Future Agricultures Consortium

Analysing and Informing Debates on the Political Economy of Agricultural Policy Processes in Africa

London Policy Dialogue

Overseas Development Institute
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Presentation

• Future Agricultures Overview →
  – Origins & focus
  – Partners & focal regions/countries
  – Communications & engagement

• Value of a political economy perspective in agricultural policy

• 10 FAC Research Themes → informing and influencing policy

• Engaging with key regional policy processes – CAADP & New Alliance

• London Policy Dialogue →
  – Aim and programme
  – Launch and reception
Established in 2005 with support from DFID... to encourage dialogue and the sharing of good practice by policy makers and opinion formers in Africa on the role of agriculture in broad based growth

Why FAC?... the lack of attention to the political economy of policy processes is leading to inappropriate policy formulation and implementation failures in African agriculture
Partners, Hubs and Countries

- 90+ researchers and young fellows are ‘FAC members’
- Africa: >35 universities, research institutes, gov’t departments, NGOs
- UK and EU partners
- Rising Powers: Brazil, China & India
- Communications Alliance
- CAADP/African Union engagement
- Regional Hubs: ISSER (Ghana), Tegemeo (Kenya), PLAAS (S Africa)
  - East Africa and the Horn: Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda
  - Southern Africa: Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia
  - West & Central Africa: Burkina Faso, Congo-Brazzaville, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone
A Productive Partnership

- Produced > 150 FAC Working Papers + Policy Briefs + special journal issues + books
- Convened > dozen high-profile conferences – e.g.:
  - Green Economy in the South (2014)
  - Agricultural Investment, Gender and Land in Africa (2014)
  - Political Economy of Agricultural Policy in Africa (2013)
  - Land Grabbing x 2 (2011+2012)
  - Youth and Agri-Food Systems (2012)
  - Pastoralism and Development (2011)
Policy: Clearly central to development, but difficult to pin down...

‘Policy is rather like the elephant - you know it when you see it, but you cannot easily define it’

Conventional View of Policy Process

• Series of well-defined, rational steps:
  - Determining the policy issue or problem
  - Exploring possible options for resolving the problem
  - Weighing up the costs and benefits of each option
  - Making a rational choice about ‘best option’
  - Implementing the policy
  - Evaluating the outcome

• Bureaucratic approach → separation of ‘value’ and ‘fact’

• The political nature of the policy is hidden by the use of technical language → ‘Evidence-based policy-making’
An Alternative View of Policy

• Policy = Political phenomena/processes

• “...policies appear to be mere instruments for promoting efficiency and effectiveness. This masking of the political under the cloak of neutrality is a feature of modern power.”

Value of a Policy Process Approach

• What is a political economist?

‘Someone who comes and explains why your programme hasn’t worked’

– Alex Duncan, OPM

• But Future Agricultures’ work has shown that a Policy Process approach can explain what is both technically viable and politically feasible
Informing Policy Processes

FAC’s Theory of Change seeks to inform and influence policy processes through sustained engagement:

1. **Agenda setting**: changes in policy priorities and attention to previously under-emphasised issues

2. **Shifts in policy framing**: changes in the way policy actors understand a problem or solution

3. **Change in resources allocated**: changes in the way investments are made and resources are distributed

4. **Change in the content of policy**: changes in the substantive elements of the policy

5. **Change in the way policy is delivered**: change in the way policy is formulated and implemented
10 Core Themes

1. Brazil & China in Africa
2. Climate Change & Water
3. Commercialisations
4. Gender & Social Difference
5. Growth & Social Protection
6. Land
7. Pastoralism
8. Policy Processes
9. Science, Technology & Innovation
10. Young People & Agri-Food

Assuming that effectiveness of policy is a major determinant of agricultural performance in Africa...

- Which policies get implemented in different contexts – and who decides?
- What political incentives are driving or constraining the implementation of a pro-smallholder policy?
- Why might a particular policy lead to different outcomes for different people in different contexts?
Themes Highlighted Today

1. Brazil & China in Africa
2. Commercialisations
3. Land
4. Pastoralism
5. Policy Processes
6. Science, Technology & Innovation (seeds)
7. Water (irrigation)
Engaging with Regional Policy Processes

CAADP – Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ➔
• Launched in 2003 by African Union to drive to eliminate hunger
  Malabo Declaration (2014) – reaffirmed commitment to devote 10% of national budgets to agricultural development
• Aims to institute policy reforms to end hunger and cut poverty in half by 2025

NA – New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition ➔
• Launched at the G8 summit in 2012
• Aims to reduce poverty for 50 million people over next decade by increasing private investment and agriculture-led growth in selected African countries
**CAADP 2014-2023 Results Framework**

**Impact to which CAADP contributes (indirect link)**

**Level 1 – Contribute to Africa socio-economic development**

*Wealth Creation; Resilience; Improved Food and Nutrition Security*

**Level 2 – Sustained Inclusive agriculture growth: agriculture growth, jobs, poverty reduction**

- 2.1 Increased agriculture production and productivity
- 2.2 Better functioning agriculture markets, increased markets, access and trade
- 2.3 Increased private sector investment along the agriculture value chain
- 2.4 Increased availability and access to food and access to productive safety nets
- 2.5 Improved management of natural resources for sustainable agriculture production

**Level 3 – Transformational Change as a result of CAADP:**

*Conducive environments; systemic capacity*

- 3.1 Improved and Inclusive policy design and implementatio n capacity
- 3.2 More efficient / stronger institutions
- 3.3 More Inclusive and evidence based agriculture planning and implementation processes
- 3.4 Improved partnership between private and public sector
- 3.5 Increased public investment in agriculture achieving better value for money
- 3.6 Increased access to quality data, information and an informed public

**INPUT:** CAADP SUPPORT, TOOLS, PROCESSES, CAPACITY BUILDING, PEER REVIEW MECHANISMS
**London Policy Dialogue - AM**

**Aim:** Present key findings and policy insights emerging from recent Future Agricultures’ research on a set of themes relevant to CAADP, the NA and other key regional processes

- **Changing Patterns of Agricultural Growth and Investment in Africa** – Steve Wiggins and Jim Sumberg

  *Plenary discussion + Coffee*

- **Political Economy of Agricultural Policy Processes in Africa: Learning from CAADP ‘Success Stories’** – Blessings Chinsinga and Colin Poulton

- **Large-Scale Land Acquisitions and Responsible Investment in Africa** – Ruth Hall

  *Plenary discussion + Lunch*
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Parallel Session 1

• Pathways to Improved Irrigation Performance in Africa – Naomi Oates and Guy Jobbins

• Towards Integrated Seed Sector Development in Africa – Hannington Odame and John Thompson

Parallel Session 2

• Pastoralism and Livestock Marketing at the Margins – Jeremy Lind and Hussein Mahmoud

• Brazil and China in African Agriculture – Ian Scoones and Seth Cook

Parallel Q&A + Coffee

FAC Launch Event + Drinks Reception
Thank you

Further information

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