

HOW RURAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS CAN USE THEIR BENEFITS FOR IMPROVING THE ECONOMICS STATES OF FARMERS

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ABSTRACT

It is clear that agricultural projects and policies have the capacity to have major effects on

Household food security. These effects take place through employment and incomes, and through market prices, with these, in turn, affected by crop selection and choice of agricultural technology. Each of these, plus the important effects of women's roles in agricultural production processes.

These projects are aimed especially for developing countries, where people focus on improving health and giving them the chance to rise from hunger and poverty.

Each participant in such a project has multiple objectives. A farmer is interested in ensuring the welfare of his family, to educate children, to increase their income. Therefore, we will try to improve, for example, animal breeds, having a business development plan that take into account potential risks.

For private business firms or government corporations, a major objective is to maximize net income, yet both have significant objectives other than simply making the highest profit possible. Both will want to diversify their activities to reduce risk.

By applying policies to support farmers, society as a whole will have important benefits: increase the number of jobs and the unemployment rate drops. Such projects represent an important investment in rural development, which provide good income for future with low costs and great benefits.

INTRODUCTION:

Agricultural and rural development provides a critically important opportunity for reducing malnutrition, partly because a large share of the malnourished resides in rural areas and partly because agriculture is the source of food and other ecological services for both rural and urban people. Many factors influence human nutrition and the impact of agricultural and rural development on human nutrition is not automatic and predetermined. Both under nutrition (stunting, underweight, wasting, and micronutrient malnutrition) and over nutrition (overweight and obesity) are costly for human and economic development, and both are influenced by agriculture and the food system (The Future: Global Food, 2011)

Abundant evidence shows that when farmers are malnourished, they are less productive; improving the nutrition of rural populations will improve agricultural productivity (Animal Genetic 2007). Putting a nutrition lens on an agricultural investment can also improve gender equity in that investment – an increasingly common goal of the agriculture sector – because it shifts focus toward the labour, income control, and time use of women. It can also improve ecological sustainability in cases where crop diversification

contributes to both human and ecosystem health. In many instances, it is also good business to produce nutritious foods, since demand for high-value horticultural and animal source foods is rising in urban areas, and could rise further with improved education and incentives. Food security is regularly used as a justification for agricultural activities, and because food security rests on the access to nutritious diets, greater attention to nutrition impact will help ensure that many agricultural investments remain true to their rationale (James Roumasset, 2003).

Rural development is the improvement in overall rural community conditions, including economic and other quality of life considerations such as the environment, health, infrastructure, and housing about 50 million people and covering 75 percent of the total land area of the nation, is extremely varied in geography, population density, and economic and social assets. Rural America, home to about 50 million people and covering 75 percent of the total land area of the nation, is extremely varied in geography, population density, and economic and social assets (Promoting Sustainable Agriculture, 2011).

Since rural areas are no longer dominated by agriculture, the rural economy has become highly diverse. In 1950, about 40 percent of rural people lived on a farm and one-third of the rural workforce worked in production agriculture. Today, less than 10 percent of rural people currently live on a farm and only 6.5 percent of the rural workforce is directly employed in farm production. Moreover, in 2003, 68 percent of farm households reported the operator or the spouse worked off the farm, and 89 percent of farm household income came from off-farm sources. In addition, 78 percent of farm-dependent counties lost population from 2000 to 2005, mainly attributable to inadequate natural amenities and lack of nonfarm employment opportunities making it hard to attract and retain young people.

Rural counties have lagged metropolitan counties in employment growth and real per capita income. Poverty rates are also higher, although the gap has declined since 1990. The largest growth in rural population and employment has generally occurred in areas which rely on non-traditional income sources. These include areas that have either capitalized on natural resources and climate for recreation and retirement or their proximity to urban areas. Alternatively, those regions of the country that rely on farming, lack urbanization, or are remote from large cities have seen declines in population (Sahara, et al. 2008).

Rural development of the country (and in any country) is first and foremost the best way to get farm goods to the market quickly and economically. Fresh foods are essential to health and development, and the rural country needs to have light, power, water and other necessities for communication, transportation and health. But that is only the beginning of development, because a country whose people live in poverty and ignorance, is a country that is destined to wither on the vine. Just like we should not waste our natural resources, we cannot waste our greatest resource, the talent and giftedness of our people.

Any government is necessary for building infrastructure in a country, and especially for rural areas. Generally the government directs the project, hiring many contractors. By developing areas within the country, the product of the country increases, and the country can increase its trade with other countries as well. This increases the country's wealth providing the capital for future development.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The association of costs and benefits from rural development is becoming more important as more is learned about the actual process of economic growth. Measurement of the geographic distribution of benefits maybe important in creating incentives for further development and growth. It may be necessary in part because certain jurisdictional

groups are unaware of the benefits and, hence, do not show initiative in investing in or bearing the costs of rural development. An example may be used to clarify this point. A local community is considering subsidizing the location of a private industrial firm.

Negotiations have reached a point where the subsidy cost is greater than the breakeven point for local community benefits. However, because of hierarchical trading patterns or labor commuting patterns, a nearby community or the larger development authority of an Economic Development District stands to gain additional benefits from the location of the industrial plant of the neighboring community or the larger authority bears part of the subsidy cost.

MATERIALS AND METHODES

International's Food Security & Agriculture projects programs aim to make measurable and sustainable improvements in farming production and resource utilization through instruction and skills improvement in growing, processing and marketing practices.

We provide direct technical assistance to farmers through field extension agents, who live and work in communities to promote changes in attitudes and systems, while enhancing clients' skills in agriculture. OIC International does not simply give rural farmers new tools; we empower rural farmers with the skills needed to generate increased production and profit, and also with knowledge, promoting respect for the environment and improving the quality of life of the community as a whole.

Over the past 40 years, we have successfully improved food security for populations at risk through technical interventions in areas such as post-harvest management; processing and storage; animal husbandry; agricultural marketing; bullock traction; agro-forestry; inventory credit; and the formation of farming groups and committees.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The primary objectives of International's Food Security & Agriculture programs are to:

1. Increase food availability and food access through improved farming systems, invigorated entrepreneurship, and strengthened market systems
2. Improve food utilization through food distribution and better care practices, such as improved food processing, preservation and storage

We advise our partners on agricultural and rural development policy. Farmers and associations are involved in decisions and organizational deficits are addressed. This is the only way to give poor people in rural areas access to land, water, loans and training. In cooperation with academic institutions and the private sector, we develop strategies for increasing production and income under changing conditions in agriculture and fishing, in ways which do not burden the environment or reduce biodiversity. At the same time, it is important to develop rural infrastructure and create access to markets improving access of small producers to know-how and innovation remains an important challenge. The big pressure on natural resources (land and water) asks for better and more sustainable techniques (Agricultural Sustainability, 2004).

Governments must now demonstrate sustained political will and mobilize the considerable resources needed to implement the Global Plan of Action successfully. This will require wide regional and international cooperation. FAO, other relevant international organizations, the countries, the scientific community, donors, civil society organizations and the private sector all have important roles to play. Moreover, there are both moral

and practical imperatives to provide support to livestock keepers and breeders, who are the custodians of much the diversity of the world's animal genetic resources, particularly in developing countries, and who depend on them for their livelihoods. Their roles and needs cannot be ignored, if the Global Plan of Action is to succeed (World Bank 2008).

A large body of recent research has concluded that non-farm activities can be seen as a route out of poverty, and that the impacts of non-farm activities on growth and inequality depend on the type of non-farm employment in terms of education and skills as well as income share of non-farm activities (8). argue that in land-constrained areas of the developing world –like Latin America and certain parts of the Middle East and Asia focusing directly on the rural non-farm sector might provide a better way of increasing the income and employment opportunities of the poor. In this view, income earned in the rural non-farm sector represents the agent of positive change for the poor in the rural economy, rather than income earned from the traditional agricultural sector. The indirect impact of nonfarm activities on poverty was addressed by (Agricultural Sustainability, 2004). Who focused on an important link between the non-farm sector and rural poverty that occurs via the effect of the non-farm sector on agricultural wage rates.

Agricultural laborers are highly represented among the poor in rural areas, and as result increases in agricultural wage labor earnings are strongly associated with lower poverty. Maintains that the opportunity to earn non-farm income can lead to higher average agricultural incomes in two ways. First, if there are several production technologies or crops, with higher average productivity being associated with greater variability in output, then having an alternative source of income which does not fall with a bad agricultural outcome makes farmers more willing to choose the high risk/high return options. (A similar rationale is posited to explain why larger, wealthier farmers are often observed to be the first to adopt new agricultural technologies.) Furthermore, in the absence of low cost credit, additional income from outside farming facilitates the purchase of costly inputs when they are required to take advantage of high return options (World Livestock, 2011).

CONCLUSIONS

- The global food price shock of 2007/08 led to a sharp increase in the consumer prices of food in the import- developing countries which has affected the population's living standards, increased poverty and made it increasingly difficult for many to feed their families.
- Although Government policies, such as increasing expenditure on food subsidies, mitigated the extent to which the global food price increases were transmitted to the domestic economy,
- Acquisition of Structural Funds is a goal meant to bring a major contribution, rural development, encouraging the establishment of farms, with benefits to improve product quality, resulting from the application of modern technologies.

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