

Transforming Agriculture Conference

IFPRI's Ghana Strategy Support Program

November 8 – 9, 2012

Labadi Hotel, Accra, Ghana

Objectives

The overarching issue the Ghana Strategy Support Program (GSSP) has been examining over the last few years is how to transform agriculture in Ghana, with possible applications to other African countries. The objective of the conference is to share with stakeholders the key results that emerge from synthesis of findings of various activities. The conference will examine five key issues.

- The meaning of agricultural transformation and its implication for economic transformation
- The political economy of investments/expenditures in agriculture
- The role of governments in terms of policies, investments, and service provision
- Private sector development
- The relevance of capacity and knowledge systems for effective development and implementation of strategies

Participatory approach

The conference will be organized around a number of panel discussions. The panels will include authors and relevant commentators from both the private sector and government. The panel discussion will begin with 2-minute presentations by authors followed by comments by other panelists and general discussion.

Day One – Thursday, November 8

9:00–9:30	Introduction Welcome and overview Vision and strategies	Xinshen Diao Shashi Kolavalli Hon. Ernest Debrah
9:30–10:30	What does transformation mean? 1. Economic transformation: labor movement to higher productivity sectors – natural resource sectors, exchange rates and flexible labor markets 2. Transformation in Ghana: service-led urbanization and lagging industrialization 3. Transformation at the farm level: profitability, incentives and scale	Chair: Hon. Ahmed Yakubu Alhassan Margaret McMillan Xinshen Diao Alejandro Nin Pratt Ramatu Al-Hassan
10:30–11:30	Are African governments serious about agriculture? 1. Trends and patterns in agricultural expenditures 2. Incentives under CAADP 3. How are donors responding?	Chair: David Atwood Sam Benin Regina Birner Mawuli Gaddah Janine Cocker
11:30–12:00	Coffee break	

12:00–1:00	Productivity challenges <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A decade of growth but largely through resource reallocation and prices; productivity and its relevance for competitiveness and technology 2. Productivity change among smallholders: the case of rice production in the Kpong Irrigation System 3. Organizing smallholders to overcome market failures: performance of farmer-based organizations 	Chair: Olaf Kula Alejandro Nin Pratt Hiro Takeshima Rebecca Funk James Kombiok Mathew Armah
1:00–2:00	Lunch	
2:00–4:00	Seeds, draft animals and machines <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beyond seed law, what is required for private sector development? 2. State role in mechanization and viability of mechanization service centers 3. Animal traction 	Chair: Ramatu Al-Hassan Robert Tripp Xinshen Diao Nazaire Houssou Ben Kemetse Alabi Bortey
4:00–4:30	Coffee break	
4:30–6:00	Property rights and market institutions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land Markets: do customary land secretariats work? 2. Managing risk in agriculture 3. The role of the state in management of cocoa 4. Distributional impact of food prices 	Chair: Derek Byerlee Hosaena Hagos Marcella Vigneri Nick Minot Philip Amara
6:00	Reception At Labadi Hotel immediately following conference	

Day Two – Friday, November 9

9:00–10:00	The state as a provider 1. New Directions for Investments in National Agricultural Research System 2. Ghana's public investments	Chair: Emmanuel Owusu-Bennoah Catherine Ragasa Walter Alhassan Hon. Ahmed Yakubu Alhassan Matthew Armah
10:00–11:00	Role of agro-processing in industrialization: what are the binding constraints? 1. Tomato processing: import substitution? 2. Blue Skies: processing targeting niche export markets 3. Ethiopian leather value chain: foreign investment, local firms and competition	Chair: Fenton Sands Shashi Kolavalli Margaret McMillan Francis Mulangu Fritz Gockel
11:00–11:30	Coffee break	
11:30–12:30	Bringing evidence to policymaking 1. Reflections on influencing policies and strategies 2. ReSAKSS experience	Chair: Felix Asante Shashi Kolavalli Sam Benin Hon. Owusu Afriyie Akoto Lena Otoo Philip Abayore
12:30–1:00	Strengthening organizational capacity for development Is capacity a limitation: Approaches for strengthening organizations	Chair: Samuel Adams Shashi Kolavalli Suresh Babu Hon. Owusu Afriyie Akoto
1:00–2:00	Lunch	
2:00–3:30	Entrepreneurship in transformation Smallholder subsistence farmer Commercial farmer Agribusiness	Chair: Antony Chapoto Sonia Slavinski Samford Mahamadu Kofi Anku
3:30–4:00	Coffee break	
4:00–5:30	Closing session Synthesis/key issues emerging Policy implications Research issues	Chair: Derek Byerlee David Atwood Atta Agyepong Lambert Abusah