Ending Hunger and Nutrition in Africa

Presentation at the Global Action Plan for Agricultural Diversification (GAPAD). The Contribution of Agricultural Diversification to SDG2

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Positive Developments in SS Africa

• Poverty has reduced: Number of poor people living with less than $1.25 per day has reduced by 23%
• Malnutrition has improved: Number of people suffering from hunger by 31% -1990-92 to 2015
• Number of underweight children has declined stunting has stagnated
• Africa remained the world’s second fastest growing economy after East Asia.
• In 2015, sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa) grew faster than the continental average, at 4.2%, with
Hunger and malnutrition Remains a problem

• Over billion people are suffering from starvation, under and malnutrition
• Of this about 240 million are in Africa 1:4
• Hunger and malnutrition is about is about insufficient food production, availability, and intake, poor quality or nutritional value of the food.
• Hence need for SDG 1 & 2 No poverty and End Hunger and
Effects of hunger and malnutrition

- High malnutrition rates that contributes more than one third of all child deaths
- High risks of mothers dying at child birth
- Mother deliver low birth weight babies who fail to survive infancy
- Undernourished babies who make it through infancy often suffer from stunting that cripples and shorten their lives
- Malnutrition is the major cause of death (1/3 of children under five)
- Major cause of stunting of children
Causes of Food and Nutrition insecurity

• High poverty incidences
  – Large proportion of people living in extreme poverty across sub-Saharan Africa.
  – Those living on $1.25-a-day accounted for 48.5 percent
• Exacerbated by violent conflicts and ethnic conflicts
• Non inclusive economic growth
• Erratic weather patterns plagued by long droughts followed by floods
• High dependency on Rain fed agriculture (4% of crop land irrigated)
• Global rice in food prices compounded by high import bills
Factors influencing hunger

- Failed and non sustainable global efforts
- Lack of political will to support agricultural development
- Underinvestment in agriculture and rural Development:
  - Only Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Senegal have met or exceeded CAADP’s 10%
  - Undefined agricultural transformation with little or no coordination within governments, private sector and development partners
  - Poor policies that stifle the participation of the private sector
- Underinvestment and poor coordination of Research &Development
- Uncoordinated global and national effort
Further challenges for Food and Nutrition security

- Growing population at a rate of between 1.6% - 2.4% to reach 2 billion people by 2050
- Expanding rural population and will have nearly 60% more people
- Majority of the population will be urban with huge implications for agriculture and agri-food systems
- Declining soil fertility (28% of rural Africa cultivate land that is considered to be degrading by time)
- Vulnerable to climate change impacts with huge impacts on agriculture and food security
- Increasing imports of key food commodities (Rice, maize and wheat, despite its vast agricultural potential)
- Current food import bill which currently stands at $35 billion annually
Achieving food and nutrition drivers:

• Effectiveness of political leadership and governance
• Quality of the policies and strategies
• Soundness of the macro-economic environment, the inclusiveness of economic growth,
• Degree of economic integration or interconnectedness
• High-level leadership and improved governance
• Inclusive and pro poor policies
Achieving food and nutrition drivers: Cont’

• High-level leadership and improved governance;
  – Agriculture Transformation Agency (ATA in Ethiopia
  – “Les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens” or “3N” in Niger
  – mutual accountability framework in Rwanda

• Public-private partnerships for agri-food system strengthening

• Comprehensive and complementary approaches to create an enabling environment
  – Seed and Fertilizer Blending Program
Achieving food and nutrition drivers: Cont’

• Land tenure reforms for more secure access
  – Security of property rights
  – Inclusive and equitable access

• Rural financial systems expansion and depending
  – Finance product innovations
  – Enhanced leading services to farmers
  – Reducing risks in lending

• Promotion of social protection