Food for Thought: The Case for African Agricultural Universities

By "Coach Vance" Trefethen

***Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reform its foreign aid.***

Summary: There are 3 ways to help hungry people in Africa. Sending bags of food is one way, and while sometimes needed, it doesn't do anything to solve the long-term problem and they will soon be hungry again. Another way is telling them how to grow more food. This assumes we know their countries and geographies better than they do, and after many years of colonialism and patronizing talking-down-to by Westerners, Africans are tired of it. The third way is the one we really need: Building up Africa's own educational institutions so they can research and develop their own agricultural improvements locally. Congress had a bill 10 years ago, which did not pass, that contained a plan for funding partnerships between US colleges and educational institutions in Africa. These partnerships would have built up the capacity of African agriculture experts to do their own research and development on agriculture. R&D is the key to agricultural productivity, and enabling Africa to do its own R&D is the key to making it effective in the African context. They've had enough outsiders coming in and telling them what to do. It's time for Africans to research what works best for them and then reap the rewards.

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There are 3 ways to help hungry people in Africa. Sending bags of food is one way, and while sometimes needed, it doesn't do anything to solve the long-term problem and they will soon be hungry again. Another way is tell them how to grow more food. This assumes we know their countries and geographies better than they do, and after many years of colonialism and patronizing talking-down-to by Westerners, Africans are tired of it. The third way is the one we really need: Building up Africa's own educational institutions so they can research and develop their own agricultural improvements locally. Please join us as we gain the comparative advantages of affirming that: The United States federal government should substantially reform its foreign aid.

OBSERVATION 1. DEFINITIONS

Substantial

Merriam Webster Online Dict. copyright 2018 <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/substantial>

"important, essential"

Foreign Aid

Britannica copyright 2018 <https://www.britannica.com/topic/foreign-aid>

**Foreign aid**, the international transfer of [capital](https://www.britannica.com/topic/capital-economics), goods, or services from a country or [international organization](https://www.britannica.com/topic/international-organization) for the benefit of the recipient country or its population.

OBSERVATION 2. INHERENCY. Current US foreign aid policies regarding agricultural technology and productivity are inadequate

FACT 1. Research and Development inadequate

Sub-Saharan Africa has inadequate agricultural research

Marcia MacNeil 2017 (AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS *Communications Specialist, with the International Food Policy Research Institute*) 9 June 2017 " Why agricultural research investment lags in Africa south of the Sahara" <http://www.ifpri.org/blog/why-agricultural-research-investment-lags-africa-south-sahara>

The [latest data collection and analysis](http://asti.cgiar.org/publications/ssa-synthesis-report-2017) from Africa south of the Sahara (SSA) by the IFPRI-led [Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI)](http://asti.cgiar.org/) exposes a persistent problem and a drag on sustainable development efforts: Growth in research spending is lower than for other kinds of agricultural investment.

FACT 2. African institutions bypassed

US agricultural foreign aid policy does not support African-led institutes or universities

Dr. Thomas Jayne 2017 (University Foundation Professor and Co-Director, Alliance for African Partnership Michigan State University) Testimony before the United States House Committee on Agriculture “American Investment in Global Food Security” June 7, 2017 <https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/6.7.2017_jayne_testimony.pdf>

Few African-led policy institutes or universities have been centerpieces of long-term US capacity building support. Despite some notable successes in recent years whereby US development assistance has built the capacity of local policy research institutes, progress has generally been very limited. The perception that these institutions are weak has effectively sidelined them in policy-oriented grant-making processes. Instead, significant grants intended to assist in developing agricultural policy, monitoring and data generation capacity have been allocated to international organizations that provide important services to local organizations, such as ministries of agriculture, but that devote a small fraction of their budgets to helping African organizations deliver such services themselves.

FACT 3. Agricultural education aid not enacted

Congress had the opportunity to aid agricultural education but failed to do it

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As a response to the global food crisis in 2007–9, several members of the 111th US Congress introduced legislation that would have created a US global food security strategy that included the establishment of a Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension (HECTARE) Program designed to develop and sustain the education, research, and institutional support for a developing country’s agricultural science and education sector. The bill was not enacted into law.

OBSERVATION 3. The PLAN, to be enacted by Congress & the President

1. Congress passes Title III only, the "University Partnerships for Agriculture" of the "Global Food Security Act of 2009"with all dates in the bill advanced to account for the date of an Affirmative ballot.  
2. USAID enacts Higher Education Collaboration partnerships throughout sub-Saharan Africa following the IAGRI Tanzanian model.  
3. Funding is $100 million the first year, increasing by $100 million each year until the 5th year at $500 million, then remaining at $500 million thereafter. Funding from up to 1% cut in the federal Dept. of Education.  
4. Enforcement through normal means, penalties for fraud or abuse the same as under existing law.  
5. Plan takes effect next October 1.  
And all Affirmative speeches may clarify.

OBSERVATION 4. The ADVANTAGES

ADVANTAGE 1. African Agricultural Development

A. Sustainable development. Helping African research institutions is the key to sustainable agricultural productivity increase

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US development assistance can better leverage the expertise of US Agriculture in this process. The United States has one of the most dynamic and productive agricultural systems in the world. Historians and economists point to the land-grant university system, the US Cooperative Extension Service, the USDA and its Economic Research Service (ERS), and other public agricultural institutions as major drivers of US agricultural growth. The United States is capable of providing needed leadership and expertise to support the development of strong agricultural institutions in Africa – a precondition for the region’s sustainable development. Bottom line: We propose that the main thrust of a new approach be to shift the role of US institutions from providing the technologies, services, and answers to equipping African organizations to do so themselves. Over the span of the next one or two decades, this will be the most effective and cost-saving approach to achieving win-win outcomes for African and US interests.

B. Proven Success. A pilot program in Tanzania has proven successful and should be followed

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A single HECTARE-type program has been established, and that one, Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI) is funded at the USAID Mission level in Tanzania. Ohio State leads a consortium of six US universities—Michigan State, Virginia Tech, University of Florida, Tuskegee, Iowa State—working to build both human and institutional capacity at Tanzania’s Sokoine University. The iAGRI program has been very successful in helping the Tanzanian agricultural sector, and represents an example worth emulating.

C. The Impact: African agricultural improvements benefit both African and US economic growth

Thomas Jayne, Chance Kabaghe & Isaac Minde 2017. (Thomas Jayne is University Foundation Professor at Michigan State University; Chance Kabaghe is Executive Director of the Zambian Association of Manufacturers, board chair of the Zambian Agricultural Commodity Exchange, and former Deputy Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Zambia. Isaac Minde is Professor, MSU and Deputy Director of the Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI), based in Morogoro, Tanzania) ENHANCING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA (article is undated but date was determined by internal references to events and data within the text, referencing January 2017) <https://www.agweb.com/assets/1/6/enhancingusefforts_print.pdf>

Why should US citizens care? Investing in Africa’s economic growth is in the United States’ national interest. US exports of agricultural products to sub-Saharan Africa totaled $2.6 billion in 2013 and will grow rapidly if Africa continues to develop. By 2050, sub-Saharan Africa will contain 2.1 billion people—22 percent of the world’s population compared to 12 percent today. Rapidly rising population and incomes in Africa will increase the demand for a safe, affordable, and sustainable global food supply. US farmers and agribusiness can help themselves by helping Africa to meet its rapidly growing food needs, by investing in the region’s agri-food systems, and by supporting a sustainable and efficient global food system.

ADVANTAGE 2. Reduced Hunger in Africa

A. Link: Hunger in Africa is increasing

Prof. Calestous Juma 2018 (Professor of the Practice of International Development at Harvard Univ. He died in Dec 2017 and this article was published a few weeks after his death) AFRICA NEEDS A NEW APPROACH IN ITS BATTLE AGAINST HUNGER 1 Jan 2018 <https://psmag.com/social-justice/a-new-approach-to-hunger-in-africa>

A quarter of the world's hungry people are in sub-Saharan Africa and the numbers are growing. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of hungry—those [in](http://www.ifpri.org/publication/2017-global-hunger-index-inequalities-hunger) distress and unable to access enough calories for a healthy and productive life—[grew](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7967e.pdf) from 20.8 percent to 22.7 percent. The number of undernourished [rose from](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7967e.pdf) 200 million to 224 million out of a total [population](http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/africa-population/) of 1.2 billion.

B. Link: Agricultural productivity is key to reducing hunger

OUSMANE BADIANE & JOACHIM VON BRAUN 2017 ([Badiane](https://www.ifpri.org/profile/ousmane-badiane) *- International Food Policy Research Institute's Africa Director. Von Braun - Director of the*[Center for Development Research](http://www.zef.de/index.php?id=zefhome)*at the University of Bonn*) 4 May 2017 " Unlocking the potential of agriculture for Africa to reduce poverty and end hunger" <http://www.ifpri.org/blog/unlocking-potential-agriculture-africa-reduce-poverty-and-end-hunger>

In spite of the continent’s vast natural wealth, [African farmers produce far less food per hectare than the world average](http://reports.weforum.org/africa-competitiveness-report-2015/chapter-2-1-transforming-africas-agriculture-to-improve-competitiveness/), and food production, distribution and consumption systems are not functioning optimally. Millions of people live with hunger and malnutrition, and there is too much waste and inefficiency in the farming sector. We know that food insecurity can be caused by a number of factors including poverty, conflict, drought, climate change, low agricultural productivity and disease. To help prevent future widespread food insecurity, agriculture experts and policymakers must focus on driving up productivity, improving diet and nutrition, boosting resilience, increasing inclusivity, enhancing access to information, and better managing economic, political and environmental risks.

C. Solvency: Investment in R&D produces high returns in agricultural productivity

Dr. Samuel Benin, Linden McBride, and Dr. Tewodaj Mogues . 2016 (Benin - Ph.D.,*Agricultural* and Resource Economics. McBride - PhD candidate in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell Univ. Mogues - Senior Research Fellow, Development Strategy and Governance Division, International Food Policy Research Institute ) Why do African countries underinvest in agricultural R&D? In Agricultural research in Africa: Investing in future harvests. Chapter 5. Pp. 109-138. Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).  <http://ebrary.ifpri.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15738coll2/id/130574>

High returns to agricultural R&D expenditures have been documented in many parts of the world (Chapter 3, this volume). These returns can be observed in terms of agricultural growth, GDP growth, and poverty reduction, and they are higher than the returns to other types of agricultural and nonagricultural expenditures. In particular, the returns to agricultural R&D investment in terms of poverty and malnutrition objectives are high compared with the returns to nonagricultural R&D expenditures. This section reviews the evidence on the relative returns to agricultural R&D investment in Africa. Thirtle, Lin, and Piesse (2003) found that agricultural research in Africa has played a substantial role in agricultural growth when compared with other factors contributing to agricultural growth. The mean and weighted mean returns of general agricultural R&D spending—calculated as R&D expenditures per hectare in constant 1995 U.S. dollars and including 44 observations from 22 African countries—are 18 and 22 percent, respectively, for Africa as a whole. Country-level returns range from –12 percent in Lesotho, to 57 percent in Morocco. Agricultural R&D expenditures are one of the larger contributors to yields in Africa, based on a comparison of the impact of agricultural R&D expenditures with other agricultural inputs, such as (1) fertilizer, measured in 100 grams per hectare of arable land; (2) labor, measured in agricultural value-added per agricultural worker (in constant 1995 U.S. dollars); (3) machinery, measured in number of tractors per hectare of arable land; and (4) land quality, measured using an index from Wiebe et al. (2000).

ADVANTAGE 3. Political and economic stability

A. Link: Plan promotes political and economic stability in the region

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Moreover, sustainable agricultural development in Africa promotes political and economic stability in the region. These are the benefits that would emerge from strong partnerships between African governments, the private sector and millions of African farmers and entrepreneurs supported by enlightened US development assistance programs. The United States can help the stronger African universities and research institutes to carry out many of the land-grant activities that US universities undertake at home, providing know-how and extension support to farmers and local agri-business firms, and training the next generation of young Africans to contribute to their nations’ development. Once enacted, the proposals made here will take time to generate their full impact. This is why there is no time to waste in getting started.

B. Impact: US national security

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In addition to creating US export opportunities, sustainable agricultural development in Africa also promotes political and economic stability in the region, contributing to US national security. It is increasingly understood that effective US development assistance programs will avert the need for subsequent and more costly military and disaster response expenditures. Ultimately, a country that can ensure adequate food for its people is more likely to be politically stable. Retired military leaders in the US agree. On 27 February 2017, 120 retired three and four-star US military generals and admirals sent a letter to Congressional leadership to share their “strong conviction that elevating and strengthening diplomacy and development alongside defence are critical to keeping America safe.”

2A Evidence: Agricultural Universities

TOPICALITY / DEFINITIONS

Text of Title III Section 299 of the bill. Suggest you also print the entire bill and bring with you to the debate

US Congress official web site 2009. "S.384 Global Food Security Act of 2009" 31 May 2009 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/384/text>

SEC. 299. HIGHER EDUCATION COLLABORATION FOR TECHNOLOGY, AGRICULTURE, RESEARCH AND EXTENSION. “(a) Purpose.—The purpose of this section is to provide United States assistance for the development of higher educational capacity in the field of agriculture in a manner that builds and strengthens institutional and human capacity of developing countries in the field of agriculture and related sciences, promotes entrepreneurship and economic growth in rural areas, increases agricultural productivity and sustainable agriculture, alleviates poverty and malnutrition, promotes nutritional diversity, and promotes good government through the participation of United States institutions of higher education.   
“(b) Establishment Of Program.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a program to be known as the Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension (in this section referred to as the ‘Program’ or ‘HECTARE’) for the purpose of providing assistance in support of policies and programs in eligible countries that advance hunger alleviation by increasing agricultural productivity and rural development through partnerships with institutions of higher education.   
“(c) Definitions.—In this section:   
“(1) ASSISTANCE PLAN.—The term ‘assistance plan’ means a multi-year plan developed by the United States Agency for International Development in coordination with a foreign government or university to provide assistance for agricultural education programs at a country or regional level.  
“(2) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’ means the Board for Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension.  
“(3) HECTARE SCHOOL.—The term ‘HECTARE school’ means an institution of higher education in an eligible country that is designated as the lead educational institution for purposes of a country or regional assistance plan.  
“(4) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ‘eligible country’ means a country that meets the requirements of subsection (g).  
“(d) Form Of Assistance.—Assistance may be provided under this section in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to or with eligible entities described in subsection (h) and shall be provided pursuant to assistance plans as described in subsection (f). Assistance may not be provided under this section in the form of loans.  
“(e) Use Of Funds.—Assistance provided under this section may be used to provide support to HECTARE schools or, where appropriate, other institutions of higher education in eligible countries for the following purposes: “(1) Academic exchange programs for students, faculty members, extension educators, and school administrators with HECTARE schools, other institutions of higher education, and United States universities. “(2) Strengthening agricultural sciences curricula, including vocational training. “(3) Increasing research capacity, output, and quality. “(4) Improving the dissemination of information and technology to farmers and others engaged in agriculture. “(5) Identifying leading educational institutions uniquely able to serve as regional hubs to promote the purposes specified in paragraphs (1) through (4) and promoting cooperation between such institutions and other educational institutions through regional networks.

“(f) Assistance Plans.—  
“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide assistance under this section pursuant to an assistance plan developed in coordination with an eligible country that establishes a multi-year plan for significantly improving agricultural productivity and investing in rural economies through the strengthening of agricultural programs at institutions of higher education.  
 “(2) ELEMENTS.—An assistance plan should— “(A) take into account the national development strategy of the eligible country or the participation of the eligible country in a regional development strategy; “(B) identify an institution of higher education for designation as a HECTARE school that has programs in agricultural sciences; “(C) identify the partnership between the HECTARE school and other institutions of higher education that may include schools or research institutions in the United States and foreign countries, government agencies, including local and regional governments, private business, and civil society; “(D) identify appropriate channels for dissemination of farming techniques to the field; and “(E) identify the plans of the HECTARE school for— “(i) conducting agricultural research and technology transfer and extension;“(ii) strengthening the teaching of agriculture science, including programs aimed at curriculum, faculty, and students; “(iii) improving university administration; and “(iv) establishing methods by which to engage with other institutions of higher education to fulfill the purposes of the Program.  
“(g) Eligible Countries.— “(1) CRITERIA.—The Administrator shall, in consultation with the Board, identify eligible countries for purposes of this section. Such determination shall be based, to the maximum extent possible, upon objective and quantifiable indicators of a country’s demonstrated commitment to the following: “(A) Investments in, and support for, rural economies, including the protection of private property rights, the promotion of private sector growth and sustainable management of natural resources, the rights of women, and the well-being of women and children. “(B) Raising agricultural productivity of small- and medium-sized farms. “(C) Alleviating poverty and hunger among the entire population. “(D) Strengthening the system of higher education with regard to agricultural sciences, teaching, research, and technology. “(E) The wide dissemination of farming techniques, especially to small- and medium-sized farmers. “(F) Good governance, transparency, and anti-corruption policies.“(2) ADDITIONAL FACTORS.—The Administrator, in selecting eligible countries, shall consider— “(A) the extent to which the country clearly meets or exceeds the eligibility criteria;“(B) the opportunity to increase agricultural productivity, enhance human and institutional capacity, and reduce hunger in the country; “(C) the availability of funds to carry out this section; “(D) the percentage of the country’s population that faces chronic food insecurity; and “(E) the existence of an institution of higher education in a food secure country that can serve as a regional hub for assistance to other schools in need of assistance in countries experiencing chronic food insecurity. “(h) Eligible Entities.—Entities eligible for assistance under this section are the following: “(1) United States universities working in partnership with HECTARE schools in eligible countries. “(2) HECTARE schools and other institutions of higher education in eligible countries. “(3) Nongovernmental organizations or private entities.“(i) Authorization Of Appropriations.—Of the amounts authorized pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under section 201(b) of the Global Food Security Act of 2009, there is authorized There is authorized to be appropriated to the President for the purpose of carrying out activities under this section— “(1) $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; “(2) $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; “(3) $300,000,000 for fiscal year 2012; “(4) $400,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and “(5) $500,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.  
“(j) Disclosure Of Funding Received By United States Universities.—The Administrator shall prescribe regulations providing for the utilization by United States universities of alternative sources of public and private funding to carry out the purposes of this title and requiring the disclosure, not less than annually, of all such alternative funding, both prospective and received.  
“SEC. 299A. ANNUAL REPORT. “Not later than October 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to Congress a report detailing the activities carried out under this title during the preceding fiscal year and containing a projection of programs and activities to be conducted in the following year.”.

INHERENCY

Status Quo assistance is not as effective as the Plan: It's more cost effective to work through African institutions than through NGO's, private companies and US universities

Dr. Thomas Jayne 2017 (University Foundation Professor and Co-Director, Alliance for African Partnership Michigan State University) Testimony before the United States House Committee on Agriculture “American Investment in Global Food Security” June 7, 2017 <https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/6.7.2017_jayne_testimony.pdf>

If we are looking to transform Agricultural Development to generate better results, with fewer financial resources, helping African institutions more directly to do more will allow US dollars to go farther. Grantees raise revenues through overhead rates on the grant and enhance preeminent capacity in particular thematic areas. Overhead charges may account for as much as 50 percent of the total value of US grants to some grantees, such as international organizations, universities, NGOs, and private for-profit companies and interests may not align with the grantor’s interest in building capacity to phase out over time. As a result, capacity building assistance is often less effective than it could be. International universities play an important ‘public goods’ role in producing policy-relevant knowledge and new technologies that can be successfully adapted in developing countries and by discovering emerging trends that shape public discussions on important topics in African agriculture. Continuing this type of work is crucial but should be done in a way that engages local African institutions in the process as equal partners.

Status Quo African universities are underfunded

Prof. Calestous Juma 2016 (Professor of the Practice of International Development at Harvard Univ.) Feb 2016 Education, Research, and Innovation in Africa <https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/files/JumaDP-Education-Africa2.pdf>

Reforming African universities to bring them in line with STISA-2024 will be one of the most challenging tasks in Africa’s technological transforma­tion. The current low level of investment in higher technical training and research is a barrier. The policy agenda recommends allocating 1% of each country’s GDP to research and development (R&D). This focus is a politi­cally appealing and simplified recommendation that fails to account for the magnitude of the challenges. Additional approaches are needed to harness knowledge for broader development.

Research & Development within African agricultural research systems is underfunded and should be a priority for US assistance

Dr. Thomas Jayne 2017 (University Foundation Professor and Co-Director, Alliance for African Partnership Michigan State University) Testimony before the United States House Committee on Agriculture “American Investment in Global Food Security” June 7, 2017 <https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/6.7.2017_jayne_testimony.pdf>

Of all types of agricultural expenditures, spending on research and development is among the most crucial to growth, yet most African agricultural research systems are woefully underfunded. Their weaknesses constrain the pace of agricultural productivity growth in the region. Asian farmers benefit from the fact that their governments spend over eight times more annually on agricultural R&D on average than African governments. Not surprisingly, the pace of agricultural productivity growth in Asia has eclipsed that of Africa over the last several decades. And because the benefits of most agricultural R&D investments accrue broadly and cannot be captured by firms investing in them, there is a strong role for sustained support for public R&D. Enhancing the capacity of African public agricultural R&D and extension systems should be a priority area for US assistance.

Private sector initiatives alone won't solve for agriculture development in Africa

Thomas Jayne, Chance Kabaghe & Isaac Minde 2017. (Thomas Jayne is University Foundation Professor at Michigan State University; Chance Kabaghe is Executive Director of the Zambian Association of Manufacturers, board chair of the Zambian Agricultural Commodity Exchange, and former Deputy Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Zambia. Isaac Minde is Professor, MSU and Deputy Director of the Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI), based in Morogoro, Tanzania) ENHANCING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA (article is undated but date was determined by internal references to events and data within the text, referencing January 2017) <https://www.agweb.com/assets/1/6/enhancingusefforts_print.pdf>

But agricultural growth rarely happens spontaneously or solely through private sector initiative, as crucial as private investment is. Private investment responds to incentives. A sustainable approach to developing mutual US-Africa interests will require greater support for the development of African public institutions to nurture the next generation of African educators, farm extension workers, research scientists, entrepreneurs and workers in agri-food systems, and policy makers.

Status Quo projects fail because we're outsiders telling them how to do things.

**[Plan is different because we fund their schools and institutions and they develop the techniques themselves]**

Thomas Jayne, Chance Kabaghe & Isaac Minde 2017. (Thomas Jayne is University Foundation Professor at Michigan State University; Chance Kabaghe is Executive Director of the Zambian Association of Manufacturers, board chair of the Zambian Agricultural Commodity Exchange, and former Deputy Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Zambia. Isaac Minde is Professor, MSU and Deputy Director of the Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI), based in Morogoro, Tanzania) ENHANCING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA (article is undated but date was determined by internal references to events and data within the text, referencing January 2017) <https://www.agweb.com/assets/1/6/enhancingusefforts_print.pdf>

African policy makers’ utilization of policy analysis depends on their confidence in the objectivity of those providing the analysis. External technical assistance has had some successes, but its track record in influencing agricultural policies has been limited. In 2007, the World Bank concluded that technical assistance in support of agricultural policy reform—the vast majority of it undertaken by external analysts—has been among the least effective forms of development assistance in Africa. Because Africa has a longstanding history of powerful external influence in its political and economic affairs, persisting even after formal colonial ties with European countries were severed, some African leaders understandably distrust outside technical assistance perceived to reflect interests not fully in tune with African priorities.

Status Quo African research funding fails because it doesn't build long-term institutional capacity

Thomas Jayne, Chance Kabaghe & Isaac Minde 2017. (Thomas Jayne is University Foundation Professor at Michigan State University; Chance Kabaghe is Executive Director of the Zambian Association of Manufacturers, board chair of the Zambian Agricultural Commodity Exchange, and former Deputy Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Zambia. Isaac Minde is Professor, MSU and Deputy Director of the Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI), based in Morogoro, Tanzania) ENHANCING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA (article is undated but date was determined by internal references to events and data within the text, referencing January 2017) <https://www.agweb.com/assets/1/6/enhancingusefforts_print.pdf>

Prime recipients of US grant funds often attempt to build the capacity of African research institutes by contracting with individuals within them. At any given time, the majority of researchers in a particular institute or university department may be funded through individual consulting contracts on a disparate range of issues as determined by the prime recipients of bilateral and multilateral donors as well as the major international development foundations. This current mode of involvement of African institutes in agricultural policy work may retard their ability to develop their own coherent policy analysis programs and may do little to build longterm capacity of the institutes themselves (Omamo, 2003).

CAADP fails because it's outsiders telling Africans what to do

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It may be too early to establish that African leaders strongly value the recent creation of autonomous African-led agricultural policy institutes, but such institutes in a handful of countries have proven to be quite effective in influencing policy even within a short time frame. Lack of local African ownership and insufficient local voice in policy analysis may explain why some African governments have distanced themselves from policy prescriptions developed by otherwise well-meaning initiatives such as the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

CAADP fails with several barriers:

Ousmane Badiane, Samuel Benin, Tsitsi Makombe 2016 (with International Food Policy Research Institute) Chapter 2 - Strengthening the Continental Agricultural Agenda and Accountability Framework The Road from Maputo to Malabo, AFRICA AGRICULTURE STATUS REPORT 2016 <http://agra.org/aasr2016/public/assr.pdf>

Notwithstanding the progress highlighted, JSR assessments facilitated by ReSAKSS reveal that the quality and pace of CAADP implementation have fallen short of the measures required for substantial and sustained progress in several countries. Key obstacles to faster progress are observed in the following areas: Meeting required funding levels: Although nearly all countries have significantly increased funding to agriculture, only 5 have met the CAADP 10 percent budget share target during 2008–2014. It is therefore not surprising that most NAIPs have not been fully funded. This is compounded by slow and weak implementation and hence slow disbursement of funds, as revealed in country JSR assessment reports. Capacities for technical analysis and M&E: Program implementation has also been hindered by limited staff and technical capacities.

CGIAR fails: It bypasses African public sector organizations and perpetuates a cycle that weakens them further

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Similarly, little progress has been made to rehabilitate weak national agricultural extension systems. US development assistance has typically addressed these weaknesses by providing grants to organizations in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) system, private development-oriented companies, and international universities. The US makes such grants with the intention of developing alternative modes of technology transfer and extension; it projects the view that African public sector organizations are too dysfunctional to generate positive outcomes from direct grants within the short timeframes that grantees are typically given. As a result, R&D projects are often structured to bypass or work around public sector organizations. The setting up of parallel channels to meet 3- to 5-year grant objectives is understandable in some respects, but it leads to a vicious circle in which African public sector agencies are perceived as too weak to contribute productively to grant activities and outcomes, justifying future grants that bypass them again.

"Feed the Future" not sufficient: It doesn't build educational and institutional capacity

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Global leaders committed themselves to addressing global food security at a G-8 Summit in L’Aquila Italy in 2009. The United States responded by establishing the Feed the Future program. While comprehensive in a number of areas such as support for women and smallholder farmers, market development, and access to seeds, a strong higher education and human and institutional capacity program is absent.

"Status Quo has Western knowledge sharing" – Fine, but we need to build African institutions too. It's not "either/or"

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The task of transforming African agriculture should shift to provide and expect leadership from African experts and organizations, even as both international and local players remain involved. It is not an either/or issue but one of achieving the appropriate balance, with cooperative partnerships at the foundation (Omamo, 2003)

SOLVENCY

IAGRI (HECTARE model) in Tanzania should be expanded throughout sub-Saharan Africa

Dr. Thomas Jayne 2017 (University Foundation Professor and Co-Director, Alliance for African Partnership Michigan State University) Testimony before the United States House Committee on Agriculture “American Investment in Global Food Security” June 7, 2017 <https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/6.7.2017_jayne_testimony.pdf>

Expand the Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI) program model established at the University of Sokoine in Tanzania to a multi-country pilot to scale up teaching, research, and extension programs that address organizational development challenges by providing management training and matching local organizations with sister organizations in the US, at a fraction of the cost of training in the US. The iAGRI project represents a unique combination of fostering a range of agricultural institutions within Tanzania, and similar efforts should be encouraged elsewhere in SubSaharan Africa. In addition to costing a fraction of what a US based model costs, the host African institutions provide resources, further leveraging US dollars and building sustainability.

Tanzania IAGRI/HECTARE model is successful and should be copied

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A single HECTARE-type program has been established, and that one, Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI) is funded at the USAID Mission level in Tanzania. Ohio State leads a consortium of six US universities—Michigan State, Virginia Tech, University of Florida, Tuskegee, Iowa State—working to build both human and institutional capacity at Tanzania’s Sokoine University. The iAGRI program has been very successful in helping the Tanzanian agricultural sector, and represents an example worth emulating.

Time to start building capacity of African colleges and institutions for agricultural research, and we need to do it now

Dr. Thomas Jayne 2017 (University Foundation Professor and Co-Director, Alliance for African Partnership Michigan State University) Testimony before the United States House Committee on Agriculture “American Investment in Global Food Security” June 7, 2017 <https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/6.7.2017_jayne_testimony.pdf>

The time has arrived for the United States to invest directly in long-term capacity building of African universities, agricultural training colleges, vocational schools, national crop science research organizations, extension systems, and policy analysis institutes. International private companies, universities, and NGOs have important but increasingly redefined roles that put African institutions in the lead. African governments should show greater financial commitment to building the capacity of public agricultural organizations, and innovative cost-sharing arrangements among foundations, international development agencies, and African governments might provide scope for leveraging greater mutual commitment to the development of African agri-food systems. There are strong mutually shared aspirations in the United States and throughout Africa that could be realized through more effective support for African agriculture. US and African governments share core interests in promoting private investment in African food systems in partnership with local firms and in supporting fair agricultural trade and a sustainable global food system. It is increasingly recognized that African agricultural exports in the majority of cases do not compete with US farm interests and are in most instances highly complementary. Rising farm incomes in Africa promote growth multipliers that expand private investment and employment opportunities in African agri-food systems and more broadly in the rest of the economy. Rising incomes in Africa also promote US export interests.

We need to stop telling Africans how to farm and help their institutions research it themselves like ours did

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The United States has one of the most dynamic and productive agricultural systems in the world. Historians and economists point to the land-grant university system, the US Cooperative Extension Service, the USDA and its Economic Research Service (ERS), and other public agricultural institutions as major drivers of US agricultural growth (Bonnen, 1989). The United States is capable of providing needed leadership and expertise to support institutional capacity building in Africa. We propose that the main thrust of a new approach be to shift the role of US public institutions from providing the technologies, services, and answers themselves to helping African organizations to do so.

Funding African universities' research is key to improving agricultural productivity

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Of all types of agricultural expenditures, spending on research and development is among the most crucial to growth (Pardey et al., 2006), yet most African agricultural research systems are woefully underfunded. Their weaknesses constrain the pace of agricultural productivity growth in the region (Fuglie and Rada, 2013).

Africa has skilled, well-educated experts who could build up their agricultural systems, and the US needs to engage them

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Third, many more Africans today possess professional white-collar job expertise related to agri-food systems, both in the public and private sectors, than 25 years ago. Many were educated internationally, possess valuable technical skills, and can operate effectively in their countries given superior knowledge of local culture and connections with centers of local power. Many are eloquent spokespersons and advocates for African agriculture and are capable of influencing African government investments. An effective US strategy toward African agricultural development will engage African professionals more than in the past.

International R&D isn't enough: We need US investment in African public agricultural R&D

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International R&D cannot fully substitute for local R&D because agricultural technologies, especially seed varieties, must be locally adapted, tested, and refined to suit Africa’s highly varied agro-ecological conditions. Building African R&D capacity requires sustained investments in people, facilities, lab equipment, budgets for field trials, and other recurrent costs. And because the benefits of most agricultural R&D investments accrue broadly and cannot be captured by firms investing in them, there is a strong role for sustained support for public R&D. Building the capacity of strong African public agricultural R&D and extension systems should be a priority area for US assistance.

African governments want US involvement in developing agriculture locally

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There are strong mutually shared aspirations in the United States and throughout Africa that could be realized through more effective support for African agriculture. US and African governments share core interests in promoting private investment in African food systems in partnership with local firms and in supporting fair agricultural trade and a sustainable global food system.

Plan is more cost-effective: It costs 5 times more to train African agricultural researchers in the US than to train them in Africa

Dr. Thomas Jayne 2017 (University Foundation Professor and Co-Director, Alliance for African Partnership Michigan State University) Testimony before the United States House Committee on Agriculture “American Investment in Global Food Security” June 7, 2017 <https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/6.7.2017_jayne_testimony.pdf>

US capacity building programs must also consider how to make long-term individual capacity building more cost-effective. The training of scientists with master’s and doctoral degrees at major land-grant universities in the United States costs at least $65,000 per year when relocation costs, living costs, and overheads are counted. The total cost is five times that of producing MSc graduates through the African Economic Research Consortium’s Collaborative Masters in Agricultural Economics and Extension sandwich program at the University of Pretoria, which may serve as a model for experimentation and replication in other fields. This program allows graduate students from developing countries to get classroom training at the University of Pretoria, but conduct field research for their theses in their home countries under the joint supervision of local and international professors. Where regional demand is sufficient, US universities may also consider providing affordable graduate-level training at overseas campuses in collaboration with one or more African universities.

Proven success: Asian governments spend 8x what Africans spend on R&D and got big increase in agricultural productivity

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Asian farmers benefit from the fact that their governments spend over eight times more annually on agricultural R&D on average than African governments. Not surprisingly, the pace of agricultural productivity growth in Asia has eclipsed that of Africa over the last several decades. While advances in ICTs are making it increasingly feasible to provide information to farmers even in the most remote areas, the binding constraint is now an inability to provide farmers with proven “best practices” due to decades of neglect of agricultural research and development, not the inability to communicate with farmers in remote areas.

A/T "Hopeless / problem too big to be solved" – Africa is making progress on agriculture, while more remains to be done

Dr. David S. Ameyaw 2016 (Head of Monitoring and Evaluation, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa) AFRICA AGRICULTURE STATUS REPORT 2016 <http://agra.org/aasr2016/public/assr.pdf>

Africa is making steady progress towards agricultural transformation. In the past decade there has been dramatic transformation in different countries and various localities. There is a noticeable upward shift in expenditure on agriculture by national governments in African countries. African governments have reaffirmed their commitment to prioritizing agriculture in their development agendas and are investing an increased proportion of their budgets in the sector from a growing national revenue base. There is evidence of faster growth in agricultural productivity, improved nutrition, and greater job expansion even in the non-farm segments of their economies. The private sector is increasingly investing in agriculture, and the foundations have been laid for a renaissance in Africa’s agriculture, one powered by the enormous progress increasingly evident in farmers who are gaining more options in the seeds they plant, in the fertilizers they use, and in the markets available to purchase their produce. These glimpses of success offer an inspiring new vision of a future Africa in which farming as a struggle to survive gives way to farming as a business that thrives. The process by which an agri-food system transforms over time from being subsistence-oriented and farm-centered into one that is more commercialized, productive, and off-farm centered is taking place in Africa. Much more remains to be done to sustain these gains and truly drive the agricultural transformation needed for Africa’s development, and to ensure a better life for all of its people as laid out in the Malabo Declaration and in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dept of Education budget is $70 billion/year. (1% cut = $700 million)

EDUCATION WEEK 2018. (journalist Andrew Ujifusa) 22 March 2018 " Congress Wants a Record High for Education Spending. But That's Only on Paper" <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/03/congress_wants_a_record_high_for_education_funding_but_only_paper_trump_cut.html>

The omnibus federal spending bill released Wednesday would increase the U.S. Department of Education's discretionary budget by $2.6 billion over current enacted levels, bringing the budget up to $70.9 billion for fiscal 2018. It's the first time in its history that the department's discretionary budget has topped $70 billion, if you leave out the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (also known as the federal stimulus). Contrast that with Trump's request to cut the department's budget by over 13 percent for fiscal 2018, which would have been the single-biggest cut by percentage in the department's history.

INHERENCY: SQ African institutions aren't doing enough research, blocking agricultural productivity gains

SOLEVNCY: If African institutions did more R&D, it would boost agricultural productivity

Nelson Ojijo (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa) Steven Franzel (World Agroforestry Centre) Franklin Simtowe (International maize and Wheat Improvement Centre) Rufaro Madakadze (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa) Apollo Nkwake (African Women in Agricultural Research and Development) Lerato Moleko (Lesotho Millennium Development Agency) 2016 ( ) <http://agra.org/aasr2016/public/assr.pdf> (brackets added)

Innovation generates new and improved technologies that are appropriate and well-targeted, leading to improved productivity. Effective innovation that is systemically transformative requires efficient and effective agricultural research and advisory systems with appropriate research capacity and infrastructure (Beintema & Stads, 2008). The global agricultural R&D spending in the public and private sectors grew steadily by 22 percent during the 2000–2008 period, indicating the increasing recognition of the vitality of agricultural research (Beintema & Stads, 2008). However, investments within SSA [Sub-Saharan Africa] continue to be patchy. For example, total public agricultural R&D spending in the region decreased at an annual average rate of 0.2 percent during the 1990s. This has dire consequences for agricultural productivity and food security. Agricultural advisory services (AAS), also called extension services or rural advisory services, are the activities that provide the information and services needed and demanded by farmers and other actors in rural settings to assist them in developing their own technical, organizational and managerial skills and practices so as to improve their well-being (Christoplos, 2010; GFRAS, 2011). The low adoption of agricultural technologies is widely recognized as a main contributor to low agricultural productivity in SSA. This may be due to several causes such as discrepancy between available technologies and farmers’ needs, lack of credit, marketing constraints and poor policies; but farmers’ knowledge and access to these technologies are critical (Jack 2013). Inadequate and ineffective knowledge-sharing approaches on the supply side and lack of understanding of farmers’ needs and information pathways they currently use on the demand side contribute to a mismatch of information and skills necessary for successful adoption of technologies and access to inputs and markets. Equally important is assessing attitudes and other trade-offs farmers make in choosing whether to adopt a technology. Insights from these will help identify strategies that can be used to improve technology adoption. Capacity, in all its dimensions, is key to effective knowledge generation, dissemination and use for agricultural transformation. Emerging from the CAADP 10-year review and subsequent forward planning, Africa’s capacity to generate knowledge, foster learning, and enable skills development among its workforce is recognized as a game changer in the context of reshaping agriculture and empowering smallholder farmers. However, agricultural research actors are not configured to collectively deliver innovative solutions to agricultural challenges. Moreover, public agricultural research institutions in Africa are producing only a trickle of new technologies that can be used by farmers (Eicher, 2006), although significant progress has been registered over the last decade. Skills in agricultural and agribusiness development remain a fundamental factor for increasing productivity, profitability and competitiveness of Africa’s agriculture

ADVANTAGES

Agricultural improvement is key to long term economic development in Africa

Thomas Jayne, Chance Kabaghe & Isaac Minde 2017. (Thomas Jayne is University Foundation Professor at Michigan State University; Chance Kabaghe is Executive Director of the Zambian Association of Manufacturers, board chair of the Zambian Agricultural Commodity Exchange, and former Deputy Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Zambia. Isaac Minde is Professor, MSU and Deputy Director of the Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI), based in Morogoro, Tanzania) ENHANCING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA (article is undated but date was determined by internal references to events and data within the text, referencing January 2017) <https://www.agweb.com/assets/1/6/enhancingusefforts_print.pdf>

Farming remains the primary source of employment for 65 percent of the region’s population. Poverty rates are declining but remain unacceptably high. Putting more money in the hands of 500 million Africans who rely on farming for their livelihoods will decisively influence the pace of growth in the rest of the economy. Virtually no country in the world has ever transformed its economy from an agrarian economy to a modern one with low poverty rates without sustained agricultural productivity growth.

Violence, mass migration, massive humanitarian costs, and military interventions can be avoided with agricultural institutional aid

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The stakes are high. If the countries of Africa can upgrade their agricultural institutions, they will not only raise living standards and expand employment opportunities but also address social problems borne of youth underemployment and poverty. Leaders need look no further than Syria and other Middle Eastern countries to see how a large population of unemployed and disaffected youth can coalesce into militant groups, potentially leading to widespread violence, mass migration, the creation of fragile states, massive humanitarian expenditures, and US military interventions. Such situations might have been moderated or avoided with earlier well-conceived development support.

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