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How the United States benefits from agricultural and food security investments in developing countries: Overview

U.S. foreign agricultural assistance investments bring substantial economic, health, and security benefits to both developing countries and the United States. This report describes the food security investments of the U.S. Agency for International Development and how improving agriculture in developing countries brings positive returns to the United States and developing countries. The multiple benefits of foreign agricultural assistance include growth of agri-food systems of developing countries, and positive impacts on U.S. jobs and exports, technology spillovers that support U.S. agricultural production, health and nutrition of U.S. consumers, and global and U.S. security.

The subject of food security and land issues in Africa has become one of increased importance and contention over recent years. In particular, the focus has shifted to the role new global South donors - especially India, China and Brazil - are playing in shaping African agriculture through their increased involvement and investment in the continent. Approaching the topic through the framework of South-South co-operation, this highly original volume presents a critical analysis of the ways in which Chinese, Indian and Brazilian engagements in African agriculture are structured and implemented. Do these investments have the potential to create new opportunities to improve local living standards, transfer new technology and knowhow to African producers, and reverse the persistent productivity decline in African agriculture? Or will they simply aggravate the problem of food insecurity by accelerating the process of land alienation and displacement of local people from their land? Topical and comprehensive, Agricultural Development and Food Security in Africa offers fresh insight into a set of relationships that will shape both Africa and the world over the coming decades.

This book examines the global campaign to end hunger and malnutrition. Focus is placed on the work of the United Nations which has led international efforts to improve food security in the world’s poorest countries. The book first reviews the long-term project to establish access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food as a universally recognized human right.

This is followed by separate chapters that examine the nature and central causes of food insecurity in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. These chapters also review the contemporary work of three United Nations agencies – the World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization, and International Fund for Agricultural Development – in providing both food aid and food assistance to each region of the developing world. This includes the provision of emergency food aid in response to natural disaster and civil conflict, as well as longer-term food assistance to promote agricultural productivity, advance rural development, and preserve natural environments. The concluding chapter considers ways to strengthen food aid and assistance in the years to come, with many of the recommendations advanced reflecting lessons learned from the actual experience of food aid and assistance described in this book.

Due to many challenges (i.e. climate change, energy, water and land shortage, high demands on food, land grabbing, etc.), agriculture production potential is expected to be seriously affected; thus, increasing food insecurity and hunger in many already affected regions (especially in Africa). In this context, sustainable agriculture is highly recommended as an ecosystem approach where soil, water, plants, environment and living organisms live in harmony. Innovative technologies and research should be developed to ensure sustainable agriculture and productivity using modern irrigation systems, improved varieties, improved soil quality, etc. In the meantime, the preservation of natural environment should be based on resource conservation technologies and best management practices. Sustainable Agricultural Development, not only raises the serious ethical and social issues underlying these huge environmental problems, but also aims at presenting successful experiences from all over the world in relation with sustainable farming, sustainable management of water and land resources, and innovative processes in livestock production. It also aims at providing inputs to decision making.
Food security in Africa: the impact of agricultural development: hearing before the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, One Hundred Tenth Congress, first session, July 18, 2007.

In spite of the rapid adoption of genetically modified (GM) crops in some countries, the use of this technology remains contentious. Public opposition and overregulation have become real threats to further developments in modern plant sciences. It is widely believed that GM crops are bad for human health, damage the environment, and hurt smallholder farmers in developing countries, but research shows that the opposite is true. Genetically Modified Crops and Agricultural Development analyzes the impacts of current and possible future GM crop applications and shows that these technologies can contribute substantially to sustainable agricultural development and food security. Popular narratives about “Frankenfoods,” “Genetic Contamination,” and “Terminator Genes” are deconstructed. Continued opposition to technologies that were shown to be beneficial and safe entails unnecessary human suffering and environmental degradation. To advance GM crop innovations, better science communication, more integrity in public and policy debates, and streamlined regulatory approaches are required.

This volume presents state of the art discussions on a wide variety of topics in the field of (agricultural) development. More than 20 chapters have been prepared by internationally known scholars and policy analysts, providing a concise overview of a variety of recent debates in development economics. While the background of most contributors is in economic science, the chapters are prepared so that they feed into ongoing policy discussions and are accessible to a wide readership. The contributions in this volume are organized around five themes: prospects for rural poverty alleviation, sustainable management of natural resources, strategies for enhancing food security, markets and the role of the state, and institutions and governance. It is obvious there exists many linkages between these themes, and indeed the integration between them is emphasized in various chapters. This book is prepared as a festschrift or Liber Amoricum for professor Arie Kuyvenhoven. His retirement from the Development Economics Group at Wageningen University (The Netherlands) is a good opportunity to take stock of recent developments in the area of agricultural development economics. Therefore, in addition to being a valuable source of information for readers with an interest in development, this volume is also intended as a farewell gift to Arie, from friends and colleagues.

This study is concerned with how changes to the world’s food and agriculture system can contribute to improvements in global food security.

The development of sustainable agricultural systems is an imperative aspect of any country, but particularly in the context of developing countries. Lack of progress in these initiatives can have negative effects on the nation as a whole. Agricultural Development and Food Security in Developing Nations is a pivotal reference source for the latest scholarly material on promoting advancements in agricultural systems and food security in developing economies. Highlighting impacts on citizens, as well as on political and social environments of a country, this book is ideally designed for students, professionals, policy makers, researchers, and practitioners interested in recent developments in the areas of agriculture.

This book builds on the premise that food security in low-income countries may be achieved through sustained effort by the local small-scale and subsistence farming communities, with the active support from local, national and international agencies. It states that any such effort will endure only if those small-scale farming communities and subsistence farmers feel that their interests are protected. Therefore, those local communities should be involved in the process of working towards sustainable food security to the extent that they consider that they ‘own’ the project designed for that purpose. To achieve this, such a project should be based on the concept of participatory action and learning. Therefore, the book is directed towards policy makers of local, national and international organizations and agencies which are prepared to learn from and work with local farmers and their representatives. The book has 10 chapters.

This highly original volume presents a critical analysis of the ways in which Chinese, Indian and Brazilian engagements in African agriculture are structured and implemented. Topical and comprehensive, Agricultural Development and Food Security in Africa offers fresh insight into a set of relationships that will shape both Africa and the world over the coming decades.

Using a political-economic approach supplemented with insights from human ecology, this volume analyzes the long-term dynamics of food security and economic growth. The book begins by discussing the nature of preindustrial food crises and the changes that have occurred since the 19th century with the ascent of technical science and the fossil fuel revolution. It explains how these changes improved living standards but that the realization of this improvement was usually dependent on government support for smallholder modernization. The author sets out how the evolution of food security in different regions has been influenced by farm policy choices and how these choices were shaped by local societal characteristics, international relations and changing configurations in metropolitan countries. Separate chapters are devoted to the interaction of this evolution with debates on food security and economic growth and with international economic policies. The final chapters highlight the new challenges for global food security that will arise as traditional sources of biomass production and the more easily extractable reserves of fossil biomass become depleted or can no longer be used. Overall, the book emphasizes the inadequacy of current explanations with regard to these challenges. It explores what is needed to
Agricultural Development and Technical Cooperation toward Green and Inclusive Growth in East Asian APEC Economies

East Asian APEC economies should expand cooperation, as they have common goals to achieve greater food self-sufficiency and food security by 2020. In Asia, the issues of undernourished (particularly China), small-scale farming due to limited farmland and consequently low levels of mechanization, aging and feminizing farm workforce are crucial. These problems will be exacerbated to be solved due to increasingly open markets through the proliferation of free trade agreements. To tackle these challenges, through increasing agricultural productivity and production, and adequate agricultural trade development, economies should improve food security and tackle related social issues. In this regard, agricultural technical cooperation among East Asian APEC economies has advantages: they share relatively common problems of and approaches to agricultural labour force and agricultural economy; in addition, agricultural trade among APEC Asian economies is growing faster than any other region. For the long term, collective responses while sharing best practices and experiences, technical and financial assistance, common responses to environmental and climate change issues, development of data infrastructure, minimizing the negative impact from agricultural open market. Concretely, East Asian APEC member economies can better gather and share alternative indicators that measure emerging contemporary agricultural issues by including them into statistical systems. Through this, they can build more adequate policies. It is also necessary to create collective solutions for transition of agricultural labour force, especially small-scale farmers, into higher-value and ecological farming or productive non-farm sector through skills development and for better coping with consequent shocks and adjustments from increasing free trade agreements. In order to do so, they need to bring up collective commitment to agricultural development and investment for the long term. Achieving such cooperation will require strong, effective, and well-resourced driving agents. Despite the limitations of APEC’s current institutional bodies on agricultural technical cooperation, if APEC is committed to the Food Security Road Map of improving food security by 2020, then it must extend its cooperative efforts such as the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) and Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) to be increasingly focused and include a wider range of actors, including farmers? the true agents of change in any agricultural system. 1. Introduction II. Agricultural Development in East Asian APEC Economies 1. The Economic Importance and Productivity of Agriculture 2. Food Security and Agricultural Production 3. Food Self-Sufficiency III. Challenges Facing Agricultural Development and Trade in East Asian APEC Economies 1. Agricultural Prices and Trade 2. Stagnating Agricultural Productivity; Land, Investment and Technology IV. Agricultural Technical Cooperation in APEC 1. Advantages and Future Possibilities 2. Requirements for Effective Technical Cooperation V. Conclusion

This book provides a non-technical, accessible primer on sustainable agricultural development and its relationship to sustainable development based on three analytical pillars. The first is to understand agriculture as complex physical-biological-human systems. Second is the economic perspective of understanding tradeoffs and synergies among the economic, environmental and social dimensions of these systems at various scales. The third is the understanding of these agricultural systems as the supply side of one sector of an economy, interacting through markets and policies with other sectors at local, national and global scales. The first part of the book introduces the concept of sustainability and develops an analytical framework based on tradeoffs quantified using impact indicators in the economic, environmental and social domains, linking this framework to the role of agriculture in economic growth and development. Next the authors introduce the reader to the sustainability challenges of major agroecosystems in the developing and industrialized worlds. The concluding chapter discusses the design and implementation of sustainable development pathways, through the expression of consumers’ desire for sustainably produced foods on the demand side of the food system, and through policies on the supply side such as new more sustainable technologies, environmental regulation and payments for ecosystem services.

The subject of food security and land issues in Africa has become one of increased importance and contention over recent years. In particular, the focus has shifted to the role new global South donors - especially India, China and Brazil - are playing in shaping African agriculture through their increased involvement and investment in the continent. Approaching the topic through the perspective of South-South co-operation, this highly original volume presents a critical analysis of the ways in which Chinese, Indian and Brazilian engagements in African agriculture are structured and implemented. Do these investments have the potential to create new opportunities to improve local living standards, transfer new technology and knowhow to African producers, and reverse the persistent productivity decline in African agriculture? Or will they simply aggravate the problem of food insecurity by accelerating the process of land alienation and displacement of local people from their land? Topical and comprehensive, Agricultural Development and Food Security in Africa offers fresh insight into a set of relationships that will shape both Africa and the world over the coming decades.

Economics of Agricultural Development examines the causes, severity, and effects of poverty, population growth, and malnutrition in developing countries. It discusses potential solutions to these problems, progress made in many countries in recent years, and the implications of globalization for agriculture, poverty, and the environment. Topics covered in the book include: • Means for utilizing agricultural surpluses to further overall economic development • The sustainability of the natural resource environment • Gender issues in relation to agriculture and resource use • The contribution of agricultural technologies • The importance of agricultural and macroeconomic policies as related to development and trade, and the successes and failures of such policies • Actions to encourage more rapid agricultural and economic development The globalization of trade in goods, services, and capital has been fundamental to changes being experienced in the agricultural and rural sectors of developing countries. It has major implications for the fight against poverty and food insecurity and for environmental sustainability. Recently, agriculture has returned to a position of center stage in the development dialogue as food price volatility has increased along with water scarcity, and concerns grow over the effects of climate change on food supply and food security. This new edition of the essential textbook in the field builds on the 2010 edition and reflects the following developments: • Growth in foreign demand for land and other natural resources • Significant progress in agricultural and economic development in some low-income countries while others are being left behind • Continued growth in demand for higher-valued farm products This book is essential reading for undergraduate students seeking to understand the economics of agricultural development and the world food system, including.
With the introduction of Feed the Future the private sector has been named a priority partner. The U.S. food and agriculture sector is a thriving, complex industry that has benefited from a legacy of exceptionally strong partnership with the public sector. International markets have expanded dramatically over the past 30 years, in large part due to trade liberalization and increasing demand driven by a growing global population and rising incomes. As private companies learn how to operate in key emerging markets, they gain insights, credibility, and goodwill for future investments. Although companies have a number of opportunities to collaborate with U.S. government programs, matching up with FTP priorities and target countries can be a challenge, and it can be difficult to find the right connection between FTF and a company's specific skills and goals. Going forward, maintaining and supporting the focus of FTP priorities are important, but ways must also be found to encourage investment and work in countries that, while not FTF countries, could generate strong results from private investment in the agriculture sector.

**Essay reprinted from IFPRI's 2003-2004 annual report.**

Experts evaluate the effectiveness of governmental intervention aimed at ensuring adequate agricultural production and food supplies in Third-World nations.

**Agricultural Development: New Perspectives in a Changing World** is the first comprehensive exploration of key emerging issues facing developing-country agriculture today, from rapid urbanization to rural transformation to climate change. In this four-part volume, top experts offer the latest research in the field of agricultural development. Using new lenses to examine today's biggest challenges, contributors address topics such as nutrition and health, gender and household decision-making, agrifood value chains, natural resource management, and political economy. The book also covers most developing regions, providing a critical global perspective at a time when many pressing challenges extend beyond national borders. Tying all this together, Agricultural Development explores policy options and strategies for developing sustainable agriculture and reducing food insecurity and malnutrition. The changing global landscape combined with new and better data, technologies, and understanding means that agriculture can and must contribute to a wider range of development outcomes than ever before, including reducing poverty, ensuring adequate nutrition, creating strong food value chains, improving environmental sustainability, and promoting gender equity and equality. Agricultural Development: New Perspectives in a Changing World, with its unprecedented breadth and scope, will be an indispensable resource for the next generation of policymakers, researchers, and students dedicated to improving agriculture for global wellbeing.

“This publication contains the main report of a study championing the case for increased public support to agricultural and food security in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). It advances four main reasons why agriculture in SSA deserves more public support. The first is a moral imperative: SSA governments cannot and should not ignore a sector on which about 70 percent of their population directly depend for their livelihoods if they are serious about their commitment to MDG1. Second, in spite of its generally poor performance, SSA countries do not have any realistic strategic option that they can rely upon for achieving sustainable economic development other than agriculture. Third, there is evidence from a number of SSA countries that appropriate policies and direct public sector investment have combined to trigger agriculture sector-led economic growth. This publication argues for countries to build on their success stories and for others to explore such opportunities, taking into account their specific environmental, economic and social conditions. Fourth, on average, agriculture in SSA has generally performed better than most other sectors, except in countries endowed with mineral resources.”—Publisher's description.

A Planet for Life 2012 focuses on agriculture and its relation to development, food and the environment. At the end of the 2000s, a consensus has emerged and points to the urgent need for massive investment in the agricultural sector, which is (once again) viewed as one of the prime engines for development and food security, as well as for poverty reduction. But what exactly does this consensus cover? While the idea of investing in agriculture is gaining ground and although several countries or regions appear to be offering opportunities for investment in agricultural land, debates are going on as to which agricultural models to choose and how agricultural policies should be implemented. A Planet for Life called on many highly specialized authors from different countries and perspectives, and invites the reader to discover the sector in all its complexity, upstream and downstream of agricultural production. At the crossroads of the challenges posed by development, food security and the environment, the transformation of the agricultural sector is at the heart of the global stakes of sustainable development. To help steer these changes towards greater sustainability, this book makes us aware of how crucial it is to also change our representations of agriculture, change the visions that guide projects for change and the policies regulating this sector.