

IS AGRICULTURE A BUSINESS OR A SOCIAL ACTIVITY?

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE US FEED THE FUTURE INITIATIVE IN
HAITI (AND ELSEWHERE)**

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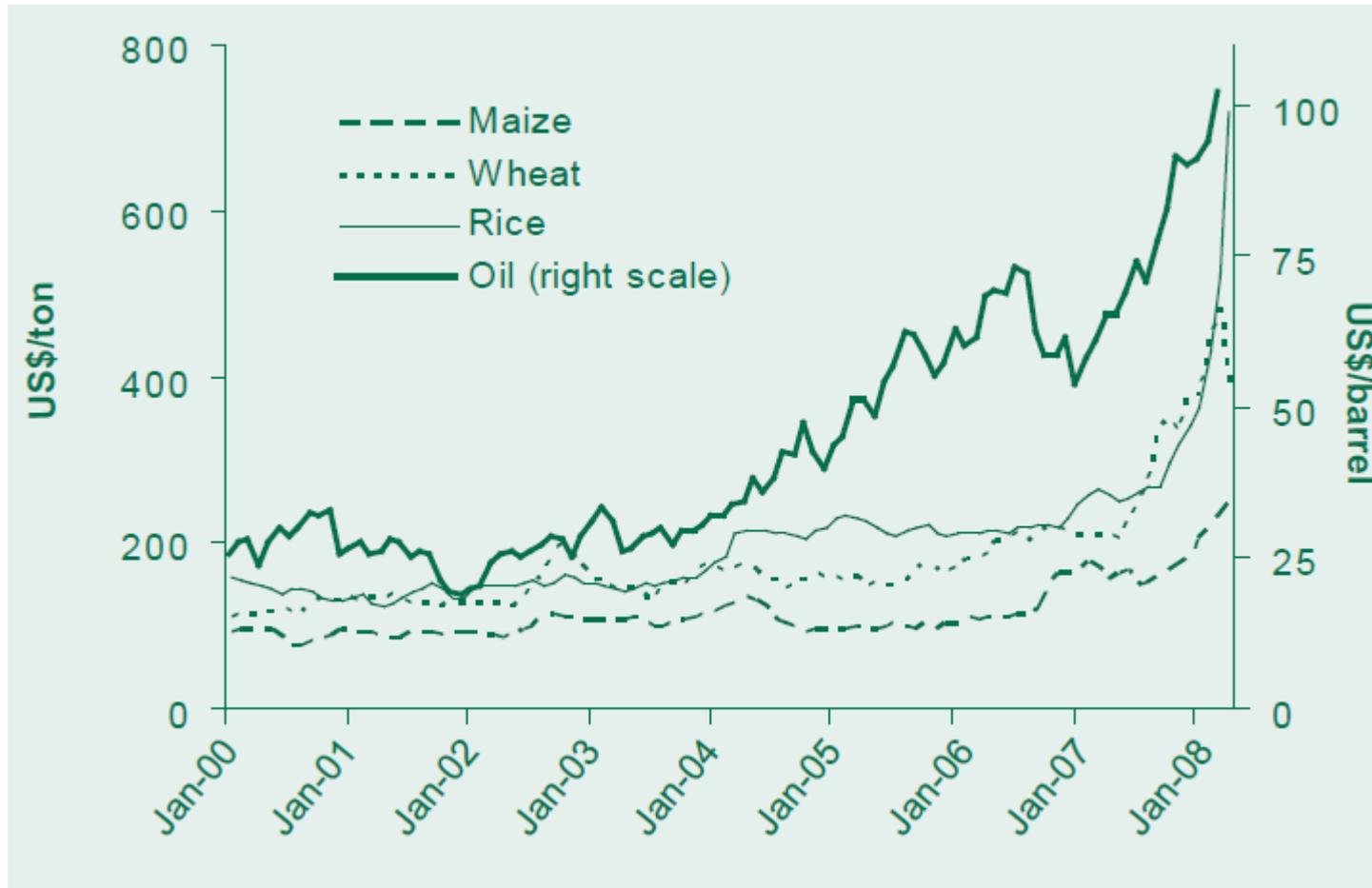
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ORIGINS OF FEED THE FUTURE



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FOOD PRICE SPIKE OF 2007-08



PROTESTS, VIOLENCE, & REGIME CHANGE

- Protests over more expensive food in at least 60 countries in both the Global South & North
- Sometimes violent
- Collapse of Alexis government in Haiti



GLOBAL POLICY RESPONSE

- Increased aid to agriculture in developing countries seen as key in medium- and long-term
- UN Comprehensive Framework for Action (2008, 2010)
- G8 L'Aquila Food Security Initiative
 - US pledge of \$3.5 billion in aid to agriculture, became Presidential Feed the Future Initiative (FtF)

FTF PROGRAM APPROACH



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A QUANTUM BREAK FROM THE PAST

Past aid to agriculture based on monetized food aid

- Procure food in US
- Transport on US-flagged vessels
- Sell in recipient country markets
 - Try not to undercut local farmers
- Use proceeds to support local agricultural development

FtF provides direct cash resources for ag

KEY FTF PRINCIPLES

- Ownership
 - Paris Principles of Aid Effectiveness (2005)
 - Country Investment and Implementation Plans
- Inclusivity
 - Inclusive agriculture sector growth
 - Women's Empowerment
 - Broad partnerships and participation
- Sustainable results

OXFAM ASSESSMENT



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STUDY SITES & RESEARCH METHODS

- Five study countries
 - Haiti
 - Ethiopia
 - Ghana
 - Senegal
 - Tanzania
- Qualitative research methods
 - Aimed at understanding process
 - 125 key informant interviews
 - 69 focus group interviews with male and female farmers
- Research supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

DATA: HAITI

- Assessment of Watershed Initiative for National Natural Environmental Resources (WINNER) Project
 - Data collected March, June, & July 2013
 - Did not look at more recent FtF AVANSE project in Northern Haiti
- 12 focus group interviews with men and women farmers in Western Haiti
- 40 key informant interviews in Haiti and Washington, DC
- WINNER focuses on both food and export crops
 - Rice, corn, beans, plantains
 - Mangoes
 - Watershed rehabilitation

DATA ELSEWHERE

Country	Data collection period	Focus of intervention
Ethiopia	Sept 2013 – Jan 2014	Wheat, teff, livestock value chains
Ghana	June/July, September 2014	Rice & horticulture value chains
Senegal	April/May, July 2012	Climate change adaptation; natural resource management; productivity; access to markets
Tanzania	February/March, May-early July 2013	Rice, maize, horticulture crops

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

- Ownership
 - Alignment with national agricultural plans
 - Use of country systems
 - Donor coordination
 - Interactions and stakeholders involved
 - Stakeholder engagement in program design
 - Beneficiary engagement in implementation
- Inclusivity
 - Food security model
 - Beneficiaries
 - Gender equity & women's empowerment

FINDINGS



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USE OF COUNTRY SYSTEMS

- All study countries have medium-term agricultural development plans
- Haiti's National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA) heavily influenced by donors
- In Haiti, “Beltway Bandits” remain prime contractors
- Haiti lacks a strong donor coordination platform
 - In contrast with Ethiopia, Ghana, & Tanzania
 - Does have *tables sectorales* at Department level
- Project orientation
 - Can undercut national strategic plans
 - Little direct budget support provided to local institutions or development agents in any of the countries

INTERACTIONS & STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

- Prior consultation pre-implementation (Haiti)
 - Some consultation with MARNDR & Department-level officials
 - Little-to-no engagement with BACs or CASECs
 - Zero involvement of beneficiaries in program design
- Farmers participate only in implementation (Haiti)
 - Put choices into place from pre-cooked menu
 - Not seen as partners in strategic priority setting
 - Does not mean projects do not meet needs
 - Many low-income farmers welcome *any* support
 - Weak beneficiary feedback mechanisms
- Consistent with findings in other study countries

FOOD SECURITY MODEL

- Increased production in high-potential areas
 - Artibonite Valley the focus in Haiti
- Areas with high numbers of poor and hungry people not targeted
 - Ghana the exception
- Market-oriented approach (all study countries)
 - Focus on potential commercial farmers
 - Poor, but not the poorest of the poor
 - “We want to make them see agriculture as a business, not a social activity”—US official on FtF objective in Haiti
- Key goal across countries: reduce consumer prices

BENEFICIARIES

- All farmers in project villages invited to participate
- No minimum land holding or level of education
 - In Haiti, “master farmer” candidates must be literate
- Participation via groups
 - In Haiti, mainly existing associations & cooperatives
- Training in marketable skills
 - Tractor operators
 - Greenhouses
 - Input store management

PRODUCTIVITY GAINS

- Increased productivity in all study countries, including Haiti
- Mix of high-external input & agroecological approaches
 - System of Rice Intensification in Haiti
- High-input the default in all five countries
- Questions of sustainability
 - Do gains continue in the absence of FtF resources?
 - Master farmer extension approach in Haiti particularly problematic
 - Ministry of Environment not engaged to ensure sustainability of watershed rehabilitation

EMPOWERING WOMEN?



EMPOWERING WOMEN? (2)

- Significant number of women beneficiaries in all study countries
 - Some all-women participating farmer groups in Haiti
 - But few mixed-gender associations had female leaders
- WINNER lacked up-front gender strategy
- In Haiti, most training resources (73%) went to men
- USAID-supported tools on women's empowerment not used for M&E in Haiti
 - Gender research (Alexis Gardella)
 - Women's Economic Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

CONCLUSIONS

- Ownership
 - FtF generally well-aligned with national plans in all study countries
 - Virtually no stakeholder participation in program design
 - Projectized approach does not build institutional capacity
- Inclusivity
 - Focus on intensification in high-potential areas & ready-for-market farmers tends to be exclusionary
 - Main food-security pathway is indirect

CONCLUSIONS (2)

- To answer the business vs. social activity question:
 - Agriculture is still the #1 employer in Haiti, engaging 57% of the labor force in 2014
 - Official social safety nets remain weak and underdeveloped
 - 600,000 people (6% of all Haitians) left the earthquake zone for rural Haiti in 2010
- Impossible and undesirable to separate these two agricultural functions in Haiti

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Broaden stakeholder engagement in all phases of program, including design, implementation, & evaluation
 - Can enhance sustainability of results
 - Treat farmer groups as active citizens, not just program implementers
 - Improve feedback mechanisms
- Greater focus on less-favored areas and more marginalized farmers for direct impact on poverty and hunger
- Better integrate gender empowerment tools like WEAI into programming (promised for AVANSE) and develop ex ante gender strategy
- Farmer field schools instead of master farmers (done for AVANSE)
- Provide direct budget support to local institutions