stakeholders
- improved manag^t practices in public instit^{ns} – transparency, accountability, personnel policies (competence, motivation), ICT, HIV-AIDS implications
- adopt more integrated and coordinated development programs (programmatic approach, public funded demand-driven facilities – as opposed to project based approach)

Recommendations for economically less-advanced countries

2. Design & implement policies for a market-based economy

Fm experience → agric dev^t success based on strong capacity to formulate & implement strategic public interventions

- macroecon stability
- land tenure: equitable, attractive for private sector, sustainable use
- delineation of roles of public & non public sectors – what role for public support re: market failures?
- Policy & regul. frwk favourable to local and private initiative
- transactions facilitated by the enforcement of a proper legal framework (contracts)
- ↗ active involv^t in multilateral trade negot^{ns} & standard setting bodies
- Reliable statistics and food sec monitoring systems

Recommendations for economically less-advanced countries

3. Pursue public investment geared towards stabilizing production, enhancing productivity and improved functioning of markets
 - Rural roads, market places & storage facilities
 - Irrigation facilities, managed by user groups - focusing on cost reduction
 - Soil fertility improvement → productivity & sustainability
 - Research facilities + facilitation of rg^{al} cooperation in research

Recommendations for economically less-advanced countries

4. ↑ public services aimed at promoting adapted and efficient technology + private sector dev^t & capacity

Issue: downsizing of public instit^{ns} + ↘ working conditions + implications of HIVAIDS for loss of skilled staff

➤ Extension services ⇔

- Through partnerships
- + improved research-extn-farmer communicⁿ
- + focus on low-cost, & labour saving, intensification technologies

➤ Rural finance: ⇔

- ↗ perception that agric is profit-making business with proper repayment
- + financial support to rural finance org^{ns}, that are professional & accountable (technical support)
- ↑ agric & rural dev^t banks/facilities with private sec. => long term loans and grants

4. public services aimed at promoting adapted and efficient technology, private sector dev^t and capacity

(...)

➤ Other services:

- Support to package of private sector dev^t services - that do reach agric and rural areas (capacity building in business Mgt, technical support services...)
- Ibid. for farmer org and other economic actors (advocacy, capacity building, legal provision, limited financing)
- Public capacity to combat plant, pests & disease
- Partnerships, contractual arrang^{ts} & coordination between public and private sector re: agric input supply

Specific recommendations for resource-rich countries

- Institute macroeconomic measures to reduce imbalances and enhance competitiveness of non-resource-based sectors
- Encourage investment and financial support in favour of diversification of the economy, social stability and cohesion
- Eradicate poverty and food insecurity through massive public-funded targeted safety nets

Specific recommendations for more-advanced countries

- Implement packages aimed at the reinforcement of private sector as producer, service provider and, in some cases, as source of funding for public goods through partnerships with public institutions
- support programs for diversifying agriculture towards non-traditional high value export commodities (e.g. horticulture, tea, fisheries)
- implement programs in promoting diversification of the economy by increased agro-processing, manufacturing and other activities

CONCLUSION

- Sorry ! Any list of recommendations sounds simplistic, possibly biased, either too short or too long, and repetitive
- Please refer to the Main Report
- Importantly:
 - ∃ increased recognition of need for tailored policies (African diversity against dogmatic positions)
 - ∃ insufficient recognition of all the innovative know-how accumulated by many players over the last 20-30 yrs regarding institutional developments that make agricultural development more effective: many of the recommendations have already found their way on the ground