

Saturday June 13, 2015

Essay Competition and Best Paper GDN Prize

GDN supports the young researchers from developing countries. It organised, in partnership with ERF, an essay competition on the rural development strategies in the MENA region. In addition, a competitive call for papers was launched and, among the 500 submissions, 23 papers have been featured during the Conference. Within these selected papers, the best one will be awarded a prize during the closing plenary. Come and discover the winners at 4:30 pm!

Facts and Figures

**"Investment needs in
Agriculture in
Sub-Saharan Africa
20 billion \$"**

(Session 20)

**In Progress
Session18:
Climate Change, Resilience and
Food Security**



Policy Panel: What Role for Agricultural Policies for a Sustainable Development?

The penultimate plenary session was chaired by Karim el Aynaoui, Director - OCPPC, and commenced with a presentation by Marcelo Regunaga (University of Buenos Aires), who focused on the sustainability of agriculture in S. America. Modern agriculture goes beyond farming, and is really an organized, networked system. What is needed is "sustainable intensification" through specialization, precision farming, no-till methods, and greater R&D. Including food security in trade policy negotiations is critical.

Ahmed Galal (Economic Research Forum) stated policies are important because they impact incentive structures and rectify market failures. However, finding the one right solution is not easy. There can also be gaps between formulation and implementation, as well as political constraints. Martin Bwalya (NEPAD) pointed out that there is now consensus among African states regarding some common goals such as implementability, institutional capability, and accountability. The question is then how to support these goals through enabling policies. Innovative thinking is needed, e.g. partnering with the private sector in knowledge generation. Agricultural policies also need to be holistic.



Japanese Awards

Over the last two days, the finalists of the Global Development Awards Competition featured their research proposals and development projects to compete for the top prizes of the competition. The session 8 at the conference featured the research proposals submitted by the finalists of the *Outstanding Research on Development* category. In this session, Dr. Flora Chandare proposed to map the biodiversity of wild edible plants to meet food security needs in Benin. Dr. Juan Manuel introduced his team's study to investigate the low profitability of the beef cattle sector in Ecuador by analyzing consumer behavior for higher quality beef demands in order to upgrade the beef chain. To understand the risk perceptions of farmers in India, Dr. Subir Sen proposed to investigate the farm-level risk management policies in India.

Session 12 was dedicated towards showcasing the finalist development projects submitted for scaling-up under the *Most Innovative Development Project* category. Korvi Rakshand (Jaago foundation) introduced their online schooling project in Bangladesh where qualified teachers in urban areas reach out students in rural areas. He proposed to scale up their schooling model by switching to solar energy to power their electricity requirements. Narender Paul (CORD) presented their Women Farmer Empowerment program which leverages the Community Based Organization structure in India to harness the strengths of marginalized women farmers. Ravi Corea (SLWCS) introduced their project which uses oranges to create bio-fences to address the human-elephant conflict existing in Sri Lanka.

The final winners of the Competition will be announced today during the closing plenary!

Photo-Gallery: A View from the Third Day of GDN's 16th Annual Global Development Conference

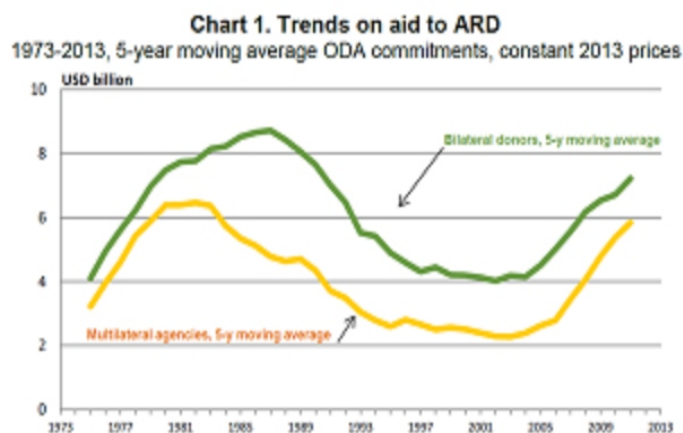


Decline, Reversal and Challenges of ODA to agriculture

We observe a huge decline in the share of Official Development Assistance (ODA) directed to agriculture between the 80's and 90's recently followed by a small reversal. The recent increase in ODA to agriculture share to 6-7 percent can be attributed to food crises, new concerns of "value chains" and World Development Report 2008 on agriculture.

However, ODA to agriculture is currently facing huge challenges. Many African countries are graduating from low income to middle income countries, therefore losing access to concessional finance while keeping high levels of poverty. Besides, the effectiveness of ODA-targeted funds to agriculture is unclear if fungibility and decreasing relevance of ODA funding in government spending are accounted for. Lastly, R. Kanbur also suggested the inclusion of output variables reflecting the progress towards development goals in development assistance indexes, such as CPIA. The audience showed particular interest in this debate and the means to bridge the financial gap in the agricultural sector.

Graph of the Day



Patrick Guillaumont in Session 20