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Reflection on All Africa Conference on Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020

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Abstract: The momentum generated by the Kampala 2020 All Africa Conference output together with the follow up activities have had positive impact on many African governments, regional institutions and internationally. Among its many positive outcomes, the Conference has served to put the issues of food and nutrition security squarely on the African development Agenda by underscoring its critical role in healthy lives, in particular the management of HIV/AIDS. It also recognized that food and nutrition security is inextricably linked not just to traditional agriculture but also development in education, natural resources management, infrastructures, market information systems, micro and macro-economic conditions and trade. Of significant importance is the accelerated integration of food and nutrition security into broader agricultural development programs by regional institutions (COMESA, IGAD, SADC, ECOWAS, EAC, North Africa Regional body and continental body, (NEPAD in its CAADP and AU Commission) as well as into national agricultural modernization programs. The identification of commodity successes and community bright spots for replication across the continent should help avoid duplication and can speed up the rate of achieving food and nutrition security in Africa. Food safety and quality issues are essential component of access to markets and trade at international, regional and national levels. It is therefore, imperative to develop the 3Cs – **competitiveness** of supply capacities, **conformity** with market requirements and **connectivity** to markets to accelerate regional and international trade in food and foodstuff. However, there are challenges that need to be overcome in order to tackle the tasks of achieving food and nutrition security. These challenges include budget allocation to agriculture nutrition; developing partnership with clear roles, capacity building of stakeholders and institutions; empowering of organized communities for contract farming and trade; change in attitude; scaling up research and technology development and transformation of Africa's home grown "private entrepreneurs" into true responsible private sector. All the above challenges call for enlightened and committed political leadership and responsible law makers working in partnership with all stakeholders to propel the processes of achieving food and nutrition security in Africa by 2020 under stable, peaceful and conducive policy environment.

Introduction

There is a growing recognition that food and nutrition security remain Africa's most fundamental challenge. (Benson, 2004; von Braun et al, 1999, Mohamed Salih, 1994. Against an alarming backdrop of hunger, malnutrition and poverty, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) facilitated an all-Africa Conference, which brought together stakeholders from more than 50 countries to deliberate on how to bring about change to assure food and nutrition security.

The all-Africa Conference under the theme: **Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020**; sub-theme **"Prioritizing Actions, Strengthening Actors, and Facilitating Partnerships"**, was held on April 1-3, 2004. It was organized by the 2020 Vision Initiative of IFPRI, co-hosted by the Government of Uganda and co-sponsored by more than a dozen organizations. The planning and program of the meeting were guided by a Conference Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. J.J Otim, Senior Advisor to Uganda's President Yoweri K. Museveni and also President of the Agricultural Council of Uganda.

Participation

More than 500 traditional and new actors from over 50 countries participated in the event. Participants representing a variety of stakeholders – policy makers and advisors; government officials; ministers;

parliamentarians; key actors in non-governmental and community based organizations; leaders in business and industry, heads of regional organizations/institutions; farmers, researchers and academics, directors of bilateral and multilateral international agencies and media – engaged in wide-ranging discussions on how to improve Africa’s food and nutrition situation.

Seventy-two percent of the registered participants were from Africa while the remaining came from Europe and North America as well as Asia and Latin America. Regional representation from within Africa showed 60 percent coming from East and Central Africa, of which slightly more than half were from the host country, Uganda, 19 percent from West Africa, 16 percent from Southern Africa, and 5 percent from North Africa. One quarter of the participants were women. Participants at the Conference brought a range of perspectives and experiences; represented major disciplines and sectors, including but not limited to agriculture, rural development, education, health, nutrition, environment/natural resources, information technology, finance, and trade; and spanned a wide variety of key stakeholder groups. The breakdown of participants can be seen in *Figures 1 and 2*.

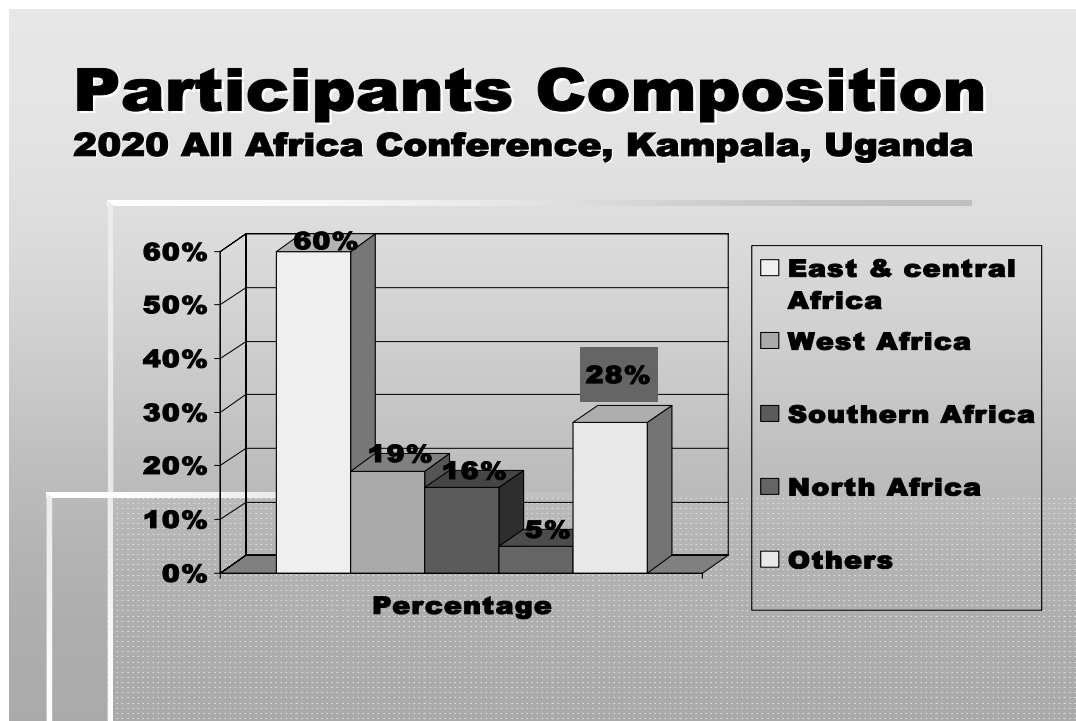


Figure1: Regional Participation in the Conference

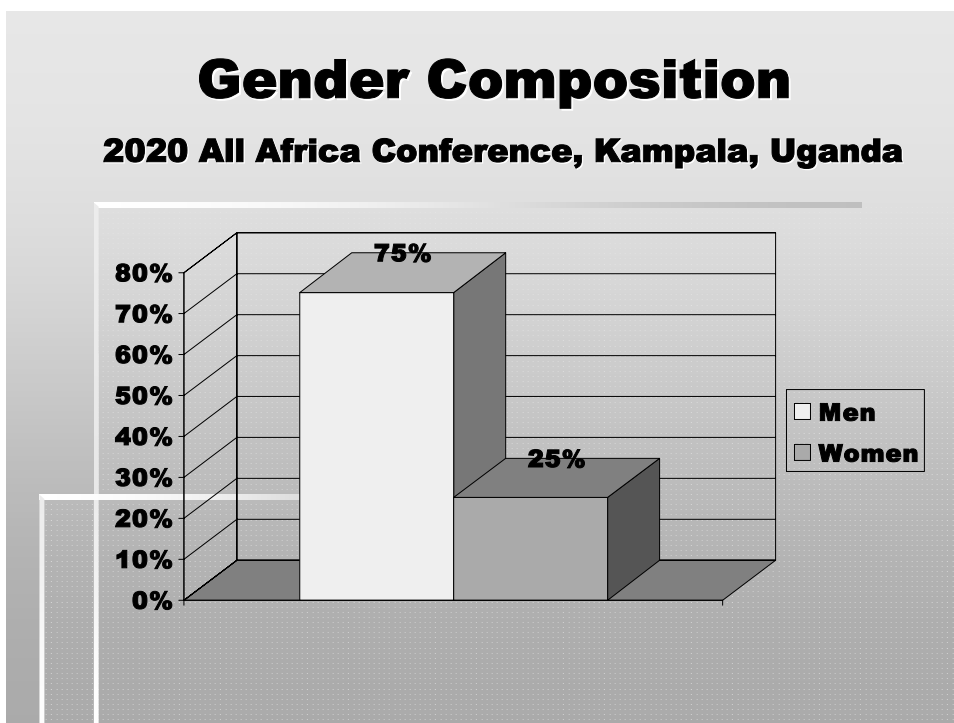


Figure 2: Gender Participation in the Conference.

Lead-In Events to the Conference

On December 1-3, 2003, IFPRI together with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung (InWEnt), and Centre Technique de Coopération Agricole et Rurale/Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) co-hosted a conference on **"Successes in African Agriculture: Building for the Future"** in Pretoria, South Africa. More than 60 high-level policymakers, senior researchers, and representatives from farmer groups, the private sector, and international development agencies, under the chairmanship of CAC member, Minister Kisamba-Mugerwa of Uganda, discussed how best to multiply successes in African agriculture. A shared statement of findings—identifying priorities for future policy action necessary to trigger and sustain agricultural development on the continent—was issued at the end of the Conference. Following the Pretoria Conference, a document **"Building on Successes in African Agriculture,"** edited by Steven Haggblade, was prepared and released at the 2020 Africa Conference in Kampala. The Pretoria Conference therefore, made an important contribution to the 2020 Africa Conference in terms of lessons learned about concrete and innovative strategies to stimulate African agriculture and thereby influence food and nutrition security in Africa.

In January 2004, a regional workshop on **Food and Nutrition Security Policies for West Africa: Implementation Issues and Research Agenda** was jointly organized by IFPRI, Center of Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD), and Institute of Rural Economy (IER) in cooperation with Sécurité Alimentaire Durable en Afrique de l'Ouest Centrale (SADAOC Foundation). The workshop gathered approximately 70 participants in Bamako, Mali to identify priority options for assuring food and nutrition security in West Africa. Following the meeting, a synthesis was prepared and shared at the 2020 Africa Conference in Kampala. The workshop, which succeeded in identifying regional research priorities for West Africa to move forward in assuring food and nutrition security, directly fed into the Conference in Kampala. The full proceedings of the Conference will soon be released by IFPRI.

Impact of the Conference

The momentum generated by the 2020 Africa Conference has catalyzed several exciting follow up meetings and activities, including the development of a **Way Forward Statement** designed as a set of guidelines, or a framework, pointing the way forward to a food and nutrition secure Africa. The Statement, along with other /conference follow up, is serving to ensure that the outcomes and output achieved at the Conference are not only disseminated throughout Africa and the world, but that they are contributing to the ongoing efforts by individuals and institutions/organizations to ensure healthy and productive lives for all Africans.

Among its many positive outcomes, the Conference served to put food and nutrition security squarely on African development agenda (e.g. agricultural development programs of NEPAD/CAADP, COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS, and EAC) and those of national governments. All have now embraced food and nutrition security by underscoring its crucial role in healthy lives, particularly in the management of HIV/AIDS. The Conference also recognized the critical roles of farmers, private entrepreneurship, civil society; science and technologies in enhancing agricultural productivity and nutrition. It further recognized that food and nutrition security are inextricably linked not just to agriculture but to development in education, natural resources management, macro/micro - economic conditions and trade.

Follow up Activities

The Conference Advisory Committee (CAC) has taken the lead in mainstreaming the results of the Conference in their networks and fora. CAC members have made special efforts to brief the three African Presidents who attended the Conference and key African leaders on the outcome and the **Way Forward Statement**. President Museveni, who was briefed extensively on Conference outcomes by the CAC Chair, took the lead in briefing other Heads of States, who were invited to participate in the Conference but unable to attend, by sending them information on the Conference, including the **Way Forward Statement**.

The CAC Chair and members also briefed President Obasanjo and President Wade respectively in early June, 2004. Furthermore, Presidents Museveni, Obasanjo, and Wade participated in the G-8 Sea Island Summit in U.S.A and briefed members of the G-8 who commended the Kampala 2020 Africa Conference and welcomed the high priority Africans are placing on raising agricultural productivity, trade and promoting broad-based rural development as sustainable ways of reducing poverty, eliminating hunger and malnutrition.

President Obasanjo also facilitated a meeting between Dr. John J. Otim/Prof. Achi Atsain and the ECOWAS Executive Secretary to further mainstream the **Way Forward Statement** into West African processes. Subsequently, CAC members from West Africa participated in a Ministerial Conference on "**Harnessing Science and Technology to Increase Agricultural Productivity in Africa: West African Perspectives**" held in Ouagadougou from June 21-23, 2004. CAC members also participated in the Presidential Symposium on "**Innovative Approaches to Meeting the Hunger Millennium Development Goal in Africa**," which was held as a precursor to the African Union Summit in early July 2004 in Addis Ababa. At this seminar, IFPRI's Director General, Dr. Joachim von Braun, presented the outcomes of the Conference and the **Way Forward Statement**. In his opening remarks at the seminar, Prime Minister Meles of Ethiopia commended and drew attention of the participants which included UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, Director General of FAO, Jack Diouf and President Museveni among other distinguished leaders to the 2020 Africa Conference. Thereafter, CAC members participated in the subsequent African Union Summit and related meetings in Addis Ababa.

Following successful West Africa and Addis Ababa trip, Dr. John J. Otim and Harris Mule traveled to Lusaka, Zambia and met Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Secretary General of COMESA and his senior staff. The purpose of the mission was threefold. First, to appraise the COMESA officials of the nature and outcome of the April 1-3, 2004, Kampala Conference. Second, to explore whether and how COMESA officials could use the outcome and recommendations of the Conference. Third, to explore the feasibility of cooperation/collaboration between IFPRI and COMESA in areas of food and nutrition policy research and trade issues.

During the meeting, it was found that the Kampala Conference has had a major impact on COMESA as it catalyzed the establishment of a food and nutrition Security Unit within the COMESA Agriculture section.

The Secretary General of COMESA revealed that there were great opportunities for collaboration with IFPRI in a number of areas especially in food and nutrition policies and trade policies in agricultural commodities. Encouraged by the above positive responses, the CAC chair and members will continue to engage in more follow up activities with the African Union and other regional and continental organizations at least up to December, 2004.

At international level, IFPRI itself has also taken steps to follow up to the 2020 Africa Conference. In addition to preparing a comprehensive proceedings volume and publishing various background papers and policy briefs prepared for and after the Conference, IFPRI is actively undertaking the following:-

- Communicating the Conference results to key stakeholders, including the international and donor communities;
- Providing background support to the Conference Advisory Committee, which has decided to remain active for at least the rest of the year;
- Revisiting its strategy for research, policy communications, and capacity building in Africa based on Conference deliberations; and
- Using its increasing presence on the ground in Africa to support these activities.

On behalf of Uganda Government, Posta Uganda produced and released into circulation, commemorative stamps as part of the government commitment to create awareness among the public and international community on the importance of food and nutrition security in Africa.

The Social-Political Challenges to Achieving Food and Nutrition Security in Africa

While the scientific, technological and financial constraints to achieving food and nutrition security have been highlighted in many fora and documents, the socio-political and economic cobweb is usually glossed over. This section focuses on the latter. Currently, the socio-economic and political anatomy of Africa is characterized by weak institutions and democratic impulse as well as lack of sustained economic growth nurtured or driven by indigenous private sector that can guarantee food and nutrition security among others. The reasons for this state of affairs are many but the key ones are considered below.

First, 70 – 80% of our people are peasants who are poorly informed and organised as a result whenever they are oppressed or exploited their exit option is withdrawing into less-productive subsistence agriculture or into leisure with costly consequences. They neither argue their case nor take to the village or trading centre streets to demonstrate against their exploitation/oppression. In other words, instead of confronting their problems they gloss over them thereby leaving the problems to linger on at their own expense. This sad state of affairs calls for urgent need to empower small-holder farmers through capacity building and getting organized to influence policies, markets prices and undertake contract farming.

Second is the crisis of the majority educated elite which is akin to that of the peasantry. In the case of elite whenever a regime starts plundering their country's resources or marginalizing them, they only whisper. When the impact hits them directly like the peasants, they rarely stand up in time to defend their rights to ensure involvement in enlightened government. The majority would rather choose the exit option of either going abroad or joining NGOs/CBOs thereby giving the plunderers legroom to consolidate themselves. The few who oppose the regime by standing up to defend the establishment of an enlightened government, usually their efforts are fragmented, too late and too little to make positive impact. Hence stagnation or even retrogression in socio-economic development in their countries continue. Changes in attitude and approach by the elite are therefore, required to problem solving.

Third, the growth of the global NGOs and local NGOs/CBOs in Africa has provided not only opportunities for elite in Africa to find short-term exit option into prosperous careers but also often times it has encouraged the adoption of the ostrich strategy of burying its head in the sand believing that it would not be beaten by the incoming rain. A good example is seen when governments are plundering the treasury and ruining the economies due to mismanagement occasioned by greed and political patronage. In such a situation, the majority of elite in Africa tend to convert the sad state of affairs into an opportunity of getting jobs elsewhere at the expense of the rural poor and their country future. This tendency needs to be revisited and corrective measures taken to discourage it.

Fourth, the acclaimed good impact of the International Development Assistance and activities of International NGOs on the poor in Africa, usually mask certain negative impact on the socio-economic development. Such negative impact often arises when all the financial resources are channeled through governments and not effectively monitored. The resources usually end up acting as subsidies for the incompetence and mismanagement. For example when a regime is in fiscal crisis of paying salaries to the armies, lubricating the patronage networks within and outside the country or paying for basic social services it usually turns to development partners for resources to fund the budget deficit in the name of development. But such resources are not usually channeled to productive sector like agriculture leading to food and nutrition insecurity.

Fifth, with the policies of liberalization, privatization and deregulation sweeping the continent of Africa, one would have expected African governments to put greater emphasis on nurturing home grown Africa's private sector with vested interests in democratic government and economic growth. This is yet to be seen because indigenous private sector in Africa is still weak and unable to shoulder the role governments have passed on to them. As a result whenever things go bad the private sector does not seriously struggle to defend enlightened government by advocating for better policies and accountability. Their usual exit option is either to remain mute or work around the problem in a non-sustainable way. For example, by exploiting the low levels of government institutional development they spark off the growth of sprawling and illegal markets. In short, instead of seeing bad government policies as a threat that must be addressed, Africa's home-grown entrepreneurs find in such policies an opportunity to make quick millions of money using untransparent ways at the expense of the future. This practice also discourage joint business venture with foreign companies due to lack of trust.

The situation is made more helpless when all the foreign aid is channeled to and through the governments which give the States enormous resources. So in contradiction to the policy of privatization and liberalization the States remain the largest consumers and formal employers. What this means is that the most profitable businesses for both home grown and foreign private enterprises are with the State. Such State dependant private sector are not sustainable when government changes and thus cannot be relied upon as engine of economic growth and protector of enlightened governments as well as to assure food and nutrition security on the continent.

Sixth, the most successful component of the private sector in Africa comprises mainly of foreign investors (e.g Asians, Lebanese or multinational Corporations). Being alien business companies whose primary interests are driven by profit making, they are usually not keen to spear head domestic food and nutrition programs. Such foreign companies also, tend to pursue only minimal approaches to politics (i.e stability that enable them make money). If a bad government (e.g one led by a dictator) assures them of making money, foreign companies are usually willing to endorse such a dictatorial government at the expense of the needs of the citizens of Africa.

Thus if on the one hand non-citizen Asians, multinational and or Lebanese companies dominate both the productive and service sectors in Africa while on the other hand, indigenous Africans bureaucrats and politicians dominate bureaucracy and politics, a situation is created where the two camps face formidable challenge in forming a meaningful cooperative alliance for sustainable development. This is because the two camps lack shared social ties leading to predatory co-existence with mutual suspicion. It is not surprising therefore, that such co-existence is usually characterised by bribery, known in polite language as exchange of material favours. Unlike under African traditions where such exchange of materials symbolises deepening social and cultural values, the bribery is designed to overcome the perceived lingering hostile stalemate in business processes. This is characteristic of any predatory co-existence where speculative business transactions rule over sustainable development.

Seventh, arising from the culture of bribery, there has emerged on the continent of Africa, a successful local "business class" located with governments or closely linked to them who care more about money than sustainable development of their respective countries. This class is known as Clandestine Commission Agents (CCA) who act as intermediaries between senior government officials and politicians on the one hand and the owners of companies on the other end. The CCA has permeated the economy and social sectors of Africa and is the engine for corruption growth on the continent. In fact CCA insidiously do

everything possible to keep the institutions of government weak because they make big monies under such environment. Indeed the new breed of commission agents thrive best on Africa's institutionally weak and unaccountable governments (central, regional or local).

The above challenges undermine not only the institutional and democratic development but also are impediment to sustainable economic growth and food and nutrition security in Africa. Thus in addition to the urgent need to enhance productivity through science, technology transfer and replication of success stories, improving domestic and regional trade and empowering communities (farmers, women and youth), it is imperative to address the challenges posed by the above scenarios. Development of indigenous vibrant private sector with patriotic outlook is vital if we are to achieve food and nutrition security in Africa as well as reduce poverty.

The current predatory commission agents that pose as the new class of indigenous "private sector" need to be transformed into genuine entrepreneurs by encouraging them to invest in productive and service sectors. This way they will be able to develop vested interests in institutionally strong and accountable African States and also in transforming themselves into responsible private sectors which among others will promote sustainable food and nutrition security in Africa. AAAE can play constructive role by analyzing the phenomena outlined above in terms of socio-economic costs to the transformation of agriculture and make advisory notes to governments for action.

Opportunities for Moving Ahead

Experience accumulated over the recent past clearly indicates that there are great opportunities for Africa to achieve food and nutrition security. It calls for change from **business as usual** approach to innovative implementation of actions, strengthening actors and developing partnerships under a peaceful and secure environment. Priority areas for actions include (i) putting food and nutrition security squarely on Africa development agenda (ii) improving access to markets and trade, (iii) strengthening science and technology, (iv) undertaking value addition, (v) empowering farming communities, and (vi) replicating commodity successes and community bright spots (Kherallah et al, 2002, Haggbade, 2004)

(i) Putting Food and Nutrition Security on Africa Development Agenda.

Hitherto, much emphasis has been placed on food security only without adequate attention to the condition of the millions of Africans, who although may be consuming sufficient quantity of food to meet their energy requirements, have poor-quality diets with insufficient or unbalanced levels of minerals and vitamins to assure healthy, productive lives. For Africa, the continuing human costs of inadequate food and nutrition are enormous.

While Conference follow-up activities and commemorative stamps in circulation produced by Uganda Government to underscore the importance of food and nutrition are helping to create public awareness, more needs to be done. So, to further enhance the positive momentum created by the Kampala Conference, CAC is seeking to initiate an **Africa Food and Nutrition Day**, for Africans by Africans, to raise public awareness and get commitment from policymakers to integrate food and nutrition security in Africa's agriculture, health and education development agenda. It is encouraging to note that NEPAD, ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, IGAD, COMESA and a number of national governments have now included food and nutrition security in their development agenda. However, a lot remain to be done.

An Africa Food and Nutrition Day could commemorate the Kampala 2020 Africa Conference, which sparked recognition of the importance of food and nutrition. It could be held each year in April, and could also serve as a build up to World Food Day in October. It is envisioned that the day would take a holistic approach focusing on food and nutrition by examining the many issues that affect them including but not

limited to health care, sanitation, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, education, infrastructure, science and technology, trade, food safety etc.

(ii) Improving Access to markets and Trade

To stimulate rapid adoption of appropriate technologies, value addition to agricultural commodities and farmers' empowerment for the achievement of food and nutrition security, there must be access to domestic, regional and international markets and trade. The traditional approach of laying emphasis only on food self sufficiency through increased production and sale of raw agricultural commodities to international and regional markets are not good business nor sustainable ways of assuring food and nutrition security as well as reducing poverty in Africa.

In light of the above, accelerating agricultural growth in Africa through access to markets and trade require a number of priority actions need to be undertaken to re-vitalize domestic markets and enhance access to regional and international markets. These actions include harmonization of trade regulations/laws, improving national and cross border infrastructures and development of efficient agricultural market information systems.

Furthermore, to better succeed in the highly competitive regional and international markets, agri-businesses in each of the African countries to produce according to the client country standards and regulations. Regional integration can provide a powerful tool for the creation of bigger markets through harmonized standards and also allows economies of scale. It also contributes to a reduction of costs to individual countries through shared infrastructures and facilities. One good example is the setting-up of regional accreditation system and regional calibration or testing services which would operate at regional and international standards and would be internationally recognized.

Food safety and quality must be essential components of sustainable development in Africa. With globalization and increasing trade between countries, regions and internationally the issues of food safety and quality must take on renewed prominence in Africa's priority action because they are important both for domestic consumers and for exporters who are required to meet quality and food safety standards in competitive global markets, in particular on the European, North American and Japanese markets.

Within the framework of the World Trade Organisation, increasing emphasis is being given to international trade in food and other agricultural products because export of these products is of outmost importance to many developing countries. In Europe where there have been food scares, new principles are being applied where all factors related to the food chain are taken into account from "farm to fork" as it is popularly known. Africa cannot afford to ignore these realities.

Therefore, when we talk of achieving food and nutrition security in Africa through trade we must focus on developing the 3Cs – **competitiveness** of supply capacities, promotion of **conformity** with market requirements and enhancement of **connectivity** to the markets through integration with the international and regional trade framework and rules as well as through the harmonization of customs procedures and mechanisms. (Foss, 2004)

The present situation in respect to quality and product safety regulations in Africa allows domestic suppliers to get away with low quality products. This will not be good enough for the more demanding export markets (Ivan Foss, 2004). Many Africa countries face many constraints to value addition development of regional and international export trade. For example, many countries find difficulties in complying with technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. These constraints must be overcome because globalization has resulted in a stronger focus on food and foodstuff quality including product safety.

Each country must therefore ensure that its food and foodstuff are competitive in the target market with respect to quality, availability and price. The **Just-in-Time Export Strategy** developed by Ivan Foss (see Figure 2) is essential for success because all the elements in figure 2 need to be understood and acted upon in time for a successful food and foodstuff export business.(Foss, 2004)

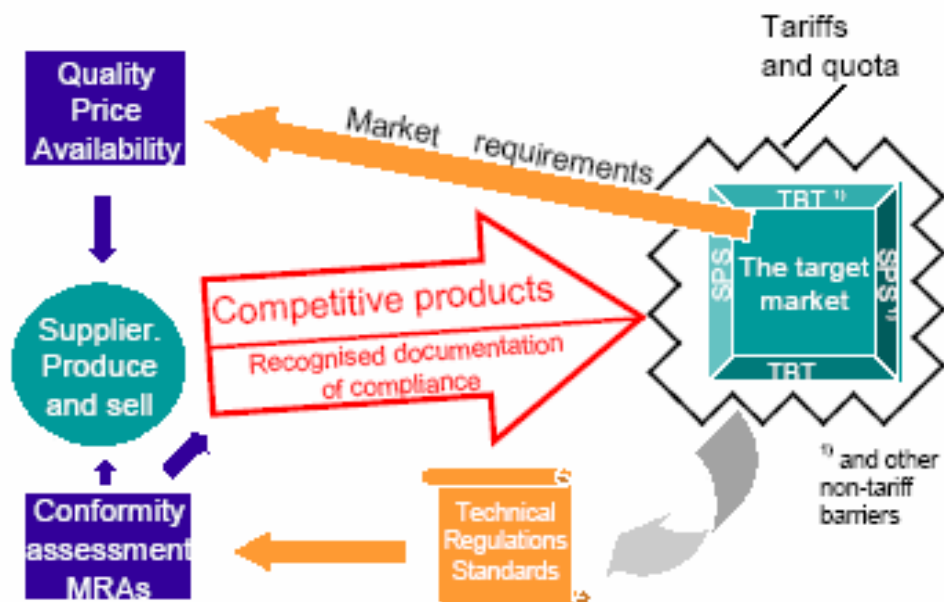


Figure 3: The Just-in-Time Export Strategy

(iii) Science and Technology

Africa now recognizes science and technology as vital tools for boosting agricultural production and value addition through agro-processing. This recognition calls for revitalization and strengthening of agricultural research. Accomplishing such a task will require addressing many issues including sustainable financing, capacity strengthening, demand-led approach, and regional collaboration in research.

It is encouraging to note that already national agricultural research systems (NARS) in Africa have formed sub-regional organizations (SROs) which in turn have formed the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) as an apex organization to provide continent-wide perspective on agricultural research for development (Monty, 2004).

A good example of a sub-regional research organization working closely with NARS and FARA is the Association for strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA). It believes in collaborative research to address common constraints that cut across several countries. Such an approach enhances complementarities; reduces duplication and increase the efficiency of agricultural research through the optimum use of human, financial and other research resources. Besides it promotes regional integration and trade by facilitating the spillover and transfer of technology among cooperating countries. This is the kind of research collaboration that will enable Africa make meaningful inroads into Africa's food and nutrition security as well as poverty reduction.

(iv) Commodity Successes and Community Bright Spots

Recent analysis of commodity successes and community "bright spots" have demonstrated that given an enabling environment, food and nutrition security as well as poverty reduction can be achieved through the private sector and at community level in relatively short period (Mate, 2004; Noble et al 2004, Teff, 2004; Male and Jayne, 2004; Haggblade, 2004; Reijnders and Waters – Bayer, 2001)

Community bright spots is defined here as a community or group of individuals that through group initiatives have achieved higher level of food, nutrition security under an enabling environment.

From the analysis it has emerged that despite differing innovations there were commonalities in the major factors associated with commodity and farming community successes. The ingredients and processes include the following:-

- i) Availability of stable markets and good prices. Income raised through the sale of surplus crops/value added products enabled the community and private entrepreneurs to meet their financial obligations and improved the household livelihood.
- ii) Education and training of the communities enabled them to acquire knowledge and skills needed to do farming as a business.
- iii) Injection of new technologies such as improved crop varieties, water harvesting and irrigation equipments/techniques, establishment of processing plants etc. enabled farmers and private entrepreneurs to increase crop yield, add value to commodities and undertake contract farming efficiently.
- iv) The injection of ignition fund through credit schemes to jump – start the innovation enabled both private sector and small-holder farmers to raise the initial capital required.
- v) Supporting infrastructures especially community and feeder roads and market information systems were basic factors for the successes.
- vi) Facilitation by government institutions, private sector and civil society organizations in the area of training, extension services, input supplies, conducive policy environment etc. contributed to successes at the community level.
- vii) In all the community bright spots good land tenure system enabled individual ownership with title deeds and was a stimulant to increased production and efficient natural resources management.
- viii) The involvement of women and youth gave the community group initiatives momentum and vigour.
- ix) The community group innovations took place where water availability was assured. With unstable climatic changes the importance of water availability for production need not be over emphasized.

The above factors that underlie commodity successes (e.g maize, horticulture, dairy, fish) and community bright spots can and should be adapted for replication across Africa to accelerate progress towards achieving food and nutrition security on the continent.

Conclusion

The momentum generated by the Kampala 2020 All Africa Conference Output together with the follow up activities have had positive impact on many Africa governments, regional institutions and internationally. Among its many positive outcomes, the Conference has served to put the issues of food and nutrition security squarely on the African development Agenda by underscoring its critical role in healthy lives, in particular the management of HIV/AIDS.

It also recognised that food and nutrition security is inextricably linked not just to traditional agriculture but also development in education, natural resources management, infrastructures, market information systems, micro and macro-economic conditions and trade.

Of significant importance is the accelerated integration of food and nutrition security into broader agricultural development programs by regional institutions (COMESA, IGAD, SADC, ECOWAS, EAC, North Africa Regional body) and by continental body, (NEPAD/CAADP and AU Commission) as well as into national agricultural modernisation programs. The identification of commodity successes and community bright spots for replication across the continent should help avoid duplication and can speed up the rate of achieving food and nutrition security in Africa.

Food safety and quality issues are essential component of access to markets and trade at international, regional and national levels. It is therefore, imperative to develop the 3Cs – **competitiveness** of supplies capacities, **conformity** with market requirements and **connectivity** to markets to accelerate regional and international trade in food and foodstuff.

However, there are challenges that need to be overcome in order to tackle the tasks of achieving food and nutrition security. These challenges include budget allocation to agriculture and nutrition; developing partnership with clear roles, capacity building of stakeholders and institutions; empowering of organised communities for contract farming and trade; change in attitude; scaling up research and technology development and transformation of Africa's home grown "private entrepreneurs" into true responsible private sector.

All the above challenges call for enlightened and committed political leadership and responsible law makers working in partnership with all stakeholders under stable, peaceful and conducive policy environment to propel the processes of achieving food and nutrition security in Africa by 2020.

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