

30 November 2010

Agenda

GLOBAL FORUM ON AGRICULTURE POLICIES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

29-30 November 2010, Paris

OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André-Pascal, 75016 Paris

Introduction

Over a billion people in the world live on less than a dollar a day and a similar number suffer from hunger and undernourishment. Indeed most of the world's hungry are chronically hungry, chiefly because they are poor. Progress has been uneven across countries and a significant number, most notably in Africa, are not on target for achieving the First Millennium Development Goal (MDG1) of halving the incidence of poverty and hunger by 2015.

This Global Forum is concerned with identifying ways in which governments can accelerate agricultural development and tackle the twin problems of poverty and food insecurity. This means looking at common factors that explain the successes of some countries and faltering progress of others, and discerning key ingredients of the necessary policy mix. It also means looking at the specific role to be played by agricultural policy instruments, and how those instruments should be combined with other non-agricultural policies.

Such information should be of value to a range of stakeholders. Policy makers in developing countries require information on which policies are likely to be most conducive to agricultural development and seek to ensure that that development is pro-poor. Donors, including most recently the G20, have committed to increase funding for agricultural development and would similarly benefit from information that can help ensure a productive allocation of scarce resources. Agriculture is also an area where Aid for Trade can be particularly important for connecting poor farmers to markets. Finally, global trade negotiations have faltered in part because of differing views on what constitutes a pro-development agricultural policy. Perspectives on these issues should be of value to countries both within and outside the OECD area.

In general terms, this Global Forum focuses on agriculture's strategic role in the process of economic development, considering whether agriculture needs to be emphasised, either because it is capable of providing a sufficiently broad base of growth for countries at low levels of development, or because it favours a more pro-poor composition of growth. It also considers how agriculture's strategic role varies with a country's level of development, addressing the need to construct diversified economies and plan for the ultimate release of labour and other resources from the sector.

A more specific area of attention is the role of agricultural policies in respect of both short term and long term objectives. In the short to medium term, for instance, social protection policies can boost incomes, yet agricultural policies, such as input subsidies, have also been advanced as a possible way of raising incomes. Price stabilisation has also been proposed as an effective way of protecting producers and consumers from adverse market shocks. Which instruments are likely to be most effective? Over the long term, there is a need to get the mix of public policies right. This means improving competitiveness within agriculture but not limiting the scope for farm families to benefit from growing opportunities in other sectors. Investments in public goods such as research and innovation have an important role to play, but what about other agricultural policies? What trade-offs and complementarities exist between different instruments? Are there trade-offs between instruments that are likely to work in the short-term and ones that are likely to have initially weaker but more enduring benefits?

Monday, 29 November 2010

<p>9:30-10:00</p>	<p><i>Introduction</i> <i>Welcome and introductory remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Boucher, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD • Neil Fraser, Global Forum Chair 	
<p align="center"><u>SESSION 1. Policy Challenges</u></p> <p><i>This session will consider the potential role for agricultural policy in promoting poverty reduction, food security and economic development. It will situate agricultural policy in the overall mix of government policies that can facilitate progress on MDG1, providing a roadmap for the meeting.</i></p>		
<p>10:00-11:15</p>	<p>1.1. Effective agricultural policies design</p> <p>This introductory item will provide a strategic framework for situating agricultural policies within the overall mix of government policies. A key focus will be on policies towards smallholders, who underpin the agricultural economies of poor countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentation:</i> Jonathan Brooks (OECD) • <i>Lead discussant:</i> Keith Wiebe (FAO) • <i>Open discussion:</i> all participants 	
<p>11:15-11:30</p>	<p align="center"><i>Coffee Break</i></p>	
<p align="center"><u>SESSION 2. Agriculture's Role in Poverty Reduction</u></p> <p><i>An enduring question is the relative contributions of agricultural and non-agricultural growth for poverty reduction in developing countries. This session presents both a general overview of the evolving debate among economists and policy makers as well as empirical findings obtained from case study analysis.</i></p>		
<p>11:30-13:00</p>	<p>2.1. The role of agricultural development in poverty reduction</p> <p>This item will provide a broad perspective on the agriculture – poverty nexus, identifying the key concepts and synthesising key lessons from previous work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentation:</i> Luc Christiaensen (UN University-Wider) • <i>Lead discussants:</i> Joe Dewbre (OECD) and Tian Weiming (China Agricultural University, Beijing) • <i>Open discussion:</i> all participants 	
<p>13:00-15:00 13:45-14:45</p>	<p align="center"><i>Lunch Break</i></p> <p><i>Optional luncheon presentation (Room E, Château)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kunio Tsubota (Meiji University, Japan): Major Findings from the APO Agricultural Policy Study Based on the Application of the PSE Methodology; and Sunitha Raju (Indian Institute of Foreign Trade): Methodological Issues 	

SESSION 2. Continued

15:00-16:30	<p>2.2. Four case studies on the links between agriculture and poverty reduction</p> <p>This item will focus on findings obtained in analysis of progress in poverty reduction achieved due to agricultural and non-agricultural growth in Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia and Vietnam.</p> <p><i>Vietnam and Indonesia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation: Joe Dewbre (OECD)• Lead discussant: Richard Barichello (Food and Resource Economic Group, University of British Columbia, Canada) <p><i>Ghana and Ethiopia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation: prepared by Xinshen Diao (IFPRI) and to be presented by Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse (IFPRI)• Lead discussants: André Jooste (National Agriculture Marketing Council, Pretoria, South Africa) and Christopher Delgado (World Bank)• Open discussion on all four countries: all participants
16:30-16:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:45-18:00	<p>2.3. Income distribution and poverty impacts of alternative agricultural policies: results from the Development Policy Evaluation Model (DEVPEM)</p> <p>This item will give specific consideration to the household level impacts of a range of policies in six developing countries, shedding light on the effectiveness of alternative instruments in raising incomes and reducing poverty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation: Ed Taylor (University of California, Davis, USA)• Lead discussants: Roger Martini (OECD) and Carlos Azzoni (University of São Paulo, Brazil)• Open discussion: all participants
18:00-20:00	<i>Evening Reception (Salle R.Ockrent, Château)</i>

Tuesday, 30 November 2010

SESSION 3. Choice of Policy Tools to Promote Agricultural Development

This session will discuss issues related to the choice and use of specific agricultural policy instruments, and their potential roles within the overall policy mix. This will involve evaluating whether public expenditures are allocated appropriately, and whether individual policies are coherent and cost-effective.

9:30-10:30	<p>3.1. Public expenditures on agriculture: getting the balance right</p> <p>As developing country governments and donors increase their spending in support of food and agriculture sector development, it is important that expenditures are allocated and disbursed effectively. This item proposes an economically meaningful classification system for public expenditures and discusses the pattern of financial resource allocation in a sample of African countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation: Joanna Komorowska (OECD)• Lead discussant: Stephen Mink (World Bank) and Florence Lasbennes (UN High Level Task Force on Global Food Security Crisis, HLTF)• Open discussion: all participants
10:30-11:30	<p>3.2. Innovation/technology adoption</p> <p>Agricultural productivity advance constitutes a powerful source of poverty reduction and investments in agricultural research are known to have high productivity payoffs over the long term. But, in the short to medium term, technology adoption may be a more important proximate cause of poverty reduction than investment in agricultural research. This item focuses on how governments might successfully foster innovation in agriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation: Julian Alston (University of California, Davis, USA)• Lead discussants: David Henley (Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, KITLV) and Kunio Tsubota (Meiji University, Japan)• Open discussion: all participants
11:30-11:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:45-13:00	<p>3.3. Price stabilization policies</p> <p>This item will provide an analysis of the potential role for developing country governments in stabilising markets for food and agricultural products and discuss criteria relevant to the implementation of such programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation: Philip Abbott (Purdue University, USA)• Lead discussants: Jesus Anton (OECD) and Simrit Kaur (University of Delhi, India)• Open discussion: all participants
13:00-15:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>

<u>SESSION 3. continued</u>	
15:00-16:15	<p>3.4. Input subsidies</p> <p>This presentation will discuss the rationales for using input subsidies, including both short term poverty reduction and long term development arguments. It will consider the historical performance of such programmes, as well as ways in which latest generation of so-called “smart subsidies” differ from earlier initiative and have the potential to be more effective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Steve Wiggins (Overseas Development Institute, UK) and Jonathan Brooks (OECD) • Lead discussant: Andrew Dorward (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK) • Open discussion: all participants
16:15-16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<u>SESSION 4. Conclusions and Implications for Future Work</u>	
16:30-17:45	<p>This panel discussion will draw together policy implications from the preceding sessions, from the overall framework conditions for effective policy decisions to reduce poverty and improve food security.</p> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <p>Phillip Glyde (Executive Director of ABARE-BRS and Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia)</p> <p>Tahlim Sudaryanto (Assistant Minister for International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, the Republic of Indonesia)</p> <p>Hafez Ghanem (Assistant Director-General for FAO's Economic and Social Development Department)</p> <p>Stefan Schmitz (Head of Division, Rural Development and Global Food Security, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany)</p> <p>Christopher Delgado (Strategy and Policy Advisor, World Bank; Program Manager of Global Agricultural and Food Security Program, GAFSP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open discussion: all participants
17:45-18:00	<p>Closing comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken Ash, Director, Trade and Agriculture, OECD • Neil Fraser, Global Forum Chair