Political and Public Will for Agricultural Transformation & Innovation

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Presented at the public meeting of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), April 10, 2015, Bozeman, MT
Preview

- Research consortium and agricultural transformation
- Responding to recognized challenges
- “Political will” and “public will” definitions and basics
- Climate-smart agriculture and application of Political and Public Will approach in Senegal and Uganda
Research Consortium & Ag Transformation

- Research consortium examining policy impacts and agricultural transformation
  - Support from USAID and USDA
  - Policy impact studies led by Rutgers University
  - Universities and organizations from USA, sub-Saharan Africa, elsewhere

Source: Feed the Future
Photo by Oliver Asselin
Research Consortium & Ag Transformation

- Early-stages project led by Montana State University
  - Political and public will for adopting climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices in sub-Saharan Africa
    - CSA: sustainability, productivity, resilience
    - USA: Feed the Future and Global Climate Change initiatives
    - Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture
    - UN Food & Agriculture Organization
Recognized Challenges

• Universal remedies sometimes ineffective
  » Diagnosis and targeted treatment
  » Overcoming objections/obstacles

• Often cannot add up individual behavior to understand sociopolitical change
  » Must understand how collectives make decisions

• Mandating change often unsuccessful
  » Participatory and integrative approaches
Political and Public Will: Approach Basics

• Observable phenomena and targets for assessment
• Step-by-step method to diagnose shortcomings
• Apply appropriate tools from social, behavioral, economic sciences
• Focus on mutual accountability of key stakeholders

Primary collaborators: Dr. Amber Raile (Montana State University) & Dr. Lori Ann Post (Yale University)
### Political and Public Will: Definitions

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<th>Political Will (Post et al., 2010)</th>
<th>Public Will (Raile et al., 2014)</th>
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<td>A sufficient set of decision makers with a common understanding of a particular problem on the formal agenda</td>
<td>A social system’s shared recognition of a particular problem</td>
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<td>is committed to supporting a commonly perceived, potentially effective policy solution</td>
<td>and resolve to address the situation</td>
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<td>in a particular way through sustained collective action</td>
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Applying Political & Public Will Approach

Climate-smart agriculture in Senegal and Uganda

- **Research activities**
  - Background research
  - Toolkit adaptation and expansion
  - Focused data collection
  - Analysis and outputs
  - Extension to additional issues and countries

Source: Feed the Future

Uganda Target Regions

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Senegal Target Regions

Source: Feed the Future

Senegal Target Regions
Applying Political & Public Will Approach

Climate-smart agriculture in Senegal and Uganda

• Contextual differences
• Early ideas about potential complications
• Tool kit examples
Closing

• Research consortium and agricultural transformation
• Further development of Political and Public Will approach
  ▪ Targeted solutions for specific contexts
  ▪ Participation and mutual accountability
• Specific work on climate-smart agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa
• Extension to other issues and countries
Task 1: Identify key political actors and public stakeholders in issue area

Task 2: Determine existing problem and solution definitions

Task 3: Align problem and solution definitions, as necessary and appropriate

Task 4: Build firm commitments and mutual accountability

Task 5: Evaluate progress in tasks 1-4 and adjust as necessary