

Constraints to Agricultural Productivity and Food Security in the era of Climate Change

Introduction

- Constraints remain largely the same! And we have done badly at addressing them over many decades
- Climate Change will expose the true extent of a shockingly dysfunctional support system
- With the added stress of Climate change, African agriculture needs nothing short of a transformation
- A seismic shift is required – by all, we need another level of ambition, we need to rethink,
- We have to do better
- But perhaps these monumental challenges are what we need to see more decisive action
- Business as usual will leave farmers with nothing between them and disasters of calamitous proportions



Access to Technology

- **Major advances in technology all round, but African smallholder agriculture still rely on ‘stone age’ technology – the hand hoe**
- **Use of improved seed, livestock breeds, fertilizers at shocking levels**
- **Use of ICT is changing the world – harnessing of opportunities to support farmers has been slow**
- **Weed management technologies have not taken off among Smallholders**



Research and Extension

- **State Research and Extension systems in a state of near collapse, poor funding, lack of quality personnel, wrong priorities**
- **Poor linkages with international research**
- **The chain between farmers and high quality research is too long, or maybe broken**
- **Solutions are being generated in another world, too far from the point of action**
- **The potential role of farmer-led approaches in research and extension not fully harnessed**
- **Private sector contribution very limited**



Financing Smallholder Agriculture

- **Lack of innovative instruments, acknowledging different types of smallholder farmers**
- **Sometimes finance introduced without/before addressing other key underlying problems**
- **The result – high default rates, commercial lenders reluctant to support smallholders**
- **Tenure regimes complicates things even more**
- **National Budgets have failed to even meet their own targets**
- **Climate Finance out of reach for farmers**



Organized Agriculture

- **Farmers organisations remain weak and poorly supported**
- **Missed opportunities for effectively bringing the farmer's voice to the table**
- **Most smallholder farmers not formerly registered as members of farmers organisations**
- **Lost opportunities for aggregating voices, demand, supply, economies of scale**



Concluding Remarks

- **Climate smart agriculture is Good agriculture, adaptation is mitigation**
- **Fixing broken links in African agriculture should form the beginnings of a CSA future**
- **More of the same will keep African agriculture on this perilous path**
- **Farmers should be at the centre of finding solutions and sharing what works**
- **We need to reconfigure, shift most resources as close as possible to the point of action**
- **The Alliance needs to set us on a path to introspection**





Thank You



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