

The Evolving Role of Agriculture in Poverty Reduction- Lue Christianensen

Is agriculture good for poverty reduction?

The Four Questions:

- 1) Does a focus on agriculture lead to more economic growth?
- 2) Do the poor participate equally in growth from agriculture or from non-agriculture?
- 3) Does potentially greater participation by poor in agriculture growth offset potentially slower growth?

Findings:

- Agriculture is better at reducing \$1 a day poverty, non-agriculture is better at the \$2 a day level
- High inequality reduces poverty-reducing power of agriculture
- Boosting agriculture performance is critical

Conceptual Framework:

- Amount of growth and affect of growth on poverty are the two components that determine poverty reduction
 - Overall reduction is a function of growth from agriculture and non agriculture
 - The growth affects depends on direct and indirect growth effects
 - Depends on the size of the sector as well

Four Components:

- 1) Participation
- 2) Share
- 3) Direct growth
- 4) Indirect growth

Two perspectives

- 1) Industrial pull: wage equilibrating movement in response to higher productivity
- 2) Agricultural push: productivity growth in agriculture leads to a reduction of food price and trade changes, inducing migration out of agriculture (good)

So do we invest in agriculture or ignore it?

Insights:

- Need to debunk the sluggish persona of agriculture.
- Agriculture will grow slower than non-agriculture sectors because of Engel's law → as people get richer they spend a larger share of their income on food, other sectors need to grow
- That does not mean the agricultural sector has an inherent low productivity
- Poverty reducing effects from non-agriculture sectors decline in the presence of extractive industries
- Implications → all countries should invest in agriculture.

General Assembly 6/14/10- 6/15/10

Ms. Okolett: agency: "Climate-Wise Women"

- Question is how to finance third world development?
 - Tax is the answer
 - Debt reconstruction
 - Global fund for investment
 - Green funds need to be emphasized
 - GENDER EQUALITY is necessary for "decent work."

Melie Mendosa:

- Noted the sparse attendance
- Need government intervention
- Projects aren't the end all → we need a paradigm shift
- Sustainable development is about a shared responsibility

Ms. Muchala: agency: "The third world network"

- How the financial crisis affects the third world
- Public spending and investments through strong, pro-active policy
- There is a mismatch between the MDG targets and the current economic model, which doesn't include public investments
- IMF framework provides restraints
- A fiscal policy is necessary to fuel development
- Role of the UN needs to be highlighted through this MDG process
 - It is the only institution where the global community has one voice.

International Fertilizer Organization

- DSCL → company that deals primarily with agriculture chemicals, seeds
- Farmers need to be a part of the policy making process

- CSO's need to focus on where our food is coming from
- Need to acknowledge the role of markets and industrial sector
- Innovative ways to increase productivity sustainably
 - Work with the farmer throughout the entire planting/growing process
 - More manpower from the CSO's
 - Need to "get local"
 - For example, DSCL has created a chain of local grocery markets that are only stocked by local foods from local farmers
 - Farmers need to be organized in groups/partners by the corporate sector in order to create economies of scale.

"Need to work hand-in-hand with governments"

"Farming first"

- Governments need long term agricultural development strategies.
- Target woman farmers
- Support policies that invest in agriculture
- Invest in input/output policies
- In a growing world, food security=a shared responsibility
 - Farmers are central to the solution
 - We need to improve their incomes.

Mrs. President:

The voices of the ones who are affected by these goals need to be heard.

Fera Kabir → action aid

- Development research in Bangladesh
- Hunger is economic and political
- Women are the most vulnerable, and the majority of farmers → need to invest in women farmers and promote local production
- Need to reject the second green revolution , GM crops aren't reliable

Marie Gad- Business Europe

- Potential of business in achieving the MDG's
- Boost trade is necessary
- Development should be the business of business
- Financial barriers exist however to investing in development
- Need to support female entrepreneurs

Charlotte Bunch

- Gender equality, UN human rights
- Focuses on women's rights and reproductive health, that MDG goal is lagging
- Big problem= violence against women

Godlesvky:

- Young people are the core, they need to be seen as ACTORS
- How can we create opportunities for young people
- That is important in achieving the goals

Sood:

- Gender equality is the over-arching principle and strategy for achieving the MDG goals
- Key solution= EDUCATION , more specifically adolescent education
- We need DATA

Nigeria Rep:

There is a gap between govt. and NGOs with regard to collaboration