Negative Brief: African Agricultural Universities - Bad

By Jonathan T. Helton

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

This brief contains arguments – not only against subsidizing African agriculture universities – but also against any case that deals with agricultural improvements in Africa. The NEG strategy will mainly look at big picture reasons why the AFF plan makes the problem worse; it disincentivizes investment from African governments. It also contains analysis of other initiatives that help Africa better than the U.S. government can. The solvency arguments present the multiple reasons why the AFF plan only changes a minute part of the issue. The real reason Africa is not spending on agriculture investment is because their governments are corrupt and inefficient. The plan only masks the real issue and makes it worse in the end. I would suggest running the first inherency argument as well as many solvency arguments as you can in the 1NC. Your framework really hits home when you impact your DAs in the 2NC. Good luck!

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Negative: African Agricultural Universities

INHERENCY

1. African Development Bank

The U.S. is not the only entity in the world that can improve agriculture. Other organizations are doing so. The African Development Bank will have better hands-on experience and knowledge of the localities than the U.S. government – an entire ocean away – will.

Christine Chege and Dr. Melissa Carson 2017 (Post-Doctoral Scientist Agricultural Economist and Nutritionist at Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Washington. Carson – PhD; Managing Director of Dalberg Intelligence. Prepared for the Rockefeller Foundation to support the YieldWise initiative, which aims to reduce post-harvest food loss for African farmers. It is the 9th volume of Food Loss & Waste reports and currently focuses on Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Malawi.) January – March 2017 “Food Loss & Waste Africa” <https://www.dalberg.com/system/files/2017-07/FOOD%20LOSS%20QUARTERLY%20VOL9.pdf>

“Strategic economic investment and development will have significant impact on food and agriculture security. The African Development Bank (AfDB) committed to invest US$24 billion in agricultural transformative projects in Africa over 10 years. Specific AfDB in-country activity include; a US$300 million agribusiness loan project, part of the bank’s Empowering Novel Agri-Business-Led Employment for Youth in African Agriculture (ENABLE Youth) program, aimed to provide skills and opportunities to 800,000 youths in 20 countries, and is established by the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) in Nigeria, and a US$20 million soft commodity finance deal which will enhance purchase of farm inputs and of soft commodities upon harvest from over 10,000 farmers and enhance basic processing of commodities for export by Meridian Consolidated in Southern Africa.”

1. Private industry.

Private industrial innovation is boosting agricultural productivity in Africa

[Ndubuisi Ekekwe](https://hbr.org/search?term=ndubuisi+ekekwe) 2017 (founder of the non-profit [African Institution of Technology](http://www.afrit.org/) and Chairman of Fasmicro Group with interests in technology, finance, and real estate.) 18 May 2017 “How Digital Technology Is Changing Farming in Africa” <https://hbr.org/2017/05/how-digital-technology-is-changing-farming-in-africa>

For example, aerial images from satellites or drones, weather forecasts, and soil sensors are making it possible to manage crop growth in real time. Automated systems provide early warnings if there are deviations from normal growth or other factors. [Zenvus](http://zenvus.com/), a Nigerian precision farming startup (which I own), measures and analyzes soil data like temperature, nutrients, and vegetative health to help farmers apply the right fertilizer and optimally irrigate their farms. The process improves farm productivity and reduces input waste by using analytics to facilitate data-driven farming practices for small-scale farmers. [UjuziKilimo](http://www.ujuzikilimo.com/), a Kenyan startup, uses big data and analytic capabilities to transform farmers into a knowledge-based community, with the goal of improving productivity through precision insights. This helps to adjust irrigation and determine the needs of individual plants. And [SunCulture](http://sunculture.com/), which sells drip irrigation kits that use solar energy to pump water from any source, has made irrigation affordable.

Private industry brings technology to those who need it

[Ndubuisi Ekekwe](https://hbr.org/search?term=ndubuisi+ekekwe) 2017 (founder of the non-profit [African Institution of Technology](http://www.afrit.org/) and Chairman of Fasmicro Group with interests in technology, finance, and real estate.) 18 May 2017 “How Digital Technology Is Changing Farming in Africa” <https://hbr.org/2017/05/how-digital-technology-is-changing-farming-in-africa>

Ghana-based [Farmerline](http://farmerline.co/) and [AgroCenta](http://agrocenta.com/) deploy mobile and web technologies that bring farming advice, weather forecasts, market information, and financial tips to farmers, who are traditionally out of reach, due to barriers in connectivity, literacy, or language. [Sokopepe](https://sokopepe.co.ke/) uses SMS and web tools to offer market information and farm record management services to farmers.

SOLVENCY

1. Timeframe

Before we look at any reforms, it’s important to realize that helping Africa will take time before it results in a stable agricultural situation.

Carl Eicher and Steven Haggblade 2013 (Writing for The Modernizing African Food Systems (MAFS) Consortium. The MAFS Consortium aims to help African agricultural education and training (AET) institutions develop the technical skills and institutional capacity required to modernize African food systems.) April 2013 “The Evolution of Agricultural Education and Training: Global Insights of Relevance for Africa” <http://www.canr.msu.edu/afre/uploads/files/Eicher/mafs_working_paper_4_-_evolution_of_agricultural_education-1.pdf>

The lessons of the past century underscore the critical role of time, learning from international experience and local experimentation in nurturing the co-evolution of technology and institutions in any particular setting. The six country studies revealed that building a system of agricultural institutions is a multi-generational process. The average time required for the U.S., Japan, Denmark, Malaysia, Nigeria and India to develop a productive and financially sustainable system was 40 to 60 years. To be sure, it is possible to develop one or two components of the agricultural knowledge triangle in a time frame of 10 to 20 years. In decades past, when donors financed large-scale human capital development through fellowships for long-term overseas training, developing country governments could focus on strengthening the research and extension arms of the knowledge triangle. But now that donors have slashed overseas training programs, the two-legged research-extension model of agricultural development represents an incomplete and unsustainable model of technology-generation when no consideration is given to human capital replenishment from local and regional universities. Moreover, the multi-generational time frame required to build a system of core AET institutions extends beyond most donor-financed projects.

1. Infrastructure lacking.

Increasing crop yields alone won't solve: The crops rot in the fields because there's no infrastructure to get it to consumers.

Sunil Sanghvi, Roberto Uchoa de Paula and Rupert Simons 2011 (Sanghvi is a director in McKinsey’s Chicago office, where de Paula is a principal; Simons is an alumnus of the London office. McKinsey Insights, a global management consulting firm that serves a broad mix of private, public and social sector institutions.) April 2011 “Four lessons for transforming African agriculture” <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-sector/our-insights/four-lessons-for-transforming-african-agriculture>

Reliable domestic sources of demand are particularly important in countries where poor transport connections or a lack of comparative advantages constrain the ability to export. In Ethiopia, for example, improved seed and good weather led to a surge in maize production in 2002. Farmers couldn’t sell the surplus, however: the country had little export infrastructure, while high domestic-transport costs and low purchasing power made it uneconomic to move the maize to cities or regions with food shortages. Maize prices eventually fell by more than 50 percent, forcing farmers to let the crop rot in the fields. The government’s goal of doubling cereal production will therefore require substantial investment in transport, storage, and processing.

Extension agents lack transportation and housing.

Alunas Mwamakimbula 2014 (thesis submitted to the graduate faculty in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF SCIENCE Major: Agricultural Education (Agricultural Extension Education) from Iowa State Univ) 2014 “Assessment of the factors impacting agricultural extension training programs in Tanzania: a descriptive study” <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=5234&context=etd>

Regarding the role of government, many farmers (77.5%, n = 93) disagreed with the statement that government plays a role in helping farmers through extension services. This finding is in line with several studies that mentioned the inadequacy of government support for extension services in Tanzania (Churi et al. 2012; Mattee, 1994; Mvuna, 2010; MAFC, 2007; Wambura et al., 2012). Farmers interviewed for the present study also mentioned factors such as lack of transportation for extension agents, lack of quality housing for extension agents, as well as a lack of training facilities for extension agents. These findings seem to be the case for many developing countries as pointed out by Tladi-Sekgwama and Tselaesele (2010) in their study conducted in Botswana.

1. Improper food storage

Because of the lack of infrastructure and other factors, Africa has a massive amount of food wasted each year.

*Rachel Cernansky 2015 (freelance journalist in Denver. She writes about agriculture, health, and the environment.)* 1 May 2015 “Wasting Less of Africa’s Harvest in Order to Prosper” <https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/05/01/wasting-less-of-the-harvest-to-prosper-in-africa/>

Last year, Tanzania had exciting news: a bumper harvest of corn. But even as farmers were celebrating — corn is a staple eaten at almost every meal — much of the crop had already been spoiled, having grown moldy or been infested by insects and rodents. The problem was that farmers lacked the capacity to store food safely. Even the government’s national reserve system had run out of space to hold the overflow. Such shortages of capacity persist, and not just in Tanzania. The [Food and Agriculture Organization](https://www.fao.org/docrep/014/mb060e/mb060e.pdf) reports that largely because of a lack of infrastructure for refrigeration, transportation and sanitary, airtight storage, 15 to 20 percent of grain crops in sub-Saharan Africa and about half of fruits and vegetables show spoilage before they reach market.

Small farmers lack the capability to ensure proper storage

*Rachel Cernansky 2015 (freelance journalist in Denver. She writes about agriculture, health, and the environment.)* 1 May 2015 “Wasting Less of Africa’s Harvest in Order to Prosper” <https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/05/01/wasting-less-of-the-harvest-to-prosper-in-africa/>

The fight against hunger in Africa has experienced many successes in boosting agricultural production — from improving seeds to disseminating solar-powered irrigation. It’s only now that agricultural organizations and experts are recognizing that lack of storage represents a major impediment to keeping all those harvests edible. It’s a difficult problem because a vast majority of Africa’s crops are grown by smallholder farmers, who lack the resources to invest in refrigeration or effective storage facilities for staples like corn and beans.

1. Corruption guarantees failure

Corruption is rampant in Africa and causes policy failure

*Professor Al Mariam 2017* (*Al Mariam is professor of political science at California State University, San Bernardino and a constitutional lawyer.) 9 March 2017 “*Trump's suspicion of foreign aid to Africa is right on the money” <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/foreign-policy/323198-trumps-suspicion-of-foreign-aid-to-africa-is-right-on-the>

Indeed, corruption is the principal cause of poor governance and state failure in Africa. [According](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2015/November/eliminating-corruption-is-crucial-to-sustainable-development.html) to the African Union, an “estimate(d) 25 percent of the continent’s GDP (nearly 150 billion dollars) is lost due to corruption.” In 2013, Global Financial Integrity [reported](http://www.gfintegrity.org/storage/gfip/documents/reports/AfricaNetResources/gfi_afdb_iffs_and_the_problem_of_net_resource_transfers_from_africa_1980-2009-web.pdf) between $1.2 trillion and $1.3 trillion has left Africa in illicit financial flows between 1980 and 2009”, roughly [equal](http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/GDP.pdf) to Africa’s gross domestic product for 2014.

Won't get better until transparency improves

[Sydney Steel](http://harvardpolitics.com/author/sydneysteel/) 2016 (Written in The *Harvard Political Review*, America’s preeminent student journal of politics, policy, and culture. The HPR is written and published entirely by Harvard undergraduates and is housed at the [Institute of Politics](http://www.iop.harvard.edu/)*.)* 26 March 2016 “[Technology for Transparency: Cases from Sub-Saharan Africa](http://harvardpolitics.com/world/transparency-in-sub-saharan-africa/)” <http://harvardpolitics.com/world/transparency-in-sub-saharan-africa/>

ONE, an international advocacy organization, has estimated that [$68.6 billion](http://www.one.org/international/issues/transparency/) was lost in sub-Saharan Africa in 2012 due to a lack of transparency in government budgeting. This lack of available information limits the ability of both citizens and NGOs to hold governments and companies accountable, track corruption, and fight poverty. The issue is particularly salient in the sub-Saharan African Region. In the 2009 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, which measures citizens’ perceptions of public corruption, [almost all countries](http://www.right2info.org/resources/publications/technology-for-transparency) in sub-Saharan Africa received “poor” or “extremely poor” scores.

Transparency would help agriculture

[Sydney Steel](http://harvardpolitics.com/author/sydneysteel/) 2016 (Written in The *Harvard Political Review*, America’s preeminent student journal of politics, policy, and culture. The HPR is written and published entirely by Harvard undergraduates and is housed at the [Institute of Politics](http://www.iop.harvard.edu/)*.)* 26 March 2016 “[Technology for Transparency: Cases from Sub-Saharan Africa](http://harvardpolitics.com/world/transparency-in-sub-saharan-africa/)” <http://harvardpolitics.com/world/transparency-in-sub-saharan-africa/>

For sub-Saharan Africa specifically, increased transparency in the public sector and medical and agricultural information could help combat some of the most [pressing challenges](http://www.worldbank.org/html/cgiar/publications/crawford/craw1.pdf) to development, such as poor health services, weak agricultural production, low-quality education, and underdeveloped infrastructure. “Transparency really can make a difference,” Fung explained. “I believe that in the sub-Saharan African context, there is information that, if it were available, people could act on it to better their lives.”

1. Fractured governance.

AET [Agriculture Education & Training] projects are fragmented across African government agencies. Crippling effect on agricultural development

Dr. Carl Eicher and Prof. Steven Haggblade 2013 (Eicher – PhD economics from Harvard. Haggblade - professor in International Development in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State U.) Writing for The Modernizing African Food Systems (MAFS) Consortium. The MAFS Consortium aims to help African agricultural education and training (AET) institutions develop the technical skills and institutional capacity required to modernize African food systems.) April 2013 “The Evolution of Agricultural Education and Training: Global Insights of Relevance for Africa” <http://www.canr.msu.edu/afre/uploads/files/Eicher/mafs_working_paper_4_-_evolution_of_agricultural_education-1.pdf>

Many African countries manage agricultural research and extension under their ministries of agriculture, while agricultural higher education remains under the control of ministries of education. Because this ministerial separation impedes the tight scientific collaboration required among agricultural research, education and extension, it has had a crippling effect on the development of agricultural innovation systems in Africa (Rukuni 1996). This ministerial separation explains, in large part, the generally feeble contributions of Africa’s AET researchers to national agricultural research.

1. Lack of African government funding commitment

African governments won't support agriculture financially

Dr. Carl Eicher and Prof. Steven Haggblade 2013 (Eicher – PhD economics from Harvard. Haggblade - professor in International Development in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State U.) Writing for The Modernizing African Food Systems (MAFS) Consortium. The MAFS Consortium aims to help African agricultural education and training (AET) institutions develop the technical skills and institutional capacity required to modernize African food systems.) April 2013 “The Evolution of Agricultural Education and Training: Global Insights of Relevance for Africa” <http://www.canr.msu.edu/afre/uploads/files/Eicher/mafs_working_paper_4_-_evolution_of_agricultural_education-1.pdf>

The six country studies point out the critical role of public investment in helping a poor country "buy into the growth process" Evenson (2004). Africa’s commitment of an average of 2.4% of its government’s budget to agriculture is distressing in a continent where more than 60% of the people depend on the rural sector for their jobs, food and income (Fan and Rao 2003). Africa’s current expenditure on agriculture is dismal when compared with Asia’s public expenditure in the 1970s and 1980s. India spent 10 to 20% of its government budget on agriculture in the 1970s, while Malaysia spent an average of 20% of government investment on agriculture from 1960 to 1983 (Jenkins and Lai 1992; Hazell 2012; Lipton 2012). The generally low level of African government funding for agriculture raises some tough political questions about priorities and the likely financial sustainability of future AET investments in Africa. To address these questions, a recent World Bank evaluation capacity-building in Africa reports that a paradigm shift is necessary to embrace a broader perspective that includes not only institutional rules of the game, but also "political dynamics that drive institutional change" (World Bank 2005).

Summary of solvency issues for rebuttals: Problem is too big to be solved by the AFF plan – too many other factors

Hamlet Hlomendlini 2017 (Agricultural Economist. Previously worked as a researcher and a banker at Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) and Standard Bank respectively. Currently serves as Chief Economist at Agri South Africa, working in the advocacy policy space with special attention on trade policy, industrial policy, taxation, financing, and land reform.  Masters of Science (MSc) (Cum Laude) and Bachelor of Science Honours (BScHns) in Agricultural Economics, both from the University of Stellenbosch. He is currently enrolled for Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree at the University of Stellenbosch Business School. He obtained his first degree (BSc Agricultural Economics) from the University of Fort Hare.) 9 November 2017 “Can Agriculture Help Tackle Africa's Looming Food Crisis?” <https://www.huffingtonpost.co.za/hamlet-hlomendlini/can-agriculture-help-tackle-africas-looming-food-crisis_a_23198691/>

Owing to the sustained neglect of the agriculture, Africa has shifted from being an exporter of agricultural products in the 1960s to a net importer currently. The attributes in this regard include poor infrastructure, the lack of developed supply chains and insufficient financing, which contribute to low yields and unreliable supply from smallholder farmers, who make up the majority of the sector's production base.

1. Africans aren't interested in agriculture training

A. Unfavorably viewed by younger students. Thanks to demographic changes and the focused nature of an agriculture degree, AETs [Agriculture Education & Training] are not popular

Austen Moore, M.D. Mutaleb and Ntam Baharanyi 2014 (Moore - University of Florida. Mutaleb - Tuskegee University. Baharanyi - Tuskegee University) August 2014 “Challenges and Opportunities for AET in Post-Conflict Sub-Saharan Africa” <https://www.tuskegee.edu/Content/Uploads/Tuskegee/files/CAENS/Others/Innovate/InnovATE_thematicstudy_postconflictAfrica_92514_FINAL.pdf>

First, AET programs are not viewed favorably by potential students. The degrees themselves are undesirable as they are terminal and eliminate the possibility of further education. AET degrees are also highly specialized, which restricts the flexibility of employment options for graduates (Oketch, 2007). Furthermore, Sub-Saharan African youth often possess a negative attitude towards agriculture, viewing employment in the sector as low paying, dirty, and requiring too much manual labor (Davis et al., 2008). AET degrees are sometimes viewed as a continuation of the colonial mindset towards workforcedevelopment that potential students within sovereign Sub-Saharan African nations are disinclined to pursue (Oketch, 2007; Samoff & Carrol, 2004). Overall, these factors create a poor image of agricultural education (Wallace, 2007).

B. Attracts the least talented and least motivated. African students who go into agriculture are the least skilled ones.

Austen Moore, M.D. Mutaleb and Ntam Baharanyi 2014 (Moore - University of Florida. Mutaleb - Tuskegee University. Baharanyi - Tuskegee University) August 2014 “Challenges and Opportunities for AET in Post-Conflict Sub-Saharan Africa” <https://www.tuskegee.edu/Content/Uploads/Tuskegee/files/CAENS/Others/Innovate/InnovATE_thematicstudy_postconflictAfrica_92514_FINAL.pdf>

Also, AET degrees have a reputation for catering to and producing less academically-gifted students (Oketch, 2007). While policy-makers stress the positives of providing less successful students an option to continue their education, students are less willing to self-identify as academically-challenged by pursuing AET programs. Therefore, the best quality students in Sub-Saharan Africa often avoid AET in favor of general education (Maguire, 2000). As a result, AET has become a location for the region’s least talented and least motivated students.

8. Ag Productivity won't solve

Agriculture productivity has been rising substantially… but food insecurity goes up too! Because there are other factors involved

New Partnership for African Development, Agency for the African Union 2013 (inter-governmental organization of African countries) "Agriculture in Africa" <http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/pubs/2013africanagricultures.pdf>

Increased agricultural production and economic growth have pushed up theoretical per capita food availability by around 10 % over the last 20 years. Only a handful of countries in East and Southern Africa as well as countries destabilised by conflicts have seen this figure drop. So why has food insecurity risen? Simply because food availability is only one of the factors in hunger and malnutrition. The link to agricultural production is even more complex.

Food productivity in Africa rising at the same rate as Asia… but malnutrition is rising too. It's because of other factors

New Partnership for African Development, Agency for the African Union 2013 (inter-governmental organization of African countries) "Agriculture in Africa" <http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/pubs/2013africanagricultures.pdf>

The case of West Africa illustrates the multiplicity and complexity of the factors leading to food and nutritional security. Over the last 30 years, per capita food production has climbed at the same rate as in Asia, including in several landlocked Sahel countries. Nonetheless, the area has an alarming rate of child malnutrition and has been experiencing a succession of crises since 2000. They all result from a combination of factors, such as drought and floods, which reduce the local production, the instability of international and regional markets, political instability and demographic booms. These successive shocks have eroded households’ living systems, making them yet more vulnerable to further shocks

DISADVANTAGES

1. Aid incentivizes dependence

Link: AFF plan is predicated on dependence

Their theory is that Africa "needs" our money to survive. Their whole case is built on it.

Link: Reducing dependence is key to growth. Obviously, the AFF plan doesn’t do this.

Hamlet Hlomendlini 2017 (Agricultural Economist. Previously worked as a researcher and a banker at Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) and Standard Bank respectively. Currently serves as Chief Economist at Agri South Africa, working in the advocacy policy space with special attention on trade policy, industrial policy, taxation, financing, and land reform.  Masters of Science (MSc) (Cum Laude) and Bachelor of Science Honours (BScHns) in Agricultural Economics, both from the University of Stellenbosch. He is currently enrolled for Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree at the University of Stellenbosch Business School. He obtained his first degree (BSc Agricultural Economics) from the University of Fort Hare.) 9 November 2017 “Can Agriculture Help Tackle Africa's Looming Food Crisis?” <https://www.huffingtonpost.co.za/hamlet-hlomendlini/can-agriculture-help-tackle-africas-looming-food-crisis_a_23198691/> (brackets in original)

Africa is known as a continent endowed with rich natural resources, including precious metals [such as diamonds, gold, platinum, etc.], significant reserves of oil and gas and large tracts of arable land; yet, many African countries are ranked top among the poorest states on earth. Notwithstanding that, the exploitation and sale thereof to Western companies does not make the situation any better or different, but only strengthen Africa's dependency on the West. If Africa wants to see growth and development, it must reduce its dependency on the West and start relying on itself.

Impact: Enables poverty and human rights abuse by shifting moral responsibility.

*Professor Al Mariam 2017* (*professor of political science at California State Univ- San Bernardino and a constitutional lawyer.) 9 March 2017 “*Trump's suspicion of foreign aid to Africa is right on the money” <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/foreign-policy/323198-trumps-suspicion-of-foreign-aid-to-africa-is-right-on-the>

U.S. aid in Africa has become a “[moral hazard](http://dri.fas.nyu.edu/docs/IO/12361/WilliamsonRAEAid.pdf)” absolving African regimes from responsibility to care and provide for their own people. African regimes that are heavily dependent on the safety net of foreign aid, receive sustained infusions of multilateral loans and a perpetual supply of humanitarian assistance will behave differently if they were left to their own devices to deal with the consequences of a mismanaged economy, debilitating corruption and proliferating grinding poverty. But by shifting the moral risk of economic mismanagement, political incompetence and corruption to the U.S. and other Western donors, and because these donors impose no meaningful penalty or disincentive for poor governance, inefficiency, corruption and repression, African regimes stay afloat and cling to power for decades abusing the human rights of their citizens and stealing elections.  Many African regimes regard U.S. aid as a fail-safe insurance policy for their survival.

CASE TURN: The more agricultural development aid a nation gets, the less likely it is to want to develop its own solutions.

As we’ve seen through the solvency arguments, it takes time and a multifaceted strategy to combat hunger and improve agriculture. The AFF plan does nothing to address the underlying cause of the issue – bad governance – and thereby increases it.

[Stephanie Hanson](https://www.cfr.org/experts/stephanie-hanson) 2008 (Writing for the Council on Foreign Relations) 27 May 2008 “African Agriculture” <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/african-agriculture>

Some experts suggest that African governments have resisted funding agriculture programs because they have become too dependent on international food aid. Mafa Chipeta, a Malawian who heads the Food and Agriculture Organization’s subregional office in Ethiopia, says "Africa needs to be offended at the idea of a grown-up continent being fed by others that have no obligation to do so." Instead, he says, African governments continue to demonstrate unwillingness to pay for agriculture development and instead expect the World Food Program to send them assistance.

Summary for rebuttals: NFL – No free lunch. Africa treats aid as an excuse to keep on messing things up with no consequences.

*Professor Al Mariam 2017* (*professor of political science at California State University, San Bernardino and a constitutional lawyer.) 9 March 2017 “*Trump's suspicion of foreign aid to Africa is right on the money” <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/foreign-policy/323198-trumps-suspicion-of-foreign-aid-to-africa-is-right-on-the>

Many African regimes today simply avoid the demands of good governance, ignore the rule of law and commit gross violations of human rights in the belief that U.S. and other Western aid will always bail them out of their chronic budget deficits and crushing foreign debts and replenish their empty grain silos.

1. Fuels corruption

Link: Aid advances corruption by keeping evil dictators in power

Hamlet Hlomendlini 2017 (Agricultural Economist. Previously worked as a researcher and a banker at Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) and Standard Bank respectively. Currently serves as Chief Economist at Agri South Africa, working in the advocacy policy space with special attention on trade policy, industrial policy, taxation, financing, and land reform.  Masters of Science (MSc) (Cum Laude) and Bachelor of Science Honours (BScHns) in Agricultural Economics, both from the University of Stellenbosch. He is currently enrolled for Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree at the University of Stellenbosch Business School. He obtained his first degree (BSc Agricultural Economics) from the University of Fort Hare.) 9 November 2017 “Can Agriculture Help Tackle Africa's Looming Food Crisis?” <https://www.huffingtonpost.co.za/hamlet-hlomendlini/can-agriculture-help-tackle-africas-looming-food-crisis_a_23198691/>

However, having said that, it must be said that the West has played a significant role in exacerbating both corruption and dictatorship in Africa. This statement, however, should not be interpreted as saying the West is the direct cause of corruption and dictatorship in Africa, but that the West has certainly played a key role in impeding the eradication thereof. For example, it is the West that helps keep corrupt African leaders in power and continue supporting them through the so-called "foreign aid" that supposedly facilitate development and reduce hunger in Africa. While in most instances foreign assistance helps feed the hungry, it renders some African states prisoners to the West and creates a dependency culture of the least-developed countries in donor countries.

Link: Turning a blind eye enables corruption

*Professor Al Mariam 2017* (*professor of political science at California State University, San Bernardino and a constitutional lawyer.) 9 March 2017 “*Trump's suspicion of foreign aid to Africa is right on the money” <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/foreign-policy/323198-trumps-suspicion-of-foreign-aid-to-africa-is-right-on-the>

As of March 2014, 20 African [countries](http://www.africaranking.com/top-20-most-indebted-african-countries/) carried foreign debt of nearly $390 billion. One African [country](http://www.gfintegrity.org/press-release/illicit-financial-outflows-ethiopia-nearly-doubled-2009-us3-26-bln-says-new-gfi-report/)  alone “lost U.S. $11.7 billion to illicit financial outflows between 2000 and 2009.”  A 2016 United Nation’s Economic Commission for Africa [report](http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/agr4_eng_fin_web_11april.pdf) indicated that one of the major factors in the increasing levels of corruption in Africa has to do with the “the blind eye often turned to corruptors by Western countries.”

Impact: Corruption decreases food security

Florence Uchendu and Thaddeus Abolarin 2015 (Uchendu: School of Health Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria. Abolarin: Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Yaba College of Technology. Written in the Pan African Medical Journal) 2015 “Corrupt practices negatively influenced food security and live expectancy in developing countries” [Brackets added] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4458312/>

The CPI index measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption in countries worldwide, scoring them from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). As the index decreased, corrupt practices and food insecurity increased. The MCC [Most corrupt countries] had a CPI which was three times lower than that of LCC [Least corrupt countries] and this is worrisome. The MCC are mainly from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) 46.9%, Asian countries 28.1%, Latin America and Caribbean 21.9% and Europe 3.1%. Developing countries in SSA and Asian countries constituted 75% of the MCC. Multivariate regression analysis of relationship between CPI, FSI, LE and population in LCC and MCC revealed that there was a significant relationship between low CPI and high FSI and LE in LCC while the reverse was the case in MCC. A positive relationship between corruption and food security as well as life expectancy implied that as corruption decreased food security and life expectancies increased. This result agrees with the findings of [[16](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4458312/#CIT0016)]. For LCC this might be due to availability of quality and up-to-date data, planned economy so that the effect of one can be easily seen in others. In LCC, economic resources are available for public welfare and this is why it has a positive influence on their GFSI (75.0±11.3) and LE (78.4±6.9) which are very high. This cannot be seen in MCC probably because there is no planned economy due to bad leadership, insecurity, frequent change of government and policies which makes it difficult to measure the impact of programs and projects. While the results of corruption are clear, the real extent of the problem is harder to pin down because corruption is shadowy and secretive by nature [[18](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4458312/#CIT0018)]. The public fund in MCC is diverted to personal use and so it cannot have any positive relationship with food security and live expectancy even though there could be other factors influencing them such as poverty, hunger, unemployment, low agricultural productivity, incessant war, and poor health facilities. This could be one of the reasons why GFSI (37.4±10.8) and LE (62.4±9.1) values are lower than that of LCC - GFSI (75.0±11.3) and LE (78.4±6.9). Corruption has a pernicious effect on food security [[19](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4458312/#CIT0019)]. Good governance, the antithesis of corruption, must be embraced and adopted wholeheartedly because it holds the key to food security on a sustained basis [[8](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4458312/#CIT0008)]. Developing countries must put in place stringent laws which must be implemented and executed without fear or favour to fight corruption. They should endeavour to have planned economy, quality and up-to-date data on their countries key indicators and continuous policies even when there is a change in government. The responsibility to deal with corruption is not just something for African governments and African people. They have a responsibility, I think, to help the poor countries in Africa recover some of their assets that were taken from them and deposited in banks in developed countries [[21](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4458312/#CIT0021)]. Corruption must be brought under control all over the world, as the poorer countries of the Third World especially cannot co-exist with it without being further dragged into the depths of untold human misery, starvation, disease, and degradation [[8](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4458312/#CIT0008)].

Impact: Hinders education

Emma Rumney 2016 (reporter at Public Finance International.) 10 March 2016 “South Africa: schools revealed as hotbed of corruption” <http://www.publicfinanceinternational.org/news/2016/03/south-africa-schools-revealed-hotbed-corruption>

In its annual report, South Africa’s Corruption Watch said 16% of the corruption reports it received related to activities in schools, the highest of any sector. Financial mismanagement accounted for more than a third (37%) of those complaints.

Impact: Hinders farming

AsumptaLattus 2010 (Writing for Deutsche Welle, Germany’s international broadcaster) 18 March 2010 “'Quiet corruption' undermining African development” <http://www.dw.com/en/quiet-corruption-undermining-african-development/a-5365508>

It's not just pupils and patients who suffer; farmers are also greatly affected by quiet corruption. In West Africa, for example, the report said that 43 percent of fertilizers in the 1990s lacked the expected nutrients due to poor controls at the producer and wholesaler levels. And in Nigeria, at least 50 percent of all drugs on the market were found to be faulty.

Application: Tanzania

*Hannah* *McNeish 2015 (Journalist for the Guardian)* 29 July 2015 “Rampant corruption in Tanzania keeps fruits of the many in hands of the few” <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jul/29/tanzania-corruption-aid-poster-sellers>

In 2013, Tanzania was the [second biggest recipient of foreign aid](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/2%20Africa%20-%20Development%20Aid%20at%20a%20Glance%202015.pdf) in sub-Saharan Africa, receiving $3.43bn (£2.19m) from donors. Despite years of relative peace, and economic growth of [more than 5% annually](http://www.tradingeconomics.com/tanzania/gdp-growth-annual) for the past decade, around two-thirds of its nearly 49 million people still live in poverty. Tanzania has been slipping down [Transparency International](http://www.transparency.org/country#TZA)’s corruption perceptions index, and now ranks 119th out of 175 countries. Evidence of official corruption has been mounting, raising fears that natural gas riches will fail to translate into wider wealth. That is not good news for a country ranked 159th out of 187 in the [human development index](http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components).

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