



The Importance of Infrastructure for Agricultural Development and Food Security in Africa

Graham Stegmann
African Development Bank



Agriculture is fundamental in Africa

Accounting for:

- 17% of GDP
- 60% of the labour force
- 20% of merchandise exports
- most rural livelihoods

It is an essential component of growth

Importance underlined by food price crisis

But investment low and performance poor

In response aid declined from 20% in 1980 to 5%



We have to reverse the trend

To recognise that:

- it is essentially a private sector activity
- comprehensive and integrated approach needed
- That smallholder productivity must massively increase
- It will be different from the green revolution in Asia

There is general consensus on framework

Africa has broadly identified its priorities



Infrastructure is fundamental:

- for access and inputs
- to provide power
- to provide clean water and sanitation
- for irrigation and water storage
- to link farmers to markets

There was inadequate investment

But sector has performed poorly in the past

Operations and Maintenance was neglected



Key gaps:

- only 3.7% arable land irrigated
- 24% households have electricity
- 44% don't have access to clean water
- less than 7% hydropower potential developed
- fertiliser use one tenth of world average
- inadequate water storage capacity

Resource requirements -

- \$20-\$40 billion per year in new investments
- The same for O&M



Complementary needs:

- enabling environment for private sector
- more value added and agri-business
- regional approaches
- reducing barriers within Africa
- progress in Doha round
- improved governance
- special attention to fragile states
- and to the needs of women



Climate change is having an impact:

- increasing volatility and risk
- diminishing returns
- imposing additional costs on infrastructure

Adaptation is urgent

But technology and mitigation get more attention

Innovative approaches needed

Including to preserve lakes and forests



We need to work smarter:

- in partnerships, each doing what it does best
- sharing analysis and information
- identifying and learning from best practice
- reducing the demands we make on recipients
- respecting and supporting country priorities

We have the tools, we need the will



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