



Agricultural Policy Research in Africa

Analysing the impacts and outcomes of pathways to agricultural commercialisation on rural poverty, empowerment of women and girls and food and nutrition security in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) is a new, five-year, Research Programme Consortium funded by UK aid from the UK Government through the Department for International Development (DFID) and will run from 2016-2021.**

The programme is based at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK ([www.ids.ac.uk](http://www.ids.ac.uk)), with regional hubs at the Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE), Kenya, the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), South Africa, and the University of Ghana, Legon. It builds on more than a decade of research and policy engagement work by the Future Agricultures Consortium ([www.future-agricultures.org](http://www.future-agricultures.org)) and involves new partners at Lund University, Sweden, and Michigan State University and Tufts University, USA.



APRA aims to produce new information and insights into different pathways to agricultural commercialisation in order to assess their impacts and outcomes on rural poverty, empowerment of women and girls and food and nutrition security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

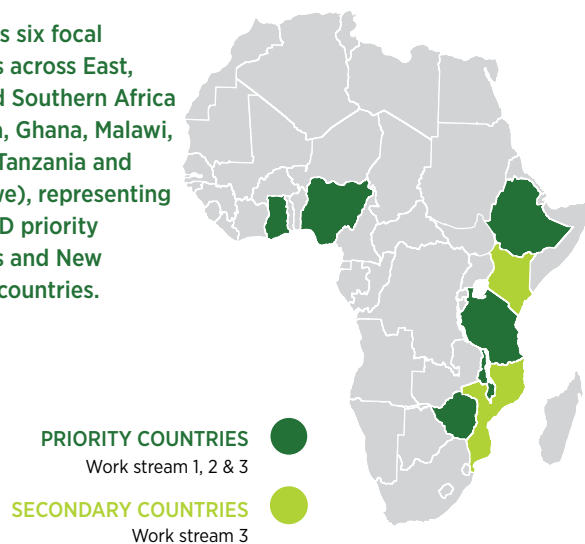
### THE CONSORTIUM HAS FOUR INTERLINKED OBJECTIVES:

- 1 generating **high-quality evidence** on pathways to agricultural commercialisation in Africa, using a rigorous mix of quantitative and qualitative methods;
- 2 undertaking **policy research** on agricultural commercialisation to fill key evidence gaps and define policy options;
- 3 ensuring the **sharing and uptake of research** by a diverse range of stakeholders;
- 4 **strengthening the capacity** of the research team, and associated partner institutions, to deliver policy-relevant research and advice.

At the core of the APRA Consortium is a commitment to academic excellence, policy impact, stakeholder engagement and value for money, rooted in long-term partnerships and a solid regional base. In order to achieve its objectives, the programme will work in sites that examine diverse pathways of commercialisation (influenced by the relationship to markets and scales of operation) and linked to different types of commercialisation (e.g. estates, medium-scale commercial farming, contract farming and smallholder commercialisation).

Consortium researchers are carrying out in-depth studies in contrasting sites with varying levels of commercialisation intensity and longevity (i.e. established/ mature vs. recent/emerging sites of commercialisation) and different market connections and infrastructure. To analyse and understand these contrasts, the APRA researchers are employing a combination of quantitative (including quasi-experimental) and qualitative (including participatory and ethnographic) research methods and policy analysis tools to examine different types or forms of commercialisation, including comparing low-value staples, high-value horticulture, and industrial and export crops, and their differential outcomes.

APRA has six focal countries across East, West and Southern Africa (Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe), representing both DFID priority countries and New Alliance countries.



### THE APRA RESEARCH PROGRAMME CONSORTIUM (RPC) IS FOCUSING ON FIVE KEY OUTCOMES OF COMMERCIALISATION:

- 1 empowerment of women and girls;
- 2 income and consumption poverty;
- 3 inequality;
- 4 employment rates and conditions;
- 5 food and nutrition security.

### WE WORK ACROSS THREE COMPLEMENTARY WORK STREAMS.

**Work Stream 1** is examining the outcomes of different types of commercialisation and analysing people's selection choices and their outcomes, while **Work Stream 2** is exploring longitudinal change over time and identifying different pathways of agricultural commercialisation and their outcomes.

**Work Stream 3** is analysing key policy issues associated with changing patterns of agricultural commercialisation through six focused, multi-country, policy studies:

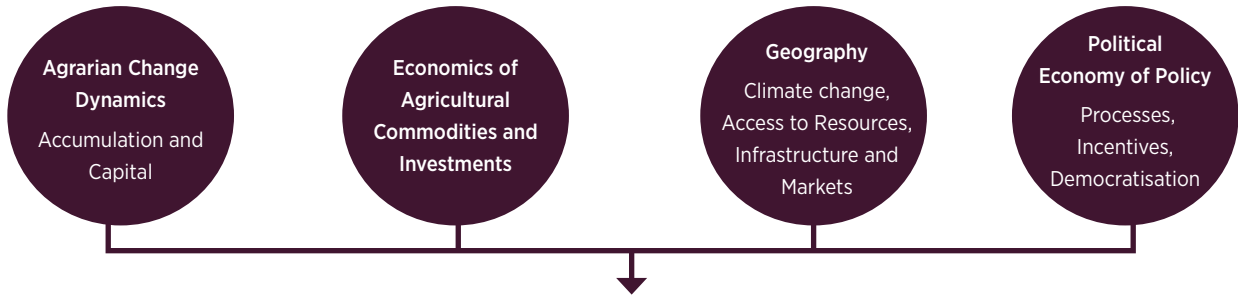
- 1 business investment in agricultural commercialisation;
- 2 growth corridors and commercialisation: sites of expanding opportunities?;
- 3 medium-scale farmers;
- 4 BRICS interventions in agricultural commercialisation;
- 5 commercialisation of livestock systems: winners and losers; and
- 6 young people and agricultural commercialisation.

Over the next five years, the APRA RPC will fill important 'evidence gaps' by undertaking in-depth research, analysis and dissemination on the impact of processes of commercialisation in African agriculture. This will involve a variety of country and regional-level activities to make evidence available for decision makers, drawing insights from comparative, mixed-methods research and in-depth policy studies.

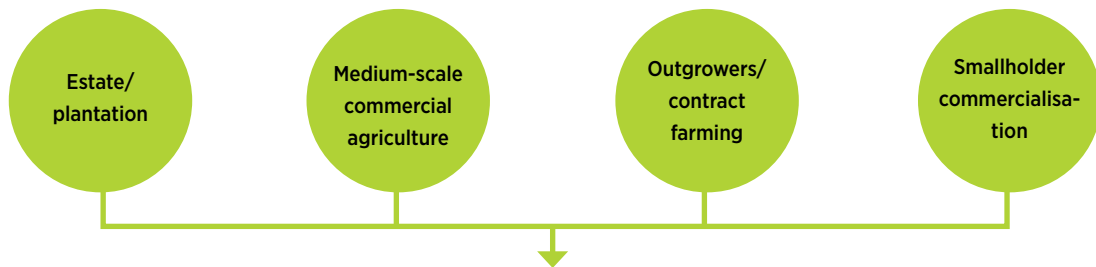
# MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

*What are the pathways to agricultural commercialisation that are most effective in empowering women and girls, reducing rural poverty and improving food and nutrition security in Sub-Saharan Africa?*

## INTERSECTING DRIVERS OF AGRICULTURAL COMMERCIALISATION

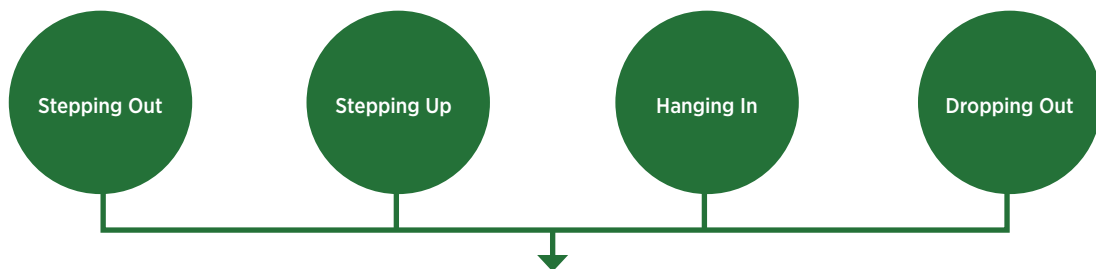


## ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT MODELS OF AGRICULTURAL COMMERCIALISATION



## ANALYSIS OF LIVELIHOOD TRAJECTORIES

Processes of Social and Economic Differentiation



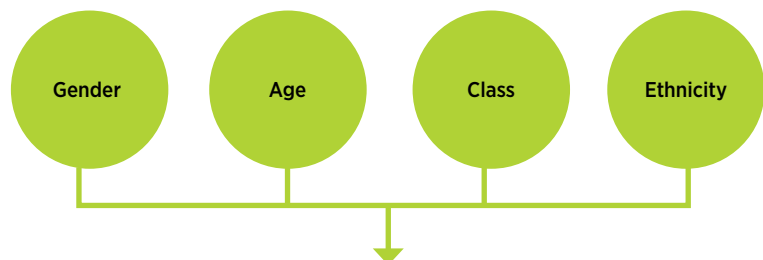
**Differential Resilience to Economic, Social and Environmental Shocks and Stresses from Key Drivers/Contexts**

## ANALYSIS OF DISAGGREGATED OUTCOMES:

*Who are the winners and losers? What are the critical factors behind these outcomes?*

### Key Outcomes:

Empowerment of women and girls  
Income/consumption poverty levels  
Patterns of inequality  
Employment rates and conditions  
Food and nutrition security



## New Evidence to Inform Policy and Practice:

*Opportunities for 'inclusive and resilient growth' through different pathways to agricultural commercialisation.*

APRA aims to produce new information and insights into different pathways to agricultural commercialisation in order to assess their impacts and outcomes on rural poverty, empowerment of women and girls and food and nutrition security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**DIRECTORATE/IDS**

John Thompson: [j.thompson@ids.ac.uk](mailto:j.thompson@ids.ac.uk)  
Oliver Burch: [o.burch@ids.ac.uk](mailto:o.burch@ids.ac.uk)

**RESEARCH DIRECTOR/UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI**

Ephraim Chirwa: [echirwa@yahoo.com](mailto:echirwa@yahoo.com)

**EAST AFRICA REGIONAL HUB/CABE**

Hannington Odame: [hsodame@gmail.com](mailto:hsodame@gmail.com)  
Beatrice Ouma: [b.ouma@future-agricultures.org](mailto:b.ouma@future-agricultures.org)

**SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL HUB/PLAAS**

Cyriaque Hakizimana: [chakizimana@plaas.org.za](mailto:chakizimana@plaas.org.za)  
Ruth Hall: [rhall@uwc.ac.za](mailto:rhall@uwc.ac.za)

**WEST AFRICA REGIONAL HUB/UNIV OF GHANA**

Joseph Yaro: [yarojoe@yahoo.com](mailto:yarojoe@yahoo.com)

[www.future-agricultures.org/apra](http://www.future-agricultures.org/apra)



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