

# Recommendations for the Africa Commission

Made by the participants attending the seminar  
**Hunger, Health and Hope in Africa**  
3 December 2008



## Recommendations\*:

### Recommendations on “Market, Trade and Institutions”

#### **Recommendation 1**

Increase public and private investment in the promotion of smallholder-based rural producer organizations for collective marketing, the strengthening of management capacity in rural producer organizations, and the policy and institutional support for rural producer organizations (including, but not limited to, farmers’ associations, rural cooperatives, women’s associations, and similar organizations dedicated to collective marketing).

#### **Recommendation 2**

Increase public and private investment in building the essential physical infrastructure needed to promote smallholder participation in agricultural value chains such as roads, electricity, irrigation, and telecommunications.

#### **Recommendation 3**

Reduce risk and barriers in input and commodity markets by improving the design and enforcement of policies in areas such as finance, investment and enterprise development. Provide a forum and encourage the involvement of agribusiness to improve the business environment for both small and large, domestic and foreign businesses in order to boost the development of chain activity which will eventually help farmers.

#### **Recommendation 4**

Invest more in both the innovation and learning systems to promote agribusiness growth *by enhancing* linkages and interactions between research, extension, business and farmers.

### Recommendations on “Food Production and Natural Resources”

Small holder farmers at all levels should be given priority and should not be excluded. We recommend that required policy framework be introduced and public and private investment increased in the following areas:

**Recommendation 5**

Research and development for sustainable land use and resource management to increase food production, stability and income.

**Recommendation 6**

Scaling up and transferring appropriate technology to small scale farmers for food production and local food processing, stressing food safety.

**Recommendation 7**

Increase the availability and affordability of agricultural inputs (seed, fertilizers, vaccines, etc.) and facilitate farmers' access to markets for their end-products.

**Recommendation 8**

Focus on institutional and human capacity building in sustainable management of natural resources.

**Recommendation 9**

Preservation and utilisation of local natural resources.

**Recommendation 10**

Development of local small farmers' associations.

**Recommendations on "Health and Nutrition"**

The Africa Commission highlights agriculture as an important cross cutting issue to achieve sustainable economic growth and job creation in Africa based on private enterprise. A prerequisite for achieving this goal is the availability of competent human capital (e.g. young entrepreneurs and a skilled work force). There is strong scientific evidence that good nutrition from conception and during the two first years of life is a strong determinant for the extent to which human beings achieve their full physical and educational potential. Thus, we recommend the following nutrition interventions which will have lasting positive impact on the human capital of the African countries.

**Recommendation 11**

Increase public investments in existing, cost-effective nutrition interventions among pregnant/lactating women and young children.

Specific: nutrient supplementation, food fortification and dietary counselling.

**Recommendation 12**

Increase public investments in novel quality *dietary treatment* interventions of moderate and severe undernourished children.

Specific: scaled-up interventions using locally produced newly developed "ready-to-use" food supplements.

**Recommendation 13**

Increase public and private investments in research, innovation and implementation of food processing technologies specifically aimed to improve the *nutritional quality and commercial value of staple-based diets* by improving nutrient bioavailability and reducing "anti-nutrients"

Specific: novel application of industrially produced enzymes and improved utilisation of traditional processing technologies such as fermentation.

#### **Recommendation 14**

Support development of much stronger linkages between agricultural and nutrition research and interventions to obtain local food systems which support the nutritional requirements of the populations.

Specific:

- Increased public and private investments in agricultural research and innovations aimed to increase *diversity* and *productivity* of *nutrient-dense foods* among small-scale producers.
- Increase public and private investments in research and innovation to give quantitative guidelines for improving diets, specifically the nutritional gains from inclusion of animal source foods (milk, meat, egg, fish).

\*The recommendations are those of the participants attending the seminar, and are not the official recommendations from the University of Copenhagen