



Future Agricultures Consortium Early Career Fellowships Programme

Round 3: Call for Applications
Deadline: 17 February 2012

Special Topics

Young People and Agriculture Theme

Gender, Youth and Agriculture - Changing institutional and cultural norms open up new opportunities to young men and women. We want to challenge the narratives about women, men, marriage and small farm households that underpin the way gender presently features in agricultural research, policy and practice. The research might begin

by exploring in specific contexts whether these narratives relate to rural youth to-day, and thereby seek to answer questions about the dynamics of gender and age relations.'

Young People and agricultural policy processes - Research relating to the role that young people have, do or could play in agricultural policy processes at various levels. The research might address questions such as: How have initiatives to increase young

Please visit the FAC website (www.future-agricultures.org) for more details.

and to download an application form.

Email contact: FAC-Fellowships@future-agricultures.org

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people's involvement in agricultural policy processes been conceived and justified? What mechanisms for engagement have been tried, in what situations and to what effect? How do the challenges of young people's involvement in agricultural policy processes differ from those of other groups such as women?

Science, Technology and Innovation Theme.

The Implementation of GM Technology in Kenya

- Kenya follows Burkina Faso, Egypt and South Africa in giving commercial production of GM organisms the go-ahead. The proposed research will examine how the release of GM technologies are being implemented in practice, focusing on the interactions between the regulatory and operational processes and the role of public and private actors in them.

The Political Economy of Post-Harvest Losses

- This research will examine the political economic factors behind the measurement and use of PHL statistics. It is particularly concerned with understanding the pathological sustainability and 'stickiness' of those statistics in agricultural policy making in Africa (and internationally). What data on post-harvest losses (PHL), particularly 'headline' figures or percentages, are found in the mainstream documents used by policy makers? What are the origins of these statistics (i.e. can we find the original sources)? How are they referenced and used over time in key policy documents? How do interests of different actors about high PHLs contrast and how do they drive policy discussions about investments and strategies around post-harvest storage and food security?

Policy Process Theme.

Rethinking Agricultural Extension

- This research will build on renewed interest to take stock of current policies, thinking and practice, successes and failures of ongoing and past reforms in extension and analyse recent developments to promote new forms of extension. The Fellow will be encouraged to examine questions such as: What are the policy lessons from the past two decades of reforms of governance structures, reductions and public funding and increased privatisation of extension services? How have these changes affected accountability and performance? What is the future role of Ministries of Agriculture in providing extension and advisory services as public goods? How can a more plural extension system involving a range of public, private and civil society actors and organisations be made to work effectively, efficiently and equitably?

A Review of the State and Performance of African Agriculture

- This fellowship will consider current narratives of African agricultural performance and attempt to assess them against empirical evidence, paying particular attention to data disaggregation and distributional issues (large farm vs small farm, within smallholder differentiation, high potential vs marginal areas or perhaps land abundant vs high population density). It will pay attention to the recent wave of large-scale land acquisitions and to markets and (potential) market opportunities for African agriculture. A version of the paper will be presented in a session provisionally entitled "South America and Africa: lessons from structural change" at the International Association of Agricultural Economists conference in Brazil in August 2012. Some experience with

handling and analysing large datasets will be an advantage.

Political Economy of Agricultural Policy Processes - We are looking for a FAC Fellow with interest in political economy of agricultural policy processes in Africa. Earlier work sought to develop, refine and illustrate a comparative political economy framework that can: 1) explain how the functioning of the political system affects agricultural policy and investment in economies where agriculture still provides employment for a large proportion of the population, linking this to ongoing processes of democratization; and 2) show how distinctive features (social, political, institutional and agro-ecological) of individual African countries influence incentives for agricultural policy making and implementation.

We are targeting for comparison: 1) Mozambique-Tanzania, both countries with abundant land, recent history of strong macro-growth, but mainly by non-agricultural sectors with little evidence of rural poverty reduction: what are the politics of this? and 2) Malawi-Tanzania, fertilizer subsidy programmes in different political contexts: how do the differences in politics affect implementation and outcomes? Interested applicants can come from any of the countries under study.

The Political Economy of Oil and Agriculture in Nigeria, and the Lessons they hold for Ghana's Oil Find. The decline of Nigeria's agricultural sector due to the expansion of the oil sector has been a cause for concern for many emerging economies with evolving oil sectors such as Ghana. This study will explore the key factors that led to the decline in Nigeria's agricultural sector as

the oil sector assumed economic dominance, which similarities and differences exist between the two economies, and what lessons Ghana can learn from the Nigerian experience.

Land Theme.

The financing of land deals in Africa.

There has been growing concern about the consequences of large-scale commercial land deals in Africa. These deals involve contracts between foreign and local companies and national states, usually in the form of leases. But who finances these deals? There is much discussion about the role of sovereign funds, hedge funds, pension funds and more, but the financial vehicles and forms of financing are often obscure. Who is involved? How does the money flow? And what is the emerging political economy of land financing in Africa? This fellowship opportunity would be ideally suited to students of business, management or finance economics, and would involve documentary and interview research with a global scope

Climate Change and Pastoralism Themes.

Climate Smart Agriculture and Changing Livelihoods

- Climate Smart Agriculture involves a focus on the potential for 'triple wins' in the agricultural sector: reduced emissions, increased resilience for farmers as well as potentials for increased productivity and incomes for farmers. Two FAC Early Career Fellowships will be undertaken under this topic, based on case studies looking at how narratives on climate change and Climate Smart Agriculture are shaping or may affect policies and strategies on

- a) pastoralism and
- b) smallholder agriculture

and what implications this raises for local livelihoods. The fellows may address questions such as: how may a focus on Climate Smart Agriculture affect the relationship between pastoralism and sedentary farming? Will the climate smart agriculture agenda favour one type of farming over another, and how might this affect the long term resilience of the farming sector? What is the relative weight given to mitigation and adaptation concerns in pilot efforts on Climate Smart Agriculture?

Commercialisation Theme.

The financing of agricultural traders. The Fellow would be expected to examine the sources and application of finance among small scale traders in a few value chains linking small scale producers to markets somewhere in Africa. What is the source and amount of equity invested, how is debt and trade credit used, do financing issues constrain their ability to develop longer term relationships with producers. Do farmers linked to better financed traders make more productivity enhancing investments and achieve higher incomes. Can policy help perpetuate this virtuous circle or is investment in large scale farming a better option for producing agricultural surpluses in Africa.

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