Agriculture, rural livelihoods and rural poverty

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Agriculture-hunger-poverty nexus

• MGDs / SDGs aim at eradicating hunger and poverty
• Understanding the ways hunger and poverty interconnect is required for eradicating it
  – Hunger and malnutrition prevents people from escaping poverty through many channels (will discuss below)
  – Need to identify the root causes to design public policy responses
  – Evaluate possible impact of policy interventions with counterfactuals (policy analysis)
Facts

• Three quarters of the world’s poor live in rural areas
• Hunger and child malnutrition are greater in rural areas
• The greater majority of them live on agriculture
• Rural population with high subsistence farming tend to have high malnutrition
• Improvements in agricultural productivity of small-scale farmers is likely to benefit the rural poor first
• **What are the possible channels?**
Increased agricultural productivity

Farmers can grow more food

Higher income

Grow cash crops and specialise where comparative advantages exist

Lower prices

Poor can purchase food at lower prices

Family Savings likely to rise

Rising investment in assets

Capacity to survive shocks

Rising food processing marketing

Solid foundation for pro-poor economic growth & poverty reduction

MDG-1

Income / employment channel

10% growth in agricultural productivity is estimated reduce poverty by:

4% in India

7.2% in Africa
Increasing agricultural productivity / benefit to farmers

- Agricultural production and processing Technologies
- Farmers’ assets, beliefs, education, shocks and risk coping capacity
- Farmers adopt new technologies
- Increased agricultural productivity
- Farmers can derive benefits of higher agricultural productivity

- Agricultural scientists, technicians
- Market needs of small-scale farmers
- Agricultural Investment
- Favorable macro-economic & trade policies
- Agroclimatic conditions
- Infrastructure
- Private sector
- Access to credit
- Public policy
- Regulatory framework
- Farmers' assets, beliefs, education, shocks and risk coping capacity
Increased agricultural productivity

Opportunities for specialization

Produce high-value agri. Products (e.g., milk)

Specialised Production, processing, marketing requirements

Hire labour or Invest in labour-saving agri. technologies

Higher family income

Capacity to hire care givers

Decline in opportunity Cost of Educating children

Send children to school

Higher school attendance MDG-2

Education channel
Many rural women are farmers; women have less opportunities outside farms.

- Increased agricultural productivity
- Opportunities for specialization
- Produce high-value agri. Products (e.g., milk)
- Specialised Production, processing, marketing requirements
- Hire labour or Invest in labour-saving agri. technologies
- More nutritious food
- Choose skilled work in non-agriculture
- MDG-3
- Maternal health MDG-5
- Reduced number of hours of work by women
- Reduced child mortality (MDG 4)
- Reduced child malnutrition
- Time for more child care
- Increased school attendance by girls / boys (MDG-2)
- Higher family income
- More child care
- MDG-5
- MDG-2
- MDG-4
- Gender equality channel
Increased agricultural productivity

- Demand for education & health care
  - Provide adequate food
  - Reduced need for migration
    - Reduced risk sexual behaviour
      - Reduced spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases
- Move into productive agriculture
  - Reduced need for migration
    - Reduced spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases
- Capacity for caring family & fighting illness
  - Capacity for Fighting HIV/AIDS, Malaria TB MDG-6

Reduced exposure to diseases
Sustainable agriculture, poverty, food insecurity nexus

Agricultural growth
- Area expansion
- Productivity growth

GH gas emissions
- Soil degradation
- Habitat / bio-diversity loss
- Overexploitation of marine resources
- Depletion of water quality / table

Climate change
- Changed weather patterns
- Global warming
- Melting glaciers
- Rising sea levels

Reduction of productive capacity of agriculture

Who bears the burden?
Internationally? Nationally?

I'm not sure if we have precise answers yet

We do know is that the rich (countries / people within countries) can take care of themselves because they have resources, but the poor cannot
“a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way”

Rio Earth Summit (1992)

“We reaffirm the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters. We also recognize the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support food production systems”

Rio+20 Summit (2012)