



AGRF 2016 – SIDE EVENT REPORT

Day 2 - Tuesday, September 6

14:30- 18:00

Side Event

Strengthening Agriculture Policy-Practice in Africa

BRIEF

Context: African Heads of State and Government committed in 2014 under the Malabo Declaration to accelerate agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods; and new sets of goals and targets to advance the next 10 year program of the Comprehensive African Agriculture and Development Plans (CAADP). A key and instrumental decision in Malabo was a commitment to measure and track progress against the agreed goals and targets using a CAADP Results Framework. The Implementation Strategy and Roadmap to Achieve the 2025 Vision on CAADP and Programme of Work lays out the actions and results that will be tracked and measured.

To accelerate agricultural growth and achieve an agricultural transformation, African countries are implementing agricultural policy and regulatory reforms in order to correct past market, policy and institutional failures and put in place an enabling business environment. There is a need for an agricultural policy implementation index and an agricultural transformation score card to track and evaluate the impact of the reforms in different policy dimensions on technical, institutional and policy status and capabilities required for achieving an agricultural transformation and improved economic performance.

Session Objectives: The purpose of this session was to discuss what constitutes policy and institutional effectiveness and the instruments for measuring policy change for agricultural transformation in Africa that can guide tracking and monitoring progress towards an agricultural transformation.

Key Issues/ Questions:

- What are policy and regulatory reforms in Africa that are prime movers of agricultural transformation?
- How can these be computed into a typology agricultural policy practice and indices of agricultural policy practice implementation?
- How can the agricultural policy implementation indices be used to compute an agricultural score card?

Outcome Desired:

- Gain understanding of policy and regulatory reforms in Africa that need to be in [place to drive agricultural transformation
- Gain insight about policy implementations indices to develop score cards to track progress towards agricultural transformation.

Organizer(s):

AGRA and Barefoot Education Trust for Afrika (BEAT)



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| Name | Picture | Discussion |
| <p>Dr. Edward Mabaya, Associate Director, CIIFAD, Cornell University</p> <p>Role: Moderator</p> |  | <p>Dr. Mabaya began the session by stating that the afternoon’s discussion was going to be about is strengthening “Agriculture Policy-Practice” in Africa. The aim of the discussion would be to learn more about the degree of progress being made in the areas of agriculture policy reform. The purpose of the session was thus to discuss what constitutes policy and institutional effectiveness and the best instruments for measuring policy. If you cannot measure it you cannot change it.</p> <p>In closing he noted that the indices point to the same direction. Increasingly, African countries want to be compared to their neighboring countries and sub center indices are important as they help measure and compare indices and indicate who is responsible for the improvement desired. Every government department believes they are doing the best job but they are trying.</p> |
| <p>Prof. Joachim von Braun, Director, Centre for Development Research, University of Bonn</p> <p>Role: Keynote Speaker</p> |  | <p>Prof. Joachim began his discussion by alluding to an interesting report called “Four Ways to End Hunger” by Kofi Anan. In the publication he discusses the value of good policy practice and the damage caused by policy malpractice. Agriculture can be defined in the context of strengthening policy practice.</p> <p>He went on to note that the causes of malpractice in agricultural policies are: lack of transparency, respect, too many goals, and poor analytical goals. He emphasized that we must not forget the politics of agriculture policy. Goals need instruments. There is budget competition in agriculture. Agriculture policy malpractice can be overcome by steady focus on primary goals. Good agricultural practice needs more funds.</p> |



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| <p>Prof Mandivama Rukuni, Executive Director, Barefoot Education for Afrika Trust</p> <p>Role: Keynote Speaker</p> |  | <p>Prof Rukuni's Presentation was on three aspects, Agricultural Policy Practice Index (APPI); 1) The Agricultural Transformation Scorecard for Africa, 2) The continental strategy for strengthening agricultural policy incorporating country advocacy, 3) and implementation framework and modalities</p> <p>He stated that Malabo can still be achieved but only in half of the African countries. CAADP he added at inception was not heavily focused on the development of policy.</p> |
| <p>Panelists</p> | | |
| <p>Dr. Holger Kray, Head, Agriculture Policy Unit, Africa, World Bank</p> |  | <p>Dr. Kray made a few key points in his presentation, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The best policy in agriculture is the one promulgated in the best situation, it depends on what the country wants to achieve; - It is important to carry agriculture dialogue beyond just having it among those in the sector. It is key for advocacy to lead to dialogue with the state. In countries like China and Brazil agriculture has become a purview of the state; - In many instances trade agreements. These are hindrances in the agriculture coming from policies designed; <p>He closed his remarks by noting that he looks forward to a time when agriculture policies can indeed be measured – particularly by the outcomes they prompt.</p> |



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| <p>Mr. Jeff Hill, Director of Policy, USAID</p> |  | <p>Mr. Hill began with a brief background explaining that USAID is currently active in 19 countries in Africa. This footprint is significantly larger than in the past.</p> <p>He also noted that policy change does not occur simply because analysis is undertaken, there is a need to have a proposed policy upgrade in place. In the 19 countries where USAID is, they are promoting 389 policy reforms. Today, he noted there is greater commitment and interest to take on the policy reform suggestions, whereas, it was a hard sell ten years ago.</p> <p>He continued and noted that what we are calling agricultural transformation today is quite different from what it was in the past. Today's issues impacting agriculture are far more complex than they have been, so while we do hope to learn from the past, we need to spend adequate time to ensure that we are innovative and current in our suggestion of policy changes that match today's circumstances.</p> |
| <p>Dr. Araba Debisi, Regional Director for Africa, International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)</p> |  | <p>Dr. Araba spoke about reforms that show capability for agriculture transformation in Africa. The reforms in the seed sector have had a positive impact in Nigeria.</p> <p>In his statement he mentioned while developing policy for agriculture is not that difficult, changing policy – given the many stakeholders impacted, can be quite difficult.</p> <p>The benefit in providing adequate dialogue and access to information, to all parties, is that when a definitive policy is produced it will have the support of those who are to adhere to it because they will feel ownership to it.</p> |



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| <p>Ms. Aline O'Connor, Founder and Consultant, Agri- Experience, Kenya</p> |  | <p>Ms. Aline brought to this discussion a private sector perspective. In addition to introducing herself, she shared with the delegates three key reasons why the private sector needs to be included in the policy discussions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Donors will never have enough money; 2) The public sector often thinks they have engaged with the private sector but in many instances they have not been inclusive enough, so there needs to be consistent dialogue between the public and private sector and, in particular, when policy reform is being considered; 3) And last as they are the largest constituency in the private sector, farmers need to be empowered to fully engage in policy discussions as they have much to add and also to be concerned about. <p>She concluded with a statement that we must be working toward the development of transparent, consistent policy environments in which the private sector will have a level playing field, can earn a profit and, ideally, access capital at cost effective interest rates. This will see the agriculture sector grow and more stakeholders engage in the sector and create broader societal benefit money, Interest rates that will not harm private sectors.”</p> |
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Q& A Session from audience

- Q: What type of activities should be targeted the most?
- Q: How did you choose the country to do research?
- Q: Could Prof Rukuni give a few examples of good policy?
- Q: What is the role of institutions in helping to shape policy?

RE: Priorities require a shift and focus on sectoral expenditure, we need to use geospatial solutions and broad-based technology platforms to get a quicker response.

RE: A selection criterion was discussed with AGRA to select their priority countries.

RE: There are good examples for policy but the agriculture budget is run by the Treasury of African governments, and often they are developed in a rush and without adequate consideration.



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RE: The problem is that you need inclusive decision making – with farmers, agribusiness stakeholders, government, NGOs, development partners, corporate investors – all having their say (of course with local stakeholders’ inputs carrying the most weight).

Summary

The lack of capacity and non-transparent political environments that do not prioritize agriculture are a barrier to often needed reform. Getting evidence to influence reform though is expensive (getting data, getting consultants and analyzing the material and preparing it in a presentable/ advocacy oriented manner) takes time. There are also often competing interests between the private and public sectors, even within the public sector and within the private sector – and these have to be navigated successfully. Sometimes the issue is not the policy per se but poor implementation of policy. Also at times people at local levels do not see what is planned for them by national policy makers and thus local policy implementation does not go well. How do we get to a point where governments pay attention to working with the private sector instead of competing with it . . . one way is for government to create an environment where there is a strong private sector. Lastly, is not the role of developed countries to the policy direction of developing countries, but rather for the latter to see what can be learned from the former and to develop policy that best suits their needs.