

Akin Adesina – what I learned today....

- 1) Productivity is key.
- 2) Majority of rural population and many countries are net buyers.
- 3) South Africa is strategically key as “maize banker” to the region, and if anything happens to RSA then many people could suffer. Need to discuss at SADC level.
- 4) Government intervention is unpredictable.
- 5) Milling margins in South Africa (and Mozambique) are very high.
- 6) Improvement in local markets (information and other improvements).
- 7) Building capacity of private sector. Food safety an important issue.
- 8) Upgrading infrastructure for wholesale markets to help guarantee food safety.
- 9) Encouraging collective action of small farmers through cereal banks, with selection and storage measures, able to sell at better prices outside the village as well as marketing in small quantities in the village.
- 10) Risk matters. Drought tolerant maize could help – how to get it out? Policy arrangements are not working.
- 11) HIV/AIDS matters.
- 12) Global climate change critical given dependence on rainfed agriculture. NB Work by Prof Rashid Hassan at University of Pretoria.
- 13) Need for careful evaluation of agrarian reform in SA to ensure that there is no repeat of Zimbabwe experience given potential consequences for region.
- 14) Need for careful analysis of potential impacts of improvements to infrastructure (spatial equilibrium analysis).
- 15) FANRPAN – demand driven, proactive (ex ante rather than ex post analysis), with a small grants program and fellowships for capacity building. Should become a regional center for excellence in policy research.
- 16) Regional forum for Permanent Secretaries so that they can get regular exposure to evidence-based research.