

Awakening Africa's Sleeping Giant? Workshop Programme (as of 10/06/2010)

Monday June 21st:

09.30 Registration and coffee

10.00 Welcome and introduction (Colin Poulton)

10.30 **Main messages of Sleeping Giant** (Hans Binswanger-Mkhize)

12.30 Lunch

13.30 **The Guinea Savannah 1**

Is the Guinea Savannah really a “still largely unexploited area”? If so, why? Is it *technically* feasible to promote competitive commercialised agriculture there?

Land Use and Tenure (Ruth Hall, PLAAS, Cape Town)

What are the current uses and claims over land in the Guinea Savannah? What social impacts have been associated with recent land deals?

Soils (Maja Slingerland, Competing Claims Project, Wageningen)

Can Guinea Savannah soils support sustainable intensification of agriculture and, if so, what is required? Will draw explicitly on work in cerrado areas of Brazil as well as Africa and also go well beyond soils. Presentation on behalf of Competing Claims team

Livestock Diseases (Jonathan Rushton, RVC)

How significant are livestock diseases as a constraint to investment in animal traction and other beneficial crop-livestock interactions within the Guinea Savannah and what do we know about approaches to eradication? Presentation on behalf of several academics each specialising in particular disease(s), including tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

15.00 Tea /coffee

15.30 **The Guinea Savannah 2**

Human Disease (Rory Post, Natural History Museum)

To what extent are human diseases a constraint to more intensive agricultural activity in the Guinea Savannah and what might it take to control them?

Water Resources (Bruce Lankford, UEA):

Could water availability constrain intensification of agricultural production in the Guinea Savannah, especially with anticipated changes in climate? What are the most cost-effective ways of easing these constraints?

Discussant: Andrew Dorward (SOAS)

17.00 Close

Tuesday June 22nd:

09.00 Commercialised Agriculture and the Environment

Environmental Services (Michael Mortimore, Drylands Research)

What are the likely environmental consequences of intensification of agricultural production in the Guinea Savannah and (how) can these be mitigated?

Agriculture and Disease (Kate Jones, Zoological Society of London)

What are the likely consequences of intensification of agricultural production in the Guinea Savannah in terms of disease emergence and (how) can these be mitigated?

10.30 Coffee

11.00 Experience with Competitive Commercialised Agriculture in Africa

Commercial Agriculture in Africa: Lessons from Success and Failure (Colin Poulton, SOAS)

Lessons learnt, plus a particular focus on experience with smallholder vs large-scale farms

Discussant: Deborah Johnston (SOAS)

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Political Economy of Agricultural Development in the Guinea Savannah

Presented with a narrative of under-exploited land in the Guinea Savannah, will African policy makers opt for land sales (to local elites or foreign buyers) or for promoting smallholder development? What will encourage the latter?

Presenter: Kojo Amanor (IAS, University of Ghana)

Discussant: Ruth Hall (PLAAS, Cape Town)

15.00 Coffee

15.30 Panel Discussion: Policy Implications

16.30 Close