



Technical Convening on

## Smallholder Agricultural Transformation

May 7-8, 2015 ■ Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport ■ Arlington, VA

### Program

**Venue:** Crystal City Marriott Hotel at Reagan National Airport, Salon “D”  
1999 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA

**Thursday, May 7**

Registration and Continental Breakfast: (8:15-9:00)

A. Preliminaries (9:00-9:30)

*Welcoming comments:*

Carl Pray, Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University  
Stephen O’Connell, Chief Economist, USAID  
Robert Bertram, Chief Scientist in USAID’s Bureau for Food Security

B. Session I (9:30-11:00) A Feed the Future Agenda for a Smallholder-led Agricultural Transformation

Rutgers Consortium members present the salient features of agricultural and structural transformation, how it has evolved over time and the current thinking and policy debates on the attributes of a successful transformation. Key issues and questions addressed in this session:

- 1) What are the attributes of a successful agricultural and structural transformation? What attributes (such as health, education, environment, wealth) are the same for all countries?
- 2) Are agricultural and structural transformations different today than in the past?
- 3) What new pathways are available for a successful smallholder-led agricultural transformation?

*Moderator:*

David Atwood, Senior Policy Advisor, USAID

*Panelists:*

Jim Oehmke, Senior Policy Advisor, USAID and Emeritus Professor, Michigan State University  
Jock Anderson, Independent Scholar and Emeritus Professor, University of New England  
Isabelle Tsakok, Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

Coffee (11:00-11:30)

### C. Session II (11:30-1:00) Agriculture's Role in Economic Development: How Has It Changed?

The renewed interest in agriculture in recent years is due in part to the growing evidence that agriculture plays a significant role in reducing poverty and driving overall growth, especially in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). This session examines this role in detail, with a view towards understanding the pathways by which agriculture contributes to economic growth. Specific questions to be addressed:

- 1) What is different about the role of agriculture today? What do we know now that we did not know--or sufficiently appreciate--about agriculture's role before?
- 2) What are the opportunities for agriculture to promote faster economic growth that is sustainable and pro-poor?
- 3) How have policies and investments enhanced or diminished agriculture's role?
- 4) How can policies complement public investment in agriculture in reducing poverty?

#### *Moderator:*

Carl Pray, Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University

#### *Panelists:*

Keith Fuglie, Economist, Economic Research Service, USDA  
Xinshen Diao, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI  
M.G. Quibria, Professor, Morgan State University  
Thom Jayne, Professor, Michigan State University

### Lunch (1:00-2:00)

### D. Session III (2:00-3:30) Rural Employment Dynamics in Agricultural Transformation

A key feature of agricultural transformation is that rural labor markets undergo considerable change as a result of increasing farm productivity. Historically the redundant labor that was released from farm production activities moved into cities for jobs in the industrial sector. However, in countries in which non-agricultural sectors have not grown quickly, the movement of labor from rural to urban areas often came with considerable environmental and social costs. Recent evidence suggests that rural non-farm opportunities can increase incomes and result in labor remaining in rural areas. This session explores how rural non-farm employment can lead to more desirable outcomes. Specific questions to be addressed:

- 1) What is the relationship between agricultural productivity increases and rural non-farm employment?
- 2) What are the pathways by which rural non-farm employment reduces poverty?
- 3) What are the roles of policies and institutions in increasing rural non-farm opportunities?

#### *Moderator:*

Alexandre Lyambabje, Senior Researcher, University of Rwanda

#### *Panelists:*

Chuck Moss, Professor, University of Florida  
Karen Brooks, Director, CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions and Markets  
Tom Reardon, Professor, Michigan State University

### Coffee (3:30-4:00)

E. Session IV (4:00-5:30) Agricultural Transformation and the Nutritional Transition:

Also associated with agricultural transformation are changes to diets and nutrition—as consumers increase their expenditure on non-staple foods, diversify their diets, and move towards consumption of packaged food and meals away from home for their nutritional needs. Such a transition presents an opportunity in that it could allow for more nutritionally diverse and healthier diets while increasing employment in food processing and service sectors. It could also result in new challenges, especially if dietary choices and restricted food availability result in poor health outcomes. This session explores the circumstances under which policy can influence dietary choices in free market economies and can avoid the “double burden” of malnutrition. Specific questions to be addressed:

- 1) What are the relationships and timing of nutritional and agricultural transformation?
- 2) What are the relationships between diversity of household diets and diversity of food choices in local markets?
- 3) How do diets change as production moves from subsistence, production to one that is more commercial production?
- 4) In contemporary agricultural transformation does production have to become less diverse at district and national levels?
- 5) What role does policy play in influencing dietary choices at the household level?

*Moderator*

Lori Post. Associate Professor, Yale University

*Panelists:*

Dave Weatherspoon, Professor, Michigan State University  
Alexandre Lyambabje, Senior Researcher, University of Rwanda  
Margaret Udahogora, Lecturer, University of Maryland

Conference Reception and Dinner: (5:30-8:30)

Kora Restaurant, 2250 Crystal Dr, Arlington, VA

**Friday, May 8**

F: Session V (9:00-10:30) Markets and Policy

A key constraint to increased agricultural productivity, especially in SSA, has been low input use—both in terms of quality and quantity. A combination of government and market failure often limits access to inputs—seeds, fertilizers and pesticides—in a timely and cost effective manner. The prospects of successful agricultural transformation are constrained in the absence of efficient input markets. This session seeks to address the following questions:

- 1) How can input policy help the transition from a market structure heavily dependent on government to an efficiently organized private sector market structure?
- 2) What are the attributes of an efficiently organized private sector market structure?
- 3) What types of market structures, institutional arrangements, and regulatory oversight are required when scale economies limit the potential for competitive markets?
- 4) Can the private sector serve the needs of the smallholder?

*Moderator*

Brian Dillon, Assistant Professor, University of Washington

*Panelists*

Anwar Naseem, Associate Research Professor, Rutgers University

Carl Pray, Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University

Greg Traxler, Senior Lecturer, University of Washington

Ed Keturakis, Senior Agribusiness Specialist, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Coffee (10:30-11:00)

G. Session VI (11:00-12:30) The Political Economy of Agricultural Transformation

Policies play a key role for smallholder agricultural transformation as they can hinder or foster this process as well as influence the type of transformation that a country will undergo. During the past decades, most developing countries have changed their policies and moved from taxing the agricultural sector to supporting it. In spite of this general trend, there are major controversies regarding the policies that are most suitable to promote agricultural transformation. These controversies refer, for example, to the choice of policy instruments (e.g., input subsidies), the question of supporting small-scale versus large-scale agriculture, and the need for governance reforms in the agricultural sector. This session explores the policy processes that are related to these controversies, paying special attention to the role of different policy actors, their interests and policy beliefs and their political strategies. Factors that influence the success of policy reforms are discussed, taking into account the complexity of political systems, the role of external influences, and the variety of constraints and incentive structures faced by different stakeholders. The session aims at identifying effective strategies for policy change that support smallholder agricultural transformation. Such strategies are necessarily context-specific. This session seeks to address the following questions:

- 1) How can we best explain the policy choices that different countries make with regard to agricultural transformation?
- 2) How does the Political and Public Will (PPW) approach work, and how can it be applied to policy change and policy systems change?
- 3) What types of international, domestic, and family-level pressures can influence the potential adoption of policies for agricultural transformation?
- 4) What methods are available for obtaining stakeholder buy-in and involvement in policies that contribute to agricultural transformation?
- 5) What are the key indicators to assessing the effectiveness of the PPW approach?

*Moderator*

Greg Traxler, Senior Lecturer, University of Washington

*Panelists*

Eric Raile, Assistant Research Professor, Montana State University

Lori Post, Associate Professor, Yale University

Regina Birner, Professor, University of Hohenheim

H: Session VIII (12:30-1:00) Wrap-up and Closing

*Closing Comments*

Jeff Hill, Director of Policy, USAID