Promoting Participatory and Evidence-Based Agricultural Policy Processes in Africa (PEBAP)

Collaborative research project

Ghana – Uganda - Senegal
Project partners

- **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**
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- **Germany**
  - University of Kiel: *Christian Henning, Eva Krampe, Laura Seide*
  - University of Hohenheim: *Regina Birner, Jonathan Mockshell*

- **Ghana**
  - Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, Legon: *Felix Asante*

- **Uganda**
  - African Institute for Strategic Resource Services and Development (AFRISA), Makerere University: *Patience Rwamigisa, David Kabasa*

- **Senegal**
  - Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA), Senegal: *Cheick Sadibou Fall*
Background

• Increased interest in the agricultural sector since the 2000s
  – by African governments as well as donor agencies
  – Food Price Crisis of 2008 as a major driving force
  – Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP); Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

• Agreement
  – Need to promote agricultural development in Africa

• Disagreement
  – What does it take to achieve this goal?
  – Which policy instruments are appropriate?
  – Examples: Input subsidies; import taxes; role of private sector

• Promoting evidence-based and participatory policy processes as a way to find solutions on contested issues
Contested agricultural policy issues

• Interpretation of the impact of Structural Adjustment
  – SAP failure story (implies that agricultural policy was successful prior to SAP – not supported by evidence)
  – “False promise versus false premise” (Jayne et al., 2002)
  – Effect of macro-economic policy changes often neglected in the debate

• Post-Structural Adjustment Policy Debate
  – Recognition that government support and institution-building matter for smallholders, but policy instruments remain debated
  – Example: Input subsidies
    • World Bank: Need for “market-smart subsidies”
    • Malawi: “Ending Famine, Simply by Ignoring the Experts” (Headline in the New York Times, 02/12/2007)
    • Banful (2011): “Old Problems in the New Solutions”?

• Other examples: Extension reform; trade policies, etc.
Major changes in agricultural policy during the past decades

Nominal Rate of Assistance (NRA)

Removing subsidies

- High-income countries
- High-income countries (incl. Europe's transition economies)
- Developing countries

Kym Anderson (2008, Slide 63)
Example - Uganda

Nominal Rate of Assistance (NRA)

Import-competing products (e.g., maize)

Exportable products (e.g., coffee)

Note: Total includes non-product-specific assistance
Source: Matthews et al. (2007: Figure 3, p.33)

Explanations remain debated!
Role of regime change, ideology, other factors?
Main hypotheses of the project

Suboptimal policies exist *both* due to

1. **Political incentives gaps**
   - Political institutions do not provide sufficient incentives or even create disincentives to select first-best policy options and to implement them effectively.

2. **Knowledge gaps**
   - Policy instruments are difficult to assess if governance challenges of implementation are considered.
   - Policy-makers, including donors, may not be fully aware of the impact that different agricultural policy instruments have.
Objectives of the project

• Combining qualitative and quantitative research methods to contribute to
  – address knowledge gaps
    • better understanding of the impact of policy instruments taking governance challenges into account
    • better understanding of policy beliefs (perceptions that actors have regarding the relevance and impact of a certain policy instrument)
  – address political incentive gaps
    • better understand the political incentives that formal and informal rules create within the respective political system
      – Influence of electoral competition, social/political networks, lobbying groups, informal rules (e.g., authority of the president)
Research Methods applied in Ghana, Uganda and Senegal

- Policy network surveys
- Voter surveys with Afribarometer
- Stakeholder workshops
- In-depth interviews and participatory mapping, using Grounded Theory; Discourse Analysis
- Computable General Political Equilibrium Modelling (CGPE) Combining CGE models with political decision models
Overview of the session

• Qualitative research
  – Donors and domestic policy makers: Two worlds in agricultural policy-making?
    Jonathan Mockshell and Regina Birner
  – The Role of Policy Beliefs and Discourses in Policy Reform Processes: A Case Study of NAADS in Uganda
    Patience Rwamigisa

• Quantitative Research
  – Combining Political and Economic Models: An Evolutionary Computable General Political Economy Equilibrium Model (CGPE)
    Christian Henning and Eva Krampe
    (includes information on voter and stakeholder surveys)
Thank you!
References


Annex: What is the Nominal Rate of Assistance?

• The percentage by which government policies
  – have raised gross returns to farmers above what they
    would be without the government’s intervention
  – or lowered them, if the NRA is negative.

• Similar to the OECD producer support estimates (PSE), but
  an NRA is expressed as a percentage of the undistorted
  (e.g., border) rather than the distorted price.

• See www.worldbank.org/agdistortions