



ASK THE EXPERT: AFRICA'S GREEN REVOLUTION AND POLICY LEVERS

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

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April Thompson - Agrilinks: Welcome to today's special event! We will begin at 10am EST. Feel free to introduce yourself in the meantime, and if you have any questions for today's expert, feel free to type it in here.

Aliou NDIAYE: Good morning. I am trying to download the technical guidance but cannot do it

Aliou NDIAYE:That's works thanks

April Thompson - Agrilinks: Great!

Gilbert Kamiyala - MEL Specialist USAID/Malawi: Thanks April

April Thompson - Agrilinks: Welcome, Gilbert!

April Thompson - Agrilinks: We'll begin in about 15 minutes. Feel free to answer the polls here in the meantime, and introduce yourself here!

Gilbert Kamiyala - MEL Specialist USAID/Malawi: I work with USAID Malawi in the Sustainable Economic Growth (SEG) Office as Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist. SEG Office houses Feed the Future, Environment, Food For Peace and Power Africa teams and I provide support on MEL related tasks across the teams.

Dick Tinsley: Dick Tinsley from Colorado signing in on time today

April Thompson - Agrilinks: Hi Dick, good to see you!

Dick Tinsley:Following up on my response to the opening comment. who within the development effort is responsible to determine amount of labor available and what are the reasonable compromises farmers should make when the labor is in short supply or hunger reduces the work day to a few hours

Dick Tinsley: Julie, did you get my email on yesterdays time mess up

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Feel free to post all questions here! Our speaker, Jim Oehmke, will answer as many as he can verbally, and we have some additional experts on hand to answer in the chat box

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Dick, I did receive it, thank you!

Eric Raile: I am a researcher at Montana State University. Our research team has been looking at political will and public will for climate-smart agriculture in Senegal and Uganda.

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Public & political will is always an interesting discussion topic

Laura Kahn: I've just finished a Data Science master's degree and am interested in learning more about this domain and how data drives policy decisions.

Aliou NDIAYE: Is the webinar being record?

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Jim is dropping my name, but I'm happy that April Thompson is taking the verbal hosting reins from me today! :-)

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Aliou - yes, this is being recorded and will be posted on Agrilinks

Dick Tinsley: Don't overlook that role of the shift from water buffalo to power tillers that was concurrent with the development of the high yielding rice varieties. IRRI got the rice yields up but did not get the crop planted in time to take full advantage of the rice, this was done by the farmers in the shift to power tillers. Since the development community was not involved they simply ignore the input

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): We are experimenting with this new short-form ask-the-expert format. Please post your questions at any time!

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Interesting points, thanks Dick

Eric Raile: I am responding to the following submitted question: "How can we generate the political will in partner countries to drive climate-smart agricultural transformation?" The pathways for generating political will depend in large part on the governance situations within specific partner countries. Building political will from the bottom-up through constituencies tends to be more effective when democratic institutions work, for example. Having looked at this issue in Senegal and Uganda, we see different potential routes. One route is by creating public pressure on elected officials to support climate-smart agriculture (CSA). This might be best accomplished through agricultural demonstration projects, dissemination of information (via radio, for example), and the creation of demand for CSA inputs (like drought-tolerant seeds). We see strong potential roles for policy entrepreneurs and agribusiness entrepreneurs here.

Dick Tinsley: for Africa you need to follow the example of Asia and increase the access to mechanization, if not you are getting close to genocide in asking farmers to work in excess of their available calories by about 50% 2000 kcal available 4000 kcal needed

Joshua Ariga: Hi Everyone. I am a senior economist at the International Fertilizer Development Center's markets, economics and policy unit. Looking forward presentations from James, Naseem and others

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Welcome, Joshua! If there is anything you are wondering about the Green Revolution in Africa, especially policy-related, ask it here!

Joshua Ariga: Thanks Julie

Eric Raile: Continuing my response: Another potential route to political will for CSA is by offering CSA-related resources to governments. However, politicians likely need to see that the programs are effective and sustainable before they offer real support. Countries sometimes struggle to coordinate across dozens of CSA projects, and the short-term nature of many projects is another obstacle. However, politicians pretty much everywhere like to take credit for effective and popular policy interventions and programs. They will throw their support behind such programs.

Dick Tinsley: As you look at policy and rely on government inputs, please note that most African countries have virtually no tax base and thus are financially stalled with limits the access to farmers to less than 10%. You might want to review the webpages: <http://smallholderagriculture.agsci.colostate.edu/financially-suppressed-economy-2/> : <http://smallholderagriculture.agsci.colostate.edu/financially-stalled-governments/>

Gilbert Kamiyala - MEL Specialist USAID/Malawi: I think talking of a green revolution in Africa among the various policy drivers that can guide and expedite the process policies around land should not be ignored of course water users associations Vs water rights come into play for irrigation technologies well balanced with improved varieties of crops. Improving the seed systems in Africa will integrate well with other policy options.

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Yes, thanks for your comments, Gilbert

Lorraine Weatherspoon: Need to increase in agriculture but also increase in culturally acceptable nutritious food because dietary diversity is still a serious problem and in Rwanda stunting (chronic under nutrition) is still a problem. Does policy need to include opportunities or support for nutrition education as well?

Dick Tinsley: Do high valued crops equal high profit crops? Or are there major quality concerns in high value crops that requires extra labor that is most like not available to smallholder farmers.

<http://smallholderagriculture.agsci.colostate.edu/highvalued/>

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Good comment and question, Lorraine. We've got it in the hold!

Dick Tinsley: before going into high value and value chain isn't it necessary to address the operational limits mentioned earlier so farmers are producing more and thus have more commodity to move up the value chain

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): We're looking to keep this to a short time frame today, and so any questions that we don't get to, we will highlight in a blog post

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): we received a good number of questions in advance, and have been answering those throughout

Lorraine Weatherspoon: Markets are important because smallholder staple foods are not necessarily always consumed but used as income. Therefore access to markets with diverse affordable foods as Jim points out is important. We are now also seeing disturbing increases in diet-related non-communicable diseases. Big problem e.g. in Malawi is disproportionately high rates of Type 2 diabetes

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Be on the lookout for the recording and the transcript in your inbox - I know that I will want to read the transcript myself! So much great info from Jim!

Eric Raile: Another participant asked about managing climate change in Africa as a part of Africa's Green revolution. Climate-smart agriculture is clearly part of the answer. Temperature increases and precipitation variability are problems that are not going to disappear. Local scientists will need to track changes carefully. That information will need to be disseminated quickly and effectively. Producers will need to adapt quickly, oftentimes upending tradition. New seeds and planting methods are important. New infrastructure will need to be built (e.g., irrigation, food refrigeration).

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Lorraine, yes, these are challenges

Charles Moss: Recent research on impact of coffee value chains -

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00036846.2016.1265076>.

Charles Moss: Recent research on impact of value chains on employment shares -

http://file.scirp.org/Html/2-7402971_63806.htm

Eric Raile: With regard to stakeholder engagement, stakeholders also need to see financial and/or caloric benefits of making changes. Participatory modes of project implementation are helpful, as well.

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Thank you, Charles

Gilbert Kamiyala - MEL Specialist USAID/Malawi: Policies around agro-output markets need to protect smallholder farmers due to the sizes of their output quantities even in the face of good market prices (attractive/high prices) if the state interferes a lot it can negatively affect the market adversely on the part of

smallholder farmers. The value chain approach can better work by identifying production interventions, processing (post harvest) and marketing. On production CSA is very critical, landscapes restoration

Anwar Naseem: For those in the DC area interested in attending the conference that Jim had mentioned, the details are here: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2017/10/11/disruptive-innovations-value-chains-and-rural-development>

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): And thank you, Eric, for adding to some of the answers

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): <https://agrilinks.org>

Julie MacCartee (USAID/BFS): Thanks for joining!

Anwar Naseem: thanks

Gilbert Kamiyala - MEL Specialist USAID/Malawi: Thanks

Charles Moss: Research on value chain and share of income spent on food <http://www.mdpi.com/2225-1146/4/2/22>

AV Tech: Please join us again online for our next Agrilinks event: <https://www.agrilinks.org/event/sanitary-and-phytosanitary-sps-issues-achieving-global-food-security-strategy-cases-fall>