

Barriers to Rural Productivity Growth in Africa

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Why slow profit, yield and output/worker growth in Africa?

- Difficult physical conditions and lack of appropriate technology
- lack of incentives to invest and innovate
- too little public investment in roads and infrastructure
- imperfectly functioning markets and institutions

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- Many other examples
- Akwapim Pineapple
- Burkina Faso and Mali cotton
- Malawi potatoes
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For more marginal improvements, other imperfections matter

This is the focus of ATAI

- Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative
- Based at JPAL/CEGA
- Funders include DFID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Research using RCTs to evaluate interventions to overcome obstacles to adoption of new technology

Organized around potential market failures

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1. Credit Markets

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2. Risk Markets

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- 4.
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- 7.

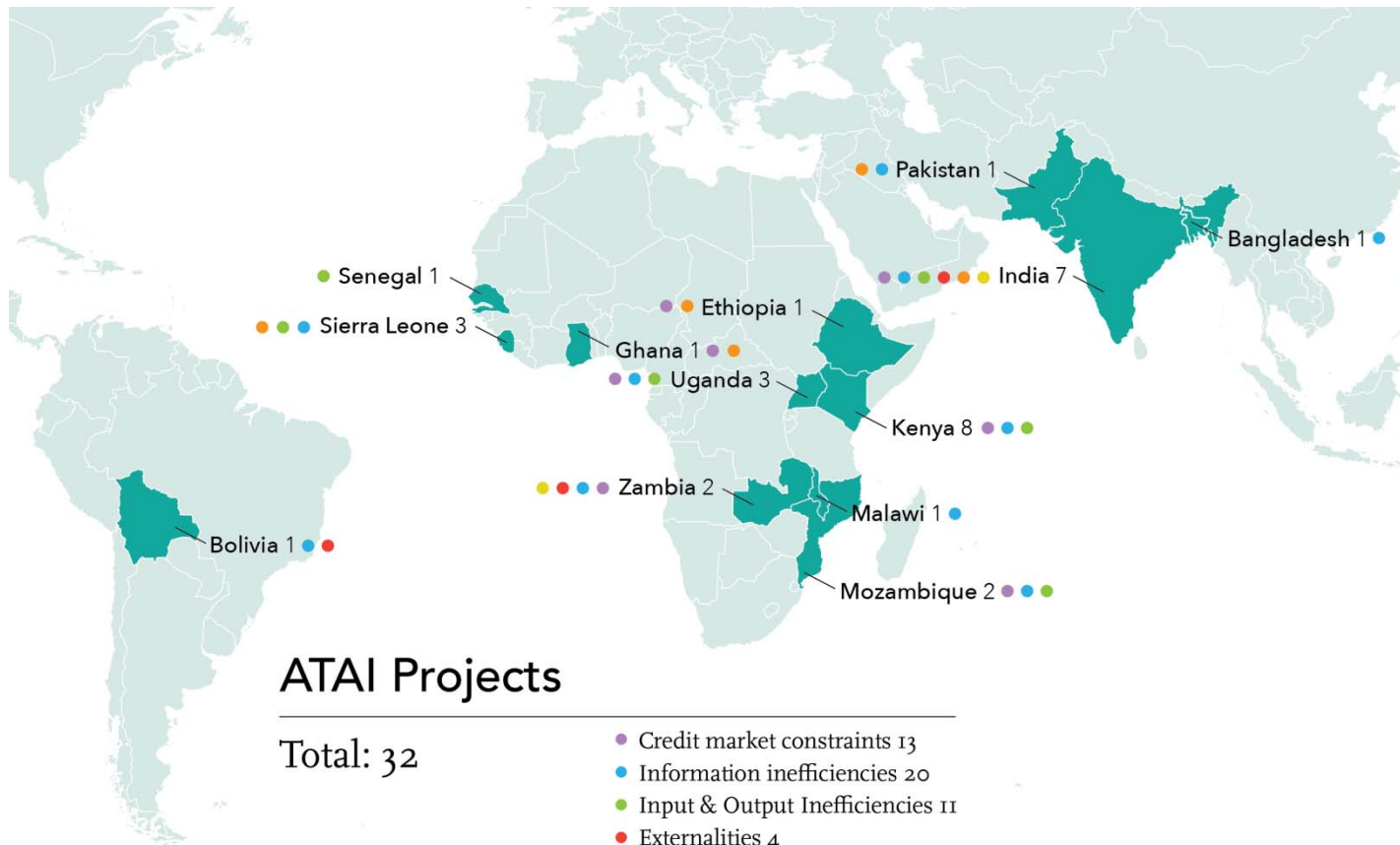
1. Credit Markets
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3. Information
4. Externalities
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1. Credit Markets
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7. Land Markets

ATAI has funded 32 projects



Example: Risk

6 ATAI projects; other work ongoing as well

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- Basis risk, trust crucial
- Risk-mitigating crop improvements very promising in India and Sierra Leone

Heterogeneity

Across ATAI program areas, a fundamental lesson is heterogeneity

- o Location specificity
- o Variation over time in returns
- o Variation within small communities in constraints and opportunities
- o Policy that embraces heterogeneity
 - a. Markets
 - b. Decentralization