LESSONS FROM BURKINA FASO

Ramatu M. Al-Hassan, University of Ghana, Legon
and
Charles Jebuni, Centre for Policy Analysis, Accra
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Why Burkina Faso?

- Similar climatic and environmental conditions
- Yet ‘Southern Burkina’ probably rest of the country more successful
- How are they managing
Findings: Similarities (History- Political Economy)

- Post independence political history
  - Public sector-led development strategy with state monopolies
  - Import substitution
  - High protective barriers

- Populist policies after coup of 1983
  - Social justice, land reform, development of producer organizations
  - Central planning & widespread state control led to macroeconomic imbalances
Findings: Similarities
(Economic Reforms)

- The reform period – 1987 to date
  - Standard IMF & World Bank prescriptions of liberalization and privatization (adopted in 1991)
  - Went HIPC in 2002
Findings: Similarities (the productive sectors)

- Agriculture dominant sector
- Smallholder agriculture – cereals, cotton, fruits and vegetables and livestock
- Need for irrigation and more generally, land and water conservation
- Migration to capital or outside Burkina
- Tourism developing
- Mining, small but plans to develop
Findings: Differences

- Burkina Faso belongs to the CFA monetary zone therefore monetary and exchange rate policies are externally determined.
- Reforms came later and may have been carried out at a slower pace.
Findings: Differences 2

- Coordination of agricultural production
  - Producer associations – commodity-based, grassroots to national.
  - Provide services to members (marketing, credit assessments)
  - Complement technical staff in service delivery
  - Strong lobby groups who can be politically powerful
Findings: Differences 3

- Water resource management
  - Recognised cost ineffectiveness of large scale irrigation dams
  - Small scale dams for communities
  - Comprehensive Programme to expand irrigation nationwide, using natural resource base – rivers, aquifers. A long term target of 30000 ha by 2015
Findings: Differences 4

- Bushfire control
  - Active community participation
  - Local leaders held responsible
  - General discipline, because of effective enforcement of laws
Findings: Differences 5

- Micro-credit delivery
  - Linked to producer organisations
  - Linking formal financial institutions to microfinance institutions
    - Former to extend services to smaller customers
    - Latter to increase their professionalism as financial institutions
What are the lessons?

- Village level associations work best where there is strong local power and the chief is interested.
- Small dams at village level work.
- Irrigation systems need road infrastructure and markets.
- Technical agents need to demonstrate practical results to be effective. Theoretical lectures and instructions do not work.
What are the lessons? 2

- Producer associations are essential for effective coordination of services to smallholders.
- Single product associations tend to be more effective than village-wide associations involving several products or activities.
- Public sector support in the initial development of product chain is crucial i.e. infrastructure, seed, organization of groups etc.
What are the lessons? 3

- Slow rate of the structural adjustment process in Burkina Faso allowed that country to adjust more effectively. Example of the liberalization of the cotton sector in Ghana and Burkina Faso.
- Possibilities for cooperation between Burkina and NG e.g. cotton research, trade
Thank you